

# FOIA MARKER

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[Lutheran Brotherhood - RespecTeen] [loose]

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March 10, 1993

Mr. Eli Segal  
Director and Assistant to the President  
Office of National Service  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

I am writing to ask for your help in securing President Clinton for a program that I work with called the RespecTeen National Youth Forum.

The RespecTeen National Youth Forum will be held April 24-29, 1993 in Washington, D.C., and will bring together 51, 7th and 8th graders, one from each state and Washington, D.C. These young people are winners of our "Speak for Yourself" curriculum and contest.

Last fall we mailed the "Speak for Yourself" curriculum to social studies teachers nationwide. The final activity of the curriculum is for the students to write a letter to their U.S. representative asking him/her to take action on an issue that's important to the student. We received 12,366 letters from young people around the country. By the way, these letters provide us with tremendous incite on what the young people of our nation are interested in.

From the letters we received, a panel of judges selected one winner from each congressional district and from these district winners, selected one winner from each state. It's these young people who will be in Washington, D.C. in April to learn about our nation's government and to literally lobby their Members of Congress in person about their issue.

On Wednesday, April 28 from 9 to 11 a.m. we will be meeting in the Old Executive Office Building to hear from a variety of Administration officials. This would be an excellent time for the President to stop by.

Kevin O'Connor of the RespecTeen staff is working with Dan Wexler, Scheduler for the Office of Public Liaison, to coordinate a possible visit by the President and other Administration officials but it would help us if you added your support to this request.

Enclosed is information about RespecTeen , the National Youth Forum, and Lutheran Brotherhood, the sponsor of this program.

Please feel free to contact me at 612-340-8077 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ellen Albee". The script is cursive and fluid.

Ellen Albee, Manager, Program Development  
Fraternal Division

ELA/slk

cc: Dan Wexler, Scheduler for the Office of Public Liaison  
Susan Stroud, Office of National Service  
Kevin O'Connor



## **LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD FACT SHEET**

Lutheran Brotherhood is a fraternal benefit society which offers a broad range of high-quality financial products and services, including life and health insurance, annuities and investment products, to Lutherans nationwide.

In addition, Lutheran Brotherhood's fraternal (charitable and benevolent) programs are designed to aid the Society's members and their communities, as well as Lutheran congregations and institutions. In 1992, Lutheran Brotherhood contributed \$47 million to these fraternal programs, which included educational scholarships and loans, disaster relief assistance, congregational allocations, programs supporting youth development and community volunteerism, among others.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Lutheran Brotherhood provides its one million members with opportunities to participate in community-service activities through its 857 local branches (volunteer groups organized for community service).

In 1992, these branches conducted 9,926 service projects, donating 3.3 million volunteer hours to community food shelves, disaster victims, community parks, schools, senior citizen needs and many other worthy causes. The Society supports these efforts through financial and program assistance. In 1992, Lutheran Brotherhood allocated \$13.5 million in support of its branches' community service activities.

### **EDUCATION**

Lutheran Brotherhood annually provides millions of dollars in support of education. In 1992, the Society contributed \$3.3 million to more than 3,674 students through a variety of educational resources including scholarships, student loans, medical research scholarships and seminary awards.

In addition, through the Society's matching gift programs, Lutheran Brotherhood provided \$2.9 million to primary and secondary schools and institutions of higher education.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MATCHING FUNDS**

In 1992, Lutheran Brotherhood provided a record \$7.1 million to 15,107 Lutheran congregations through its congregational matching fund program.

### **YOUTH**

In 1992, RespecTeen, a positive youth development program reached millions of people nationwide through educational seminars, branch projects and public information campaigns.

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| <b>Management:</b> | Robert P. Gandrud, President and CEO<br>Clair E. Strommen, Chairman, Board of Directors<br>Paul R. Ramseth, Executive V.P., Member Services |
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|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Headquarters:</b> | 625 Fourth Avenue South<br>Minneapolis, MN 55415<br>(612) 340-7000 |
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Rapid changes in our society have created a unique environment for today's youth. Teenagers are asked to make more difficult decisions than ever before. Yet many of the support systems teens have traditionally relied upon no longer exist.

RespecTeen is a multi-million dollar, ongoing program aimed at filling that gap. The mission of this program is to help parents and teenagers work together to surmount the challenges of adolescence, thereby preventing the symptomatic problems facing youth in America today, including teen suicide, drug/alcohol abuse and teen pregnancy.

The program is sponsored by Lutheran Brotherhood, a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society. Following is a brief outline of the RespecTeen components.

### **RESPECTEEN ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

RespecTeen public information campaigns generate awareness and support for potential solutions to the problems facing America's youth and parents. These components enhance the efforts of volunteers seeking to address the problems facing youth.

- **Public Service Announcements** - A series of television public service announcements (PSAs) provide useful tips to help parents and teens surmount the challenges of adolescence. The PSAs are distributed to television stations across the country by LB member volunteers.
- **The National Youth Forum** - Each year, thousands of seventh- and eighth-grade students participate in RespecTeen's "Speak for Yourself" curriculum. This program is highlighted by a letter-writing contest in which students voice their views on key youth issues and offer potential solutions to their U.S. representatives. Through this competition, one young person from each state and the District of Columbia is selected to participate in a six-day National Youth Forum held in Washington, D.C. Through this forum, students learn about the legislative process and are given the opportunity to meet personally with their representatives and senators (or their staffs) to discuss their concerns.
- **Service Learning** - An objective of the RespecTeen program is to increase the number of young people involved in community service activities. This is done by supporting national organizations involved with youth service and by providing funds and incentives to Lutheran Brotherhood branches to involve young people in service projects in their communities.



## **RESPECTEEN ON THE COMMUNITY LEVEL**

Lutheran Brotherhood underwrites all or part of the cost of various materials to help branches nationwide identify and address their most critical youth issues. Those materials include:

- **Community Needs Assessment** - RespecTeen provides questionnaires, implementation support, data tabulation and analysis to help communities identify key problems related to youth. The materials were developed by Search Institute, a non-profit organization that specializes in youth-related research. Search Institute also handles data tabulation and analysis.
- **Curricula for Schools, Branches, Congregations or Community Groups** - RespecTeen subsidizes different curricula on subjects that include involving the community, caring for others and the community, preventing teen substance abuse, learning life skills, supporting families, dealing with stress and depression, and understanding human sexuality.
- **Other Materials** - RespecTeen also provides free booklets on service learning, developing communities that raise positive young people and statistics on our nations youth. Lutheran Brotherhood branches are the key to making RespecTeen work. Branches are groups of Lutheran Brotherhood members who volunteer time to conduct community service projects.

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## **Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker**

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# 1992 RespecTeen<sup>SM</sup> National Youth Forum

*"I think I'll be forever changed by my experiences at the National Youth Forum. I'm planning to lobby at the state level for my issue. I think the greatest thing I learned from my week in Washington, D.C., was that I can make a difference if I try." —Keala Ede, 1992 Hawaii Youth Representative*

In April 1992, 51 seventh- and eighth-grade students and one parent or guardian arrived in Washington, D.C., to participate in the fourth annual RespecTeen National Youth Forum. As state winners of the RespecTeen Speak for Yourself letter-writing contest, these students would spend the next six days learning about the U.S. governmental process—and about themselves.

The Youth Forum provides young people an educational agenda that is unique and fun. The activities not only allow students to experience how government works, but also teach them how they can be an important part of the democratic process.

While in Washington, the students heard from Marilyn Quayle, wife of Vice President Dan Quayle; Bob Martinez, director of the National Drug Control Policy; and Charles Kolb, deputy assistant to the president for domestic policy.

Especially persuasive and inspiring was Ashley Black, the 11-year-old winner of the Reebok Human Rights Award, who told her peers, "When we care about something and take action, we have the power to change things."

The Youth Forum offered the students the chance to take action when on National Youth Service Day they

painted, scrubbed and planted shrubs at an inner-city elementary school.

At the core of the program is the message to the participants that they have a voice in government if they research their issues and speak for themselves. More than 150 individual appointments took place between the youth representatives and their U.S. Representatives and Senators, providing students an opportunity to share their concerns and ideas one-on-one with lawmakers.

The students also participated in one of five "issue groups," proposing resolutions on child abuse, school choice, the environment, drug abuse, or arts and music education. Each student group then presented its final resolutions to a congressional committee representative.

Participants also had time for some fun at the Hard Rock Cafe and appeared on a children's television talk show.

These and other activities provided a memorable and action-packed week for the 1992 RespecTeen youth representatives.

***As a fraternal benefit society, Lutheran Brotherhood strives to make a difference in the world. One way the Society works to achieve this goal is through its national youth initiative, RespecTeen: Helping Parents and Teens Respect Each Other—and Themselves. The National Youth Forum is one of several components of the RespecTeen program.***

***The RespecTeen National Youth Forum will be held again April 24–29, 1993, in Washington, D.C. More information and a 1992 forum highlight video can be obtained by calling RespecTeen at 1-800-888-3820.***

