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For Immediate Release

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Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose Kicks Off Nationally-Recognized Summer of Service Program

Youth Earn Community Service Hours, Have Fun, and Make a Difference While Developing Different Perspectives and Empathy

San Jose, CA – June 1, 2017 – [Summer of Service](#), the museum's award-winning program that connects teens in grades 7 - 10 to volunteer opportunities, kicks off June 12 with the first of four sessions. With an emphasis on responsibility and purpose, participants have the option of volunteering in one of five focus areas for each four week session including community outreach activities, early childhood education, the environment, activities for museum visitors, and leadership development.

"Our program is really one-of-a kind in the Bay Area," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of [Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#). "There are so many beneficiaries – the teen, the teens' parents, and the nonprofit organizations. Parents are often surprised how motivated and impassioned their child becomes when they discover they can make a difference and help others regardless of their age."

There are 14 service sites located in the South Bay that provide rewarding opportunities for teens to earn up to 30 community service hours per session doing such things as sorting and bagging food for low income families at [The Health Trust](#), mentoring preschoolers at [Estrella Family Services](#), clearing evasive species at [Ulistac Natural Area](#), making blankets and cat toys for [Silicon Valley Pet Project](#), and facilitating activities and conversations with seniors at [Live Oak Adult Day Services](#).

As part of the museum's strategic commitment of [Community Service Learning](#), [Summer of Service](#) helps teens develop valuable life skills like empathy and perspective taking, two key EQ skills cited as critical to tomorrow's workforce and a civil society. This program provides many opportunities for teens to experience different perspectives and see the world through someone else's eyes.

WHEN: Session 1: June 12– June 23
Session 2: June 26 – July 7
Session 3: July 10– July 21
Session 4: July 24 – August 4

WHERE: [Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#), 180 Woz Way, San Jose

For more information, visit [cdm.org](#). To register, email sos@cdm.org or call 408-673-2833.

[About Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#)

With over 150 interactive exhibits and programs, **Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose** is one of the largest museums of its kind in the nation. Since opening its doors in 1990, the museum has welcomed over 8.3 million visitors and has offered new exhibits each year that respond to children's diverse educational needs. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta and is a beacon of discovery. Encompassing the broad themes of community, connections and creativity, hands-on exhibits invite self-directed, open-ended explorations. For more information about the Museum, visit www.cdm.org.