



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Up with People International Alumni Association Launches  
Community Action Program at World Expo, 2005 in Aichi, Japan**

**New York, NY** – The Up with People International Alumni Association will launch their volunteer Community Action Program, with musical and community service activities planned at World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan from August 10 – 14, 2005.

The Up with People International Alumni Association is a network of more than 19,500 individuals worldwide who participated in the non-profit international youth service and musical program Up with People\*. "The participants in this Community Action Program come from 15\* countries, including Japan, Togo West Africa, and the United States to name a few and range in age from 20–55. This volunteer group, of approximately 70, has been selected from hundreds of applicants and come from all walks of life, including corporate executives, marketers, psychologists, dentists, entertainers and educators, all contributing their time for this inaugural effort", said Sary Garcia, the Up with People International Alumni Association, president.

The Up with People International Alumni Association Community Action Program activities will include daily performances at World Expo 2005 on the Expo Plaza stage. A musical and dance production has been developed called "The Tree of Nations" that reflects the spirit of the UWPIAA and the global themes of Expo 2005, which focus on "Nature's Wisdom." The high-energy production will include international numbers and favorites from past UWP shows. The show can be seen daily at 12:15 and 1:15 pm and will feature the original theme song "Tree of Nations," newly written by alumni. Prior to and during the performances the audience will be engaged in interactive music and cultural activities.

Offstage, the Community Action Program cast will work with a number of the pavilions within World Expo including the United Nations and Sweden among them. While plans are still in development the cast has been asked to share their cultures with staff and guests including dialogues about the importance of volunteerism and community service.

The Up with People International Alumni Association Community Action Program is designed to mobilize UWP alumni from around the world in international volunteer service and community impact projects. It provides a vehicle for alumni to work side by side with others who share their commitment while providing cultural exchanges and organizations that serve those in need with much-needed volunteer resources, professional expertise and messages of hope.

The inaugural CAP project began with an invitation in December 2004 from the 2005 World Exposition Organizing Committee to the UWPIAA to perform at World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan.

The invitation for the UWPIAA to perform at World Expo 2005 came after a proposal was submitted last summer to World Expo organizers by an alumni team of volunteers and UWP founder J. Blanton Belk, who will join the group in Japan this summer as they the Community Action project is launched.

Committed to carrying a message of hope and service to people of all ages around the world, a handful of alumni, with the assistance of Belk, have spent thousands of volunteer hours and personal resources to develop the initial project, raise the funding for operations and execute this summer's exciting service endeavor.

Following World Expo, the UWPIAA CAP project will continue in Thailand August 17 - 23. The CAP cast will spend time in Bangkok and Phuket engaging the Thai people in cultural, musical and dance exchanges. The group will work with the organizations that support scholarships for children made orphans by the tsunamis -- as well as numerous educational and community organizations throughout the area.

**Background**

**\*Up with People International Alumni Association Participant Countries Represented** - Togo West Africa, Canada, Sweden, Thailand, Japan, United States, Mexico, Finland, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Philippines, Great Brittan.

**\*UWPIAA CAP Participant US States Represented** - AZ, CO, GA, CA, CT, District of Columbia, FL, NY, NJ, IL, OH, WI, OR

**\*Up with People** - The original UWP experience offered young people the opportunity to build bridges of understanding among people of all cultures around the globe through a musical performance and community service program.