



AMERICA'S PROMISE - THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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GREENVILLE RECOGNIZED AS *100 BEST COMMUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE*

National Competition Recognizes Outstanding, Innovative Efforts Benefiting Children and Youth

GREENVILLE, SC – America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth designated Greenville one of *100 Best Communities for Young People*. Greenville is recognized for its commitment to provide healthy, safe and caring environments for young people.

“It is an incredible honor for America's Promise to recognize Greenville, SC as one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*. The Greenville community has many organizations whose mission is to develop programs and services to children and youth,” said Diane Smock, Vice Mayor Pro Tem.

Smock says Greenville's partners for youth came together to create the Family Friendly Communities Task Force which is comprised of representatives and elected officials from the City of Greenville, Greenville Hospital System's Safe Kids, United Way's Success By 6, the School District of Greenville County, SHARE, the Greenville Housing Authority, and the Golden Strip Center.

“The City of Greenville supported the preparation of the application and the designation is a tribute to our partners and volunteers who work every day to improve the quality of life for children and their families,” adds Smock. “The United Way's Success By 6 has been instrumental in focusing on coordination and expansion of resources and with their support, our next step is to bring these partners, together once again, along with children, youth and their families, to develop a Youth Master Plan for our community.”

Founded by retired General Colin L. Powell, the America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest private-public partnership committed to ensuring that every child receives the Five Promises - the fundamental resources our children and young people need to succeed:

- **caring adults who are actively involved in their lives**
- **safe places to learn and grow**
- **a healthy start toward adulthood**
- **an effective education that builds marketable skills and,**
- **opportunities to help others**

America's Promise launched *100 Best Communities for Young People* two years ago with the help of Capital One Financial Corporation. A complete list of winners can be found at www.greatergreenville.com.

“When a community provides all that its young people need to be healthy and secure, it deserves to be honored and showcased as an outstanding example of what it takes to successfully nurture this nation’s young people,” said Powell.

Hundreds of communities in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands vied for the title which gained international attention this morning on the ABC News show “Good Morning America.”

A highly distinguished selection panel of civic, business and non-profit leaders determined Greenville qualified as one of the *100 Best* after making good on what it calls Five Promises.

The City of Greenville is dedicated to improving the quality of life for our children and their families. The City offers a variety of programs at its five community centers. Below is a list of community representatives who are eager to talk to the media about why they believe Greenville is indeed among *100 Best Communities for Young People*.

Contact

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The City of Greenville will host a special ceremony at a later date to recognize the many contributors who helped make Greenville one of the *100 Best Communities for Young People*. For more information on the *100 Best*, go to <http://www.americaspromise.org>

More Information about Greenville’s Win

Partnerships with numerous organizations and individuals have made this award possible for Greenville, SC.

- Family Friendly Communities Task Force established in 2005 in the City of Greenville to develop and implement a Youth Planning Initiative

- On April 10, 2006, the City of Greenville Mayor and Council passed Resolution (No. 2006-25) to support the National League of Cities Council (NLC) on Youth, Education and Families Platform for Strengthening Families and Improving Outcomes for Children and Youth.
- The Greenville community has many organizations whose mission is to develop programs and services to children and youth. In recent years there has been a viable attempt to coordinate efforts and collaborate on children and youth programs and services on a community wide basis. Our coalitions are exceedingly strong in their efforts to offer services.
- There are many children and youth services in this community. The Greenville Teen Crisis Line has in their database over 500 various programs and/or services that offer some type of child, youth or family services. These agencies present their efforts tirelessly.
- The successes in our community are many. Safe Kids Upstate Coalition, led by Greenville Hospital System Children's Hospital Children's Advocacy, consists of more than 70 community partners who join together to fight unintentional injuries at home, at play, at school and on the way.
- Greenville Family Partnership (GFP), a non-profit organization leads, Red Ribbon Works, designed to get parents involved because they are the first line of defense in keeping kids off drugs. Parents have a voice and a means to keep up-to-date and be involved with youth.
- The Greenville County Child Care Initiative, comprised of a group of leaders from across Greenville, announced their commitment to improving child care for families in Greenville County. Over 85 parents, child care providers, business and agency leaders, and community volunteers worked side by side for the benefit of young children in our county.
- The Greenville County School District is the largest public school system in South Carolina and the 65th largest school system in the nation with High School graduation slightly increasing.
- Greenville has many unique opportunities for young people. We have a Greenville's Children Garden created and developed by Leadership Greenville. The Greenville Zoo, the Children's Theatre, the Greenville Library system, the Peace Center, the SC Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities and others provide the finest programs and services to young people.