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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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● **Norway resident becomes an AmeriCorps*VISTA with KIDS Consortium**

Lewiston, ME - KIDS Consortium is pleased to announce that Rachel Brophy of Norway, Maine will be joining their staff as an AmeriCorps*VISTA member for 2006-07. Rachel is part of a larger statewide team of Americorps*VISTA members organized by Communities for Children and Youth, a statewide initiative of the Maine Children's Cabinet working to promote positive child and youth development.

Ms. Brophy will be working with KIDS Consortium staff on several important projects related to service-learning in K-12 schools in Maine. Service-learning is a teaching strategy that connects classroom academics with community service projects. Brophy will focus on increasing the number and quality of service-learning projects related to health (particularly substance abuse prevention, nutrition and exercise, and anti-bullying projects) and improving the environment. In addition, she will assist with fundraising efforts and will reach out to local community organizations and interested school districts with populations of children and youth at increased risk of poverty to encourage partnerships around service-learning projects.

KIDS Consortium is a nationally recognized leader in rapidly expanding service-learning movement, and the organization, based in Lewiston. KIDS works with teachers, administrators and students to involve students in addressing real challenges faced by their communities. Together they identify, research, and work to address local community needs. With guidance from KIDS, teachers match those projects to school curricula, providing a powerful "hands on" learning experience that improves the community and brings academics to life.

A resident of Norway, Maine, Rachel Brophy graduated from Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School in 2002 and is a 2006 graduate of College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where she majored in History with a concentration in Peace and Conflict studies. To learn more about AmeriCorps*VISTA and teams organized by Communities for Children and Youth, please visit www.mainevista.net. For more information about KIDS Consortium and service-learning please visit their website, www.kidsconsortium.org. ###