



For Immediate Release
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Charlotte's Trevor Cockerham Will Pay It Forward to U.S. Troops June 5

McLean, Va., May 28, 2010 — Charlotte's Trevor Cockerham is a very busy teenager, especially this next week. At 15 years old, he's hard at work as a junior at Mallard Creek High School, plays on the varsity soccer team and coaches soccer at the Charlotte Sports Center. He's a camp counselor and participates in honor societies and other organizations. Yet, Trevor has found the time, compassion and inspiration to help members of America's Armed Forces, as he says to "pay it forward". That's a selfless teenager.

Trevor has almost single-handedly organized a major roller-skating event at the Charlotte Sports Center on Saturday, June 5, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., to raise money for a charity called ThanksUSA. Since its launch in 2006, ThanksUSA has awarded nearly 2,000 needs-based, post-secondary-school scholarships to the children and spouses of military personnel. Recipients of the awards, valued at nearly \$6 million, have come from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Like Trevor, the founders of ThanksUSA are also teenagers. The big hearts belong to Rachel, 14, and her 12-year-old sister Kelsi, of McLean, Virginia. They learned about the hardships of U.S. troops and their families, first by sending care packages with their church to soldiers overseas and reading emotional letters of thanks in return. Then they saw first-hand the ravages of war when one of their neighbors came home from Iraq with serious injuries.

The girls decided to say "thanks" to military families for their service and sacrifice. So with their imaginations and determination, they inspired their family and friends to help create ThanksUSA, a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships for military families.

Trevor has picked up their bug. "After learning more about ThanksUSA's intentions, I became inspired to do something on my own," he said. "I wish to give the great gift of education to the spouses and children of those serving in our Armed Forces. They are risking their lives to protect our country. What better way to return the favor than to help provide their family members with a quality education?"

He also plans to link this event to a high school research paper. "I already wrote my paper and it is about altruism and the concept of 'pay it forward.' Providing acts of kindness will inspire others to provide their own acts of kindness," he said.

For details on ThanksUSA, visit www.ThanksUSA.org.

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Note to journalists: We're sure your readers/viewers will want to know more about Trevor, Rachel and Kelsi, and the ThanksUSA award recipients and applicants in your area. For more information and interviews, please contact Thalia Assuras.