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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Samaritan's Feet Unveils Plan to Bless 10,000 Children and Homeless in Cities across America on MLK Day.**

***Dr Maya Angelou, Big Kenny, Bishop Paul S. Morton, Clark Kellogg, and Jay Hein Former White House Director of Faith Based Initiative Teams up with Samaritan's Feet to serve as Honorary "Shoes of Hope" Ambassadors for MLK Day of Service to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.***

**(CHARLOTTE, NC) –December 29, 2010** – Samaritan's Feet ([www.samaritansfeet.org](http://www.samaritansfeet.org)) announces their National Day of Service efforts to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15-17, 2011. In cities across the nation, Samaritan's Feet, its corporate partners, volunteer, and community leaders will wash the feet of nearly 10,000 underprivileged children and impoverished individuals, equipping them with a new pair of shoes, and sharing with them a message of hope.

**Charlotte, NC** (January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011)-Samaritan's Feet and 100 volunteers will bring hope and new athletic shoes to 400 children in the Charlotte area. Through a grant provided by the Children's Speedway Charities, Samaritan's Feet has partnered with Druid Hills Elementary School to identify children in need and put new shoes and socks on their feet while washing their feet and giving them a message of hope. Samaritan's Feet is a humanitarian relief organization that puts shoes on children's feet all around the world. The volunteers at this event will join the over 60,000 people who have served at Samaritan's Feet Shoes of Hope distributions throughout the United States and 52 countries over the last eight years.

The Samaritan's Feet Shoes of Hope distribution will be held on Saturday, January 15th from 10:00am-2:00pm at Druid Hills Elementary School, 2801 Lucena Street Charlotte, NC. 28206. Volunteers should plan to arrive at 9:00 am for training and orientation.

This day of service will be led and supported by Samaritan's Feet Honorary Ambassadors; Martin Luther King III; Dr. Bernice A. King (children of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr); author and activist, Dr. Maya Angelou; country music artist Big Kenny, who is also known as half of the Warner Brothers duo Big and Rich; the International Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, Bishop Paul S. Morton; former Director of White House Office of Faith-based Initiatives and President of the Sagamore Institute, Jay Hein; and CBS Sports College Basketball Analyst and former professional NBA star, Clark Kellogg.

As Dr. King stood for more than just marches and rallies, his concept of "somebodiness," which symbolized the celebration of human worth and the conquest of subjugation, gave the impoverished hope and a sense of dignity. His courage inspired a nation to service, which will be

lived out on this National Day of Service. "It is our goal to help communities reach deeper into their neighborhoods by; demonstrating this act of servant-leadership and humility, provide for a basic need, and to share a message of hope to those in need," said Manny Ohonme, founder and CEO of Samaritan's Feet.

In cities including Charlotte, Chicago, Houston, Atlanta, and Seattle people of diverse backgrounds will join together to symbolize a unified effort by becoming the "Beloved Community" that Dr. King dreamed of, and helping those in need. Imagine, volunteers - students and teachers, athletes and coaches, professionals and laborers, young and old, black, white, Hispanic... all standing together to help make a difference through a simple act of service. As well, these shoes will not only provide for a basic need for children in need, but they will also serve as a reminder of the love and kindness that was shared with them on this special day.

"Every MLK Holiday, I get a chance to witness the incredible spirit of servant-hood that permeates America," said Dr. Maya Angelou. "My friend Dr. King was an incredibly passionate, humble, courageous, righteous and fair man. His efforts of creating equality are being lived out on the National Day of Service as Samaritan's Feet volunteers from different economic, social and ethnic backgrounds wash the feet of impoverished families and give them a new pair of shoes. My spirit is full of joy as I reflect on the vision that Dr. King laid out for all who followed and served alongside him. His dreams are being fulfilled as Americans demonstrate servant-leadership by compassionately and lovingly sharing hope and love with each other by the simple act of providing a new pair of shoes."

From Jay Hein, "As a former government official, I have advocated for faith-based solutions to poverty. As a think tank researcher, I have studied faith-based best practices. In all of this experience, I have seen few other organizations worldwide that match Samaritan's Feet's model of mutual transformation for those being served as well as those doing the service."

"I support the goals of Samaritan's Feet, which is to help children in need. When a child is the recipient of an act of kindness it can have a transformational effect on them. Through receiving a pair of shoes, these children feel that they matter, that someone cares. This empowering memory can last a lifetime," said Big Kenny.

### **About Samaritan's Feet**

Samaritan's Feet is a 501(c) 3, a faith-based humanitarian aid organization that shares a message of hope and love through washing the feet of impoverished children around the world and adorning them with new shoes. There are an estimated 300 million children who go without shoes every day and more than 1 million that die each year from foot borne disease. Our goal is to provide 10 million pairs of shoes for 10 million impoverished children in the next 10 years, and since 2003 Samaritan's Feet and its team of 70,000 ambassadors have blessed nearly 3 million children in over 40 nations.

Samaritan's Feet was started in 2003 by Manny Ohonme who received his first pair of shoes at the age of 9 from a missionary. Those shoes allowed him to learn and play the game of basketball which ultimately earned him a scholarship to the University of North Dakota (Lake Region). Manny went on to receive his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees and pursued a successful career in supply chain software industries. From a simple pair of shoes and the kindness and compassion shared by this missionary changed the course of Manny's life.

Samaritan's Feet is headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina and has facilities in Indianapolis, Washington, D.C., San Bernardino, as well as Cape Town, and South Africa.

### **About Speedway Children's Charities**

The mission of Speedway Children's Charities remains true to the ideals it was founded upon in 1982: *To care for children in educational, financial, social and medical need in order to help them lead productive lives.*

SCC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and provides funding for hundreds of non-profit organizations throughout the nation that meet the direct needs of children. Our vision is that every child has the same opportunities no matter what obstacle they are facing

Speedway Children's Charities is more than just a fundraiser. Our local chapters are partners in change, working with a broad range of people and organizations to identify and resolve pressing issues dealing with children in their communities.

### **Contact**

To learn more about our National Day of Service ([www.samaritansfeet.org/NDS](http://www.samaritansfeet.org/NDS)) events across the country or to schedule an interview, please contact Rachel Wallace at 317-496-0236 or by email at [rwallace@samaritansfeet.org](mailto:rwallace@samaritansfeet.org). As well, please join Samaritan's Feet on Face book and become a part of this movement to bring hope to those in need around the world.

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