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**Touch A Life Foundation and Journey for Change:  
Empowering Youth Through Global Service Announce  
“From Captivity to Capitol Hill” an Innovative Youth Service and Advocacy Event**

**Dallas, Texas (March 1, 2010)** Pam Cope, author of the critically acclaimed book, *Jantsen’s Gift*, and Malaak Compton-Rock, founder of Journey for Change: Empowering Youth Through Global Service and author of upcoming book, *If It Takes a Village, Build One: How I Found Meaning Through A Life of Service and 100+ Ways That You Can Too*, announced today that their organizations have formed a unique trans-Atlantic youth service and advocacy partnership “**From Captivity to Capitol Hill.**” Mrs. Cope and her husband Randy Cope are the co-founders of Touch A Life Foundation, based in Coppell, Texas.

The partnership will focus on advocating for the elimination of child trafficking, with emphasis on addressing child slavery on Lake Volta in Ghana. The inaugural event is a March 5-14, 2010 trip to Ghana where Journey for Change Youth Global Ambassadors will join Touch A Life Foundation child trafficking survivors for a transformational week of education and service. The trip will culminate with a fact-finding mission on the waters of Lake Volta and the completion of a school for child trafficking survivors in the Kete Krachi region of Ghana.

“I am so excited about the opportunity for Touch A Life children in Ghana to form lasting partnerships with youth in America through Journey for Change,” Ms. Cope stated. “It’s a critical component for both Touch A Life and Journey for Change children to not only talk about living a life of service, but acting on it. Journey for Change is a great partnership, because Malaak and I both stand for the same things when it comes to influencing and changing the lives of at-risk children.”

“The mission of Journey for Change is to empower the lives of at-risk youth from Brooklyn, NY through travel, service and advocacy,” said Malaak Compton-Rock. “I cannot think of a more rich and fulfilling partnership than the one with Touch A Life Foundation, as our youth Ambassadors, all of whom are descendants of slaves, will not only have the opportunity to travel to Ghana, but to uphold the mission of our program and Touch A Life Foundation by advocating for the eradication of child slavery. Pam is a kindred spirit, as she and I both believe in the prolific African proverb “It takes a village to raise a child.” I am proud that Journey for Change and Touch A Life Foundation are now a part of the same collective village.”



In April 2010, program participants will travel to Washington DC and New York, NY to highlight the issue of child slavery and share firsthand their experiences with US Government leaders, the international community and other key stakeholders.

### **About the Organizations:**

**Journey for Change: Empowering Youth Through Global Service** grew from Ms. Compton-Rock's commitment to mentoring youth from her husband Chris Rock's native Brooklyn, NY neighborhood and her desire to instill in them the value of global travel, service and advocacy. The inaugural *Journey for Change* service mission gave 30 youth an opportunity to serve orphaned and vulnerable children in the shantytowns of Diepsloot and Soweto in Johannesburg, South Africa. Coming back to the U.S. as Journey for Change Global Ambassadors, the youth continue to take part in a myriad of service, advocacy, and educational initiatives geared towards creating global leaders engaged in their communities and the world around them. The trip was filmed for CNN's *Black in America 2: Tomorrow's Leaders*, hosted by journalist Soledad O'Brien, which aired in July 2009. Thirty youth from three Brooklyn, NY neighborhoods will travel to South Africa as part of Journey for Change 2 in August, 2010. More information can be found at [www.angelrockproject.com](http://www.angelrockproject.com).

**The Touch A Life Foundation** is a non-profit organization devoted to the rescue, education and advocacy on behalf of exploited children. The goal of Touch A Life is to elevate children out of poverty and provide leadership skills that they need to better their communities and the world. A leading voice for eliminating child slavery around the globe, the Foundation focuses its work primarily in Vietnam, Cambodia and Ghana, supporting over 80 formerly trafficked children in Ghana and over 300 children in Southeast Asia who were at-risk.

Co-Founder Pam Cope's book *Jantsen's Gift: A True Story of Grief, Rescue and Grace*, a moving memoir of how grief opened her heart to the children of Lake Volta, spurred the collaboration between *Journey for Change* and *Touch A Life*. Please visit [www.touchalifekids.org](http://www.touchalifekids.org) for more information.

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