

March 27, 2008

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CAMP FIRE USA PARTNERS WITH METLIFE FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH HEALTH INITIATIVE

(Seattle, WA) Camp Fire USA, one of the nation's leading youth development organizations, has announced a new partnership with MetLife Foundation to address obesity and lack of physical activity among young people in diverse, underserved communities. Through the new MetLife Foundation-Camp Fire USA Hold on to Health Initiative, Camp Fire USA will develop a new health curriculum in English and Spanish, pilot the curriculum in 10 local areas and share best practices throughout the organization.

Ten councils were selected through a national competition to pilot the initiative, which included the Central Puget Sound Council in King, Kitsap and North Mason county.

The Councils will use MetLife Foundation funding to develop or expand programs that address lifestyle changes, including the importance of physical exercise, good nutrition, access to healthy foods and health-enhancing behaviors. The program will be implemented in Out-of-School Time settings, including after-school, Saturday, drop-in and summer programs, including day and resident camps.

"Camp Fire has been a valued partner in increasing out-of-school opportunities for young people," said Sibyl Jacobson, president of MetLife Foundation. "We are pleased to expand this partnership to provide diverse young people with information and opportunities to lead healthier lives."

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Camp Fire USA is one of the nation's leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, serving nearly three quarters of a million participants annually. Camp Fire USA, with national headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri since 1977 and Council headquarters in Seattle since 1911, provides all-inclusive, co-educational programs in hundreds of communities across the United States. The Central Puget Sound Council is the largest Council in the United States (by membership) and serves King, Kitsap and North Mason counties. Camp Fire USA's mission is to build caring, confident youth and future leaders. By design, Camp Fire USA's programs include family and small group experiences, after school programs, camping and environmental education, child care and service learning. The Camp Fire USA experience builds confidence in younger children and provides hands-on, youth-driven leadership experiences for older youth. Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) is an affiliated program of Camp Fire USA and promotes civic responsibility through volunteerism among youth ages 11-18. The program welcomes young people from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds and actively

involves them in community problem solving and asset building through structured volunteer service. YVC service learning projects combine meaningful service with education and reflection. For more information, visit www.campfire-usa.org/YVC.

MetLife Foundation was established by MetLife in 1976 to carry on its longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement Grants support health, education, civic and cultural programs. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.

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