

**October 1, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HUNDREDS OF SOLUTIONS TO BE HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH THE LEARN & SERVE CHALLENGE**

**Auburn, ME** – October 1, 2008 – As schools get into full swing, students in Maine and across the United States will show how they are a solution in their communities everyday through the Learn & Serve Challenge – October 6-12, 2008.

The goals of the weeklong campaign are to: increase the public's understanding of service-learning and the federal Learn & Service America program and to inspire more communities to launch their own service-learning programs. Service-learning is a hands-on teaching method that engages young people in solving problems within their schools and communities as part of academic studies and other out-of-school time learning activities.

KIDS Consortium, based in Auburn, is sponsoring Learn & Serve Challenge sites across New England. High School students from Blackstone Academy in Rhode Island are participating in a year-long service-learning class. In partnership with KIDS Consortium, they will plan a two day Student Summit where over 350 students from across New England will convene in Maine to showcase and present their service-learning projects.

Throughout the week, there will be hundreds of local and regional Service-Learning public awareness events and activities. KIDS Consortium has hosted a series of one-day Get Started with Service-Learning workshops in the weeks leading up to Challenge Week. The final workshop will be held in Conway, NH on October 7, 2008.

“We live in a world facing critical challenges that requires the collective attention and action of all Americans,” said Nelda Brown, executive director, National Service-Learning Partnership. “Young people—like all people—yearn to be a part of the solution.”