

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Building Servant Leaders: TKA Sending 629 to Serve in 5 U.S. Communities & 4 Countries**

SUNNYVALE, Calif, April 8, 2019 — One of the four core values of The King's Academy mission is servant leadership. To that end, TKA dedicates a school week each year to send students, teachers, and parents to serve others both locally and globally. Service trips are an integral part of the educational and spiritual experience at TKA. These trips expose students to communities in need, challenge them to be representatives of God's love, and become invested in service for life. TKA has been sending students on service trips each year since the inaugural trip to Mexico in 1993! **To date, 372 houses have been built in Mexico by TKA!**

Julie Jahde-Young, TKA's Service Outreach Coordinator, explains the vision behind the service trips: *"Service is not just a good thing, it is at the very heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus as reflected in our service trip verse for the year, 'Faith working through love' (Galatians 5:6). It is our prayer that as students serve, as they discover how their gifts, talents, and blessings can make a radical difference in the world, their hearts and minds will be forever changed."*

For the 27<sup>th</sup> year, TKA is headed to **Tecate, Mexico** with a team of 408 (304 high school students and 104 parent volunteers and staff) will caravan down in 64 vehicles where the majority will be building 16 houses. In addition, TKA teams will host a "Kid's Club" vacation Bible school for neighborhood children in two locations, run a soccer camp in two locations for children ages 6-14 to build skills and introduce gospel-related activities, and provide a public health program promoting wellness for local women. TKA donates and transports all of the construction materials and tools plus arranged for food to feed the tent city of volunteers for five days.

In **Belize**, a team of 27 will be sharing the love of Christ and building relationships with underserved Belizean children and their families, conducting a hands-on science and sports day camp for local elementary students and building a fence for the school. The group is also partnering with [Pathlight](#) to raise money to fund a local boy's 4-H trade school training in agriculture for a year.

A team of 25 will be headed to **Brazil** and partnering with [Hope Unlimited](#), an organization dedicated to rescuing street children. Our team will minister to the spiritual needs of these children through various activities, minister to the local staff by leading workshops, and provide facility enhancements.

In **Ecuador**, 18 students and staff will be venturing to the Amazon basin and working with the organization [Inca Link](#) to minister in a variety of ways including construction, sports evangelism, teaching English, vacation Bible school for children in unreached communities.

Local Service has been a growing priority for TKA. For the third year, a team of 20 will continue to build upon a 13-year partnership at **San Miguel Elementary School** where students have been tutoring weekly throughout the school year. During the one-week service period, team members will help directly in the classrooms, facilitate sports activities, and lead a school assembly. Nearby, a team of 26 will be working in **Sunnyvale** with [Reach Potential Movement](#), where they will minister to the low-income families of Sunnyvale by offering a Vacation Bible School camp for children while they are on spring break. A team of 19 will be serving the **East Palo Alto** community, working with two ministry organizations: [Bayshore Christian Ministries](#) helps youth grow spiritually, gain life skills, and develop as leaders; [New Creation Home Ministries](#) provides safe and secure homes to young mothers and their children while they foster long-term independence through academic, parental, vocational and social growth opportunities. Additionally, the group will facilitate sports and games during lunchtime at Ravenswood Middle School.

In **Los Angeles**, a large team of 58 will partner with [Union Rescue Mission](#) to serve the needs of inner-city communities, both materially and spiritually. The team will do a variety of service projects, including distributing hygiene kits and decorated trashcans, in these L.A. areas: Skid Row, Watts, MacArthur Park, Imperial Courts.

Twenty-eight (28) members of the TKA school community will travel to **Kentucky** to work with [Christian Appalachian Project](#) (CAP) to meet the most basic housing needs of impoverished families struggling to survive in Appalachia.

The King's Academy, an independent, college preparatory school for grades 6-12 serving 950 students, is a Christ-centered school that inspires academic excellence, servant leadership, and enduring relationships. The King's Academy is accredited by both the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and The Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). For more information about TKA, please visit [www.tka.org](http://www.tka.org).

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