



CONTACTS:

Jeff Parness
New York Says Thank You Foundation
917-806-8061
Jeff@NewYorkSaysThankYou.org

Suzanne Bernier
SB Crisis Consulting
647-825-8744
suzanne@sbcrisisconsulting.com

Pam de Boer
Paul Davis
416-388-3478
pdeboer@pds.ca

Stars of HOPE® to Lift the Spirits of Fort McMurray this Canada Day

**Families Invited to Participate in Community Painting Event on July 1
at MacDonald Island to Create Messages of Hope and Healing**

*Paul Davis and New York Says Thank You Foundation team up with
DENTONS and ABNY Foundation for this special “pay it forward” project*

June 22, 2016 - New York City, USA and Fort McMurray, Alberta, CANADA – A very special disaster relief and community arts project is coming to Fort McMurray in celebration of Canada Day that will make it possible for kids and families to lift the spirits of the community. Stars of HOPE (www.starsofhopeusa.org) empowers people of all ages to paint inspirational messages and beautiful designs on 1-foot wooden stars that are hung by ribbon from fences and poles in communities impacted by natural and man-made disaster. Stars of HOPE have lifted the spirits of millions of disaster survivors in 89 communities and 19 countries. The Stars serve as beacons of compassion for all to see on a daily basis for months and years during the recovery. This special community project is being organized by Paul Davis in partnership with New York Says Thank You Foundation and Brian Jean and Tany Yao, MLAs for the Fort McMurray region.

WHO/WHAT/WHERE - Stars of HOPE Community Painting Event. Friday, July 1, 2016 from Noon to 5:00 p.m. adjacent to the Heroes Community Barbecue at MacDonald Island. Families are welcome to paint with their children free of charge. Once dry, the Stars of HOPE will be hung by volunteers and displayed around Fort Mac for all to see!

Turning Tragedy into HOPE

Stars of HOPE is a program of New York Says Thank You Foundation, an international disaster relief organization started in 2003 by the suggestion of a 5-year-old boy who wanted to “pay it forward” for all the kindness New Yorkers received after 9/11. Scores of communities around North America and the world have come together to paint Stars of HOPE to bring hope and color back to communities whose landscapes have been darkened by acts of nature or violence.

Thousands of residents of Joplin, Missouri painted Stars of HOPE after a deadly EF5 tornado destroyed 40% of their town in 2011 and took the lives of 168 neighbors. Hundreds of residents of Minot, North Dakota painted Stars of HOPE at the local university in 2012 to brighten their community devastated by a 500-year flood. Hundreds of schoolchildren in Bastrop, Texas painted Stars of HOPE to reinvigorate their community after a wildfire destroyed 1,800 homes. And families in Breezy Point, NY gathered together for the first time following Hurricane Sandy to lift the spirits of their community by painting Stars of HOPE that were displayed throughout the “burn zone” where homes were lost during the storm. Stars of HOPE have lifted the spirits of people of all ages recovering from tragedy from the Parliament in Ottawa to Orlando, Florida.

“We are honored to be part of the physical recovery of the community of Fort McMurray after the fires and we are excited to help in the emotional recovery through Stars of HOPE as well,” stated Bill Dietz, Regional Vice President, Canada at Paul-Davis.

“Since 2008, Stars of HOPE have bolstered the long-term mental health and resiliency of individuals and entire communities recovering from disaster worldwide,” stated Suzanne Bernier of SB Crisis Consulting and Board Member of New York Says Thank You Foundation. *“We are so excited to bring this special community arts project to Fort Mac and to my home country on Canada Day for families to come together and celebrate HOPE!”*

In addition to Paul Davis, New York Says Thank You Foundation (NYSTY) and SB Crisis Consulting, this community art project is also being made possible through the generous support of DENTONS and Association for a Better New York Foundation. In addition to Toronto, NYSTY volunteers for this effort in Fort Mac will be coming from New York City, Greensburg, Kansas, Groesbeck, Texas, and San Bernardino, California – all communities who have survived tragedies big and small and all impacted by Stars of HOPE in their recovery for a hopeful future.

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About Stars of HOPE

Stars of HOPE® is a unique disaster relief and community arts program that empowers people to transform communities impacted by natural and man-made disasters through colorful art and messages of hope and healing. We have empowered over 45,000 volunteers to paint inspirational words and designs on 1-foot wooden stars that are displayed in public places in communities worldwide in the immediate and long term aftermath of tragedy as a way to accelerate the healing process and bolster long-term mental health and resiliency of individuals and communities. Stars of HOPE operates as a joint project of New York Says Thank You Foundation and Groesbeck Rebuilds America. www.starsofhopeusa.org

About New York Says Thank You Foundation

Started in 2003 at the suggestion of a 5-year-old boy, New York Says Thank You Foundation is a growing global “pay it forward” service movement that is creating transformative solutions based on survivor empowerment in disaster relief, education, and the arts. The mission of New York Says Thank You is to build hope and provide healing to people around the world as a way to continually “pay it forward” for the humanity, kindness, and volunteer spirit New Yorkers – and all Americans – experienced on 9/12. www.newyorksaysthankeyou.org

About Paul Davis

Founded in 1966, Paul Davis pioneered the insurance restoration industry. Today, our network of more than 370 franchises spans North America. Paul Davis professionals are certified leaders in emergency restoration, reconstruction and remodeling. From multi-million dollar commercial reconstruction to restoring precious belongings, Paul Davis puts people first. We look forward to further growth as a business leader in this community. www.pauldavis.ca