



For Immediate Release

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Mariemont High School students named winner of 2013 'Champions for Children: the Next Generation' Award

Cincinnati Christian Hills Academy and Seven Hills School receive honorable mentions

(Cincinnati—Nov. 12, 2013) A Mariemont High School student project raising over \$12,000 to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus (MNT) around the world is the winner of 4C for Children's third annual [Champions for Children: the Next Generation Award](#). These funds, raised by a 5K race in September 2013, will save the lives of thousands of babies and mothers in Third World countries who would otherwise die each year from MNT. At approximately \$1.80, these funds will provide over 6,600 vaccinations to protect that number of mothers and their young children from tetanus.

"We planned this event to raise money so that more children would be able to live past their first birthday," says Sarah Blatt-Herold, the originator of the idea and the passionate leader of a team that worked for a year to plan and build community support for the 5K race that raised the funds to attack this preventable disease. Project committee chairs included Addie Shelley, Abby Moreton, Holly Huber, Jon Bezney, Olivia Erhardt and Ryden Lewis. Their Key Club faculty advisor was Julie Bell.

The funds raised by Mariemont students go to The Eliminate Project, a joint effort of Kiwanis International and UNICEF to vaccinate 1 million mothers. "The \$12,000 raised by the Mariemont Key Club certainly makes it one of the leading Key Clubs worldwide in terms of donations to this project," says Amy Zimmerman, coordinator of the Ohio District Kiwanis – Eliminate Project.

4C also recognizes the following with honorable mentions:

- **Seven Hills School for "Tutoring at John P. Parker,"** a lunchtime tutoring program at John P. Parker School in Madisonville organized by Jessica Seibold, that paired 35 Seven Hills students with 35 John P. Parker students with the goal of improving math and reading skills. This year, the project has grown to include 75 students at each school.
- **Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy for "SOS Adopt a Class,"** a project that grew out of this question by Ellie Parker: "What if our high school adopted a whole elementary school?" Together with Sidney Young, she recruited 45 high school mentors for a year of interactions with 53 K-4 children at Prince of Peace School in Madisonville. This year the project will serve 52 students at Evanston Academy. Both Ellie and Sidney are residents of Mason.

The goal of the Champions for Children: The Next Generation award, is to honor high school students in grades 9-12 who are taking action on behalf of the children of our community—or of our world. "We want to reinforce in the leaders of tomorrow the importance of investing in the children of today--especially those from birth to age 8," says 4C President/CEO Sallie Westheimer.

4C for Children has long recognized adult community leaders who champion children--and will do so again this year at a Feb. 1, 2014, [Champions for Children Celebration](#) at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, honoring 2013 Champions for Children Brent Cooper, Alfonso Cornejo and Buffie Rixey. The presentation of the 2013 Champions for Children: The Next Generation Award will also be made at this Feb. 1 event..

To be eligible for consideration, youth projects had to be nominated by Oct. 18, demonstrate the involvement of high school students and do one or more of the following:

- empower and educate young children through direct service
- provide leadership or raise awareness on an issue that impacts young children
- improve the quality of life of young children.

[4C for Children](#), the pioneering leader, advocate and resource for early childhood education and care, serves 40 counties from offices in Cincinnati, Dayton (Ohio) and Covington (Kentucky). Each year this not-for-profit assists over 7,000 families of all income levels in finding and choosing quality child care; educates over 12,000 child care providers in its workshops and trainings; works to increase the supply of high-quality early education and care; and advocates for children and families at the local, state and federal levels. For more information, www.4cforchildren.org.

