



The Alliance *for* Children's Rights

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Christianne Ray, Communications Director at The Alliance

Phone 213-368-6010 or email c.ray@kids-alliance.org

Host of Survivor knows who the most extraordinary survivors really are - youth aging out of foster care

Los Angeles, Calif. – Jan. 31, 2011 – For the past four years, Jeff Probst, Emmy award winning host of the television show Survivor, and founder of the Serpentine Project, has made it possible for promising former foster youth to realize their dreams. In an effort to serve more youth Serpentine has merged with The Alliance for Children's Rights. Through an endowment Probst will enable the Alliance to expand its services for youth aging out of foster care.

The endowment will provide youth with life skills and mentoring to help them prepare for independence and overcome barriers to self sufficiency. Funds will also be used to launch a Youth Empowerment Fellowship initiative that will hire former foster youth to become peer advocates for children currently in care. This initiative will provide youth with on-the-job training and skills to become leaders within their own communities, while teaching their peers about the importance of landmark legislation that now extends support for kids in foster care from 18 to 21. A new staff position, Youth Development Specialist, funded through the endowment, will oversee these efforts and maintain a commitment to the Serpentine youth.

“Every year approximately 1,500 youth age out of Los Angeles County’s foster care system at 18 years old. Half of these youth will end up homeless or incarcerated, and only three percent graduate from college.” says Janis Spire, CEO for The Alliance for Children’s Rights. “Jeff’s vision to change this reality is perfectly aligned with our programs and his support will be a catalyst to empower more foster youth to self-advocate while helping thousands who will come after them.”

For more information on The Alliance and its NextStep program for transitioning youth, visit the website at http://kids-alliance.org/TheAlliance_NextStep.html.

About The Alliance for Children’s Rights

The Alliance for Children's Rights is Los Angeles’s pre-eminent free legal services organization dedicated solely to protecting impoverished, abused and neglected children. Since its founding in 1992, The Alliance has been a consistent safety net for over 100,000 children and families. For more information about The Alliance and its programs, please call 213-368-6010 or visit us online at www.kids-alliance.org .

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