



Youth  
Changing  
the World



**For Immediate Release**  
**September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Bright Light Volunteers Designated as Lead Agency  
to Engage Youth on 9/11 Day of Service & Remembrance in Chico, California**

**Chico, CA** — Bright Light Volunteers will serve as a Youth Service America Lead Agency and is partnering with Chico-based and student-led organization One Letter, Endless Joy to facilitate a **day long letter writing campaign with Chico's youth to honor the heroes, survivors, victims, and families directly affected by the terrible tragedy that unfolded September 11, 2001. They will also be assembling letters of welcome for incoming Afghani refugees.**

The letter writing event will take place on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 12pm- 4pm at the 9-11 Memorial at the Chico Fire Department located at 1777 Manzanita Avenue, Chico, CA 95926.

The 9/11 Day of Service & Remembrance was officially designated as a National Day of Service by the 2009 Serve America Act. With grant funding from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation and AmeriCorps along with training and support from YSA (Youth Service America), Bright Light Volunteers will build a culture in which all young people in the Chico, California area have the opportunity and support to find their voice, take action, and make an impact in their communities. As the official local organizer for this national day of service, Lead Agencies are a vital part of YSA's work to activate all youth, ages 5-25 - especially those in under-served communities who aren't usually asked to participate.

"We are thrilled to partner with Bright Light Volunteers and the thousands of young people in the United States who will serve and celebrate this day of service," said Steven A. Culbertson, President and CEO of YSA. "We're currently leaving three-quarters of our young citizens out of actively participating in our democracy. Volunteering is a gateway to a lifetime of civic participation and days of service are on-ramps to volunteering, especially for first-time volunteers."

Catherine Greenberg, founder of Bright Light Volunteers said, "Cultivating and celebrating a lifelong passion for service is at the core of what we do and we are so excited to have been chosen as a YSA Lead Agency!"

"*One Letter, Endless Joy* is the perfect program for people of any age, from children to grandparents, to give back to their community and form a personal connection with a senior. We are thrilled to respectfully extend the spirit of connection and appreciation to 9/11 survivors and heroes." - Ethan Besnard

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### **Bright Light Volunteers**

Bright Light Volunteers is a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization, designed to empower program participants and community partners through education and service. Specifically, our programs adhere to global service-learning best practices, which combine community service with experiential learning in the field. Our vision is to make the world a brighter place by creating a more peaceful, just, interconnected world where global challenges and opportunities are met by educated, compassionate, global citizens and leaders. For more information, visit [www.brightlightvolunteers.org](http://www.brightlightvolunteers.org)

**One Letter, Endless Joy** is a program started in Chico, CA by Ethan Besnard (17) and his brother Cade Besnard (12) during the beginning stages of COVID-19. The purpose of the program is to spread love and gratitude to members of the senior community within assisted living facilities safely through letters. With over 600 letters written in six months, *One Letter, Endless Joy* has been able to partially fill the absence of visitors by spreading kindness and joy. For more information visit <https://www.oneletterendlessjoy.com/>

**YSA (Youth Service America)** believes that youth, communities, and democracy thrive when we all work together for the common good. YSA is a leading global nonprofit that activates young people, ages 5-25, to find their voice, take action, and acquire powerful civic and 21st Century skills as they solve problems facing their communities. YSA supports its activation campaigns – including 9/11 Day of Service, MLK Day of Service, and Global Youth Service Day - with grants, training & resources, and recognition programs for young people and their adult champions. Youth-led projects use Awareness, Service, Advocacy, and Philanthropy (ASAP) strategies to create social and environment change. For more information, visit [www.YSA.org](http://www.YSA.org).

The **September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (9/11 Day)**, is a chance to help others in tribute to those killed and injured on September 11, 2001, first responders, and the countless others who serve to defend the nation's freedom at home and around the globe. September 11, 2021, is the 20th Anniversary of that tragic day. On 9/11 Day, step forward to serve in a remarkable spirit of unity, honor, and compassion. [www.YSA.org/911Day](http://www.YSA.org/911Day)

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