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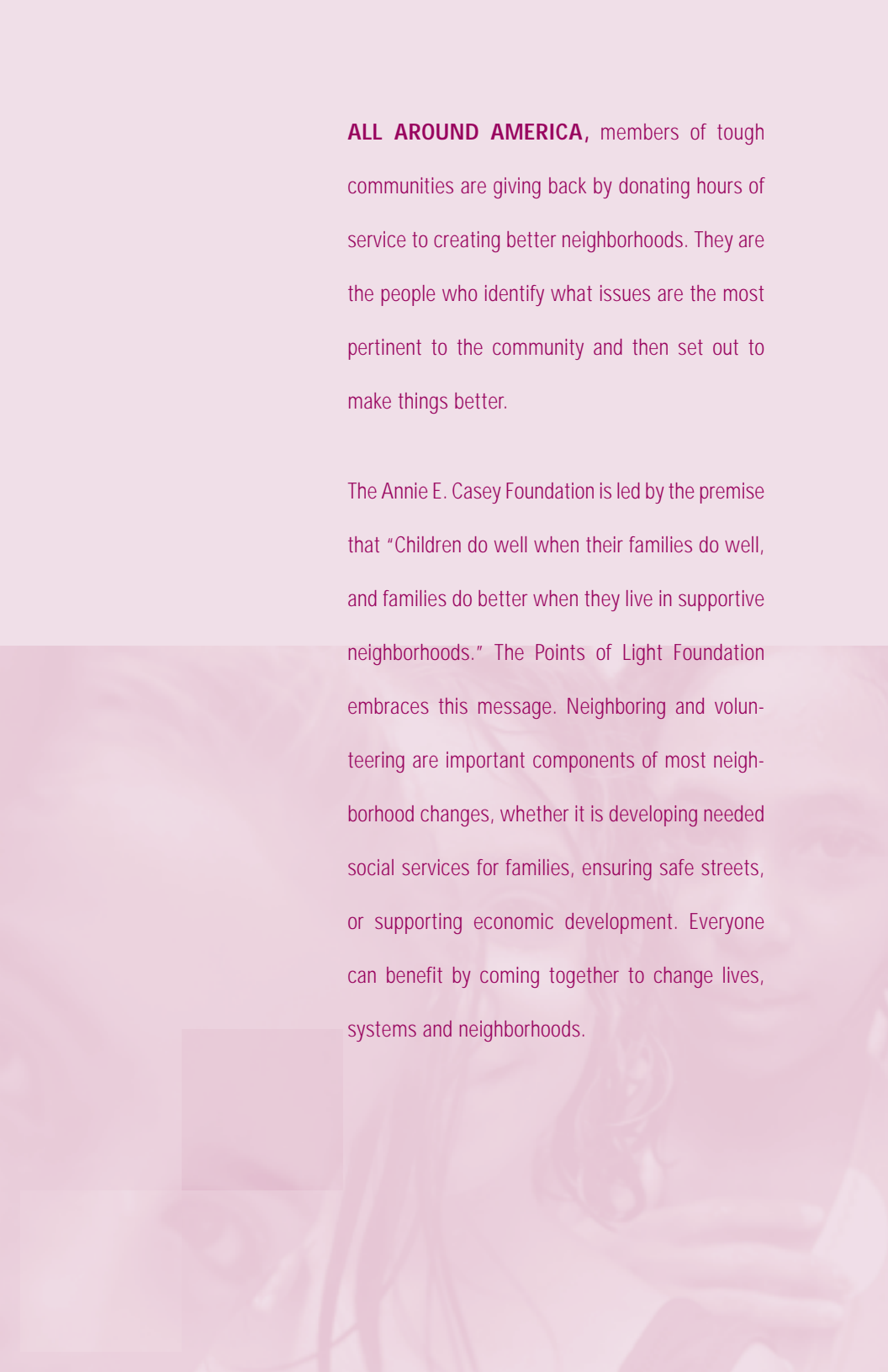
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A woman with dark hair is smiling broadly, her hand is raised to her face. The background is a warm, orange-toned photograph of her. Two smaller, semi-transparent square images are positioned in the upper right quadrant: one shows a close-up of a woman's face, and the other shows a young child's face.

2002 DAILY POINTS OF LIGHT

*Strengthening Families and
Transforming Neighborhoods*

A small sampling of the many innovative, creative, and successful
volunteer-driven neighborhood transformation programs in America today



ALL AROUND AMERICA, members of tough communities are giving back by donating hours of service to creating better neighborhoods. They are the people who identify what issues are the most pertinent to the community and then set out to make things better.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is led by the premise that “Children do well when their families do well, and families do better when they live in supportive neighborhoods.” The Points of Light Foundation embraces this message. Neighboring and volunteering are important components of most neighborhood changes, whether it is developing needed social services for families, ensuring safe streets, or supporting economic development. Everyone can benefit by coming together to change lives, systems and neighborhoods.

Here are just a few examples of the success stories of people doing extraordinary things. Their service, the neighborhoods they have transformed, and the families they have helped to strengthen should serve as a constant reminder that together we can do great things.

Their Stories...

Leading the Way to Sustainable Change!

REV. WILLIE WILSON

Washington, DC
Daily Point of Light No.2064
January 1, 2002

The Anacostia region of southeast Washington, DC is plagued by unemployment, poor social services, crime and violence, and a sense of hopelessness. Rev. Wilson observed all of these problems, and rather than being deterred by the grave situation, chose to work to improve it.

Rev. Wilson successfully mobilizes the people of Anacostia to participate in a variety of events that bring joy and pride to the neighborhood. Every summer for the last 17 years he has chaired "Unifest," which brings together the faith community, local vendors and businesses, and the entertainment industry to celebrate the region's diversity in the largest outdoor festival of its kind in the nation. More than 200,000 people attended in June 2000 alone.

Rev. Wilson is especially devoted to helping the economically and socially depressed neighborhoods. Recently, he acquired and redeveloped a major portion of an entire city block in Anacostia. Through this "Square 5971" project, the community gains a small business incubator, health and fitness center, a hospice facility for those with AIDS, and a day care facility for the working poor. In addition to the important services these institutions provide,



they will also make severely needed jobs available in a region with high unemployment.

Additionally, Rev. Wilson helps individuals transform income into wealth through his innovative program, “Stop and Grow Rich,” which focuses on debt elimination. Through the program, 75 homebuyers improved their credit, and 20 families purchased their first homes.

Rev. Wilson has made a difference in Anacostia, and the people’s lives there. He has helped to establish institutions that will stabilize the community, he has encouraged personal growth among residents, and he has given hope to the people of the neighborhood.

Rev. Wilson’s ability to advocate for human rights to inspire people and clearly articulate the needs of the community to policy and decision makers, as well as to mobilize the community he has brought great changes to the area. He is an example of a community leader whose tireless efforts resulted in tangible community transformation.

Changing Lives!

KHADIJAH AMATULLAH

Cincinnati, OH

Daily Point of Light No. 2070

January 9, 2002

Drug abuse, hunger, and violence are part of the lives of citizens of Cincinnati, Ohio. Most people choose to remove themselves from the situation, rather than attempting to remedy it. Khadijah Amatullah, on the other hand, works everyday to improve the city little by little. She has changed the lives of many Ohio citizens and helped them reach their potential, change their economic situation, and assume their places as contributing members of society.

Struggling against overwhelming odds, Amatullah became a mentor, a leader, a facilitator, and a coordinator. She has reduced the involvement of youth in drug related activities by offering positive educational and recreational programs. She has developed and coordinated a free tutoring and mentoring program for youth in need of educational support. Amatullah recruits college students to go to the homes of those in need and give them guidance.

Amatullah educates and aids low-income families by providing them with the information they need to become homeowners. She instills individuals with pride and personal responsibility for the communities where they live.

Not all of Amatullah's success is measurable but the results are widespread and encouraging. Lower pregnancy rates, a broader economic base, and higher employment all indicate that Amatullah's work makes a difference. She empowers the residents of Cincinnati to seize control of their lives and make smart decisions that help them overcome the many barriers that they face.

Amatullah exemplifies the idea that one individual, with determination, dedication, and great passion can change the lives of many.

Identifying Problems and Working For Solutions!

ORANGE HATS

Washington, DC
Daily Point of Light No. 2098
February 18, 2002

Citizens of tough neighborhoods are often portrayed in the media as apathetic bystanders in the fight against crime, and that they are even sympathetic to those perpetrating the crimes. However, in many communities, angry citizens who were once polarized by their fear of crime have discovered a new tool to take back their streets. This crime squelching tool, coupled with their renewed resolve to fight back, is one reason that crime rates across the country have dropped in recent years.

These brave men and women find that by working together in groups to patrol their streets, they deter crime and transform their neighborhoods. The largest of the organized citizen patrol groups is the Orange Hats, known for the orange baseball caps they wear as a sign of solidarity. Founded in 1988 by Ed Johnson in the Fairlawn section of southeast Washington, DC, Orange Hats groups have been replicated throughout the District of Columbia and in communities across the country. Each Orange Hat group consists of 5 to 50 members who band together to patrol the streets of their community during the evening to deter crime. They often do much more than just walk. They utilize camcorders to videotape drug dealers, write down the license plates of suspicious cars and stay in constant



contact with each other by walkie-talkies and cell phone.

As word of the Orange Hats' success spreads, other neighborhoods are asking for assistance in initiating similar groups. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers and leaders of this movement, more than 250 Orange Hat patrol groups have been formed across the country. Today, although there is no official count, membership in Orange Hat patrols is estimated to number more than 14,000.

The Orange Hats have not yet put an end to crime, but they have made a difference in their own neighborhoods by discouraging drug dealing and crime in general. Southeast Washington, DC residents saw a problem and donated their time and energy to finding a solution. As a result, they have empowered thousands of others in tough communities to do the same.



Overcoming Obstacles!

**NICHELLE BROWN &
THE ALL STARS
TALENT SHOW NETWORK**

Far Rockaway, NY
Daily Point of Light No. 2112
March 8, 2002

Far Rockaway, NY, is one of the toughest neighborhoods in the city. Crime, violence, and poverty permeate the area. In 1989, Nichelle Brown was a young mother living on welfare, who had spent years of her young life hanging out on the streets of Far Rockaway. Thanks to a great desire to improve her circumstances and to the All Stars Talent Show Network (ASTSN), Brown was able to turn her life around. Once Brown saw that it was possible for a Far Rockaway mother to succeed, she became determined to help others in her community do the same.

ASTSN is the flagship program of the All Stars Project Inc, which is one of the largest and most successful youth development programs in New York's poorest neighborhoods. It uses performance as an alternative to violence and destructive behavior and as a vehicle for emotional, personal, and social growth.

Brown first got involved with ASTSN in early 1989, when she performed in a talent show in Far Rockaway. Soon after, she began volunteering regularly at the shows and worked in her community to encourage and prepare young people to audition.

Nichelle Brown is now a leader and role model for ASTSN. She is a spokesperson and ambassador and continues to volunteer at every event. She often provides on-site training for new volunteers or can be found performing tasks ranging from supervising security to staffing the registration desk. Last year she was the primary organizer of an All Stars Show in Far Rockaway. Her daughter is now a participant in the ASTSN and Brown is an active recruiter of her daughter's friends and peers into the program.



Brown's flair as a performer and her dedication as an organizer have inspired hundreds of teens. Though busy with a full-time job and raising her daughter, she maintains a tireless commitment to helping youth develop, which is why she has become a pillar of the All Stars volunteer corps. She is the reason that many of the young people who currently perform and volunteer in the All Stars signed up in the first place. And she continues to inspire the staff at the All Stars Project with her talent for communicating to all types of people across cultural and social divides. Brown exemplifies the message that volunteering and giving to one's community can change one's life, as it did hers and all the others who follow her example.

Empowering Residents!

JAMES RHODES

Camp Hill, AL
Daily Point of Light No. 2130
April 3, 2002

Camp Hill, Alabama is a small southern community of less than 1,500 people that, until recently, faced many depressing statistics: highest unemployment rate in the county; highest secondary dropout rate; lowest school test scores; highest rate of teen pregnancies; highest percentage of people on social services; and zero youth services.

Most of the community had become indifferent, but James Rhodes demonstrated how one person could make a difference. Rhodes and his family arrived in the area, and decided that the current situation in Camp Hill, particularly the poor school system, was unacceptable. Rather than just complaining or moving out, Rhodes chose to make changes. He started by establishing an after-school and off-site tutoring program that provides students help with their studies. He founded a youth sports program and organized seminars and clinics for disadvantaged Camp Hill teens with professional baseball players.

Rhodes established the county's first programs for at risk students. These programs deal with potential dropouts, anger management, teen pregnancy and alcohol and drug abuse. Rhodes also taught residents about their rights and laws, and for the first

time in Camp Hill history, community members signed state petitions against their own public officials because of corruption, misappropriation of funds, and theft. Rhodes continues his campaign for justice and has generated statewide support.

Rhodes has been a part of the Camp Hill community for approximately six years. During that time he has truly been a catalyst for change. Now the Camp Hill School System is no longer on the state probationary list, and several students who went through Rhode's baseball program are in college on baseball scholarships. Empowered residents participate in the political system and ensure that their representatives advocate for positive change. Many at-risk students receive invaluable services that help them turn their lives around.

Rhodes' activism inspired those around him. He empowered his neighbors to claim ownership of their community including its problems, and to take the initiative to find solutions. His service, especially with youth, truly transformed the Camp Hill community into a supportive and well-connected place to live. Rhodes refused to passively accept the status quo in Camp Hill, and as a result of his activism, he transformed his community.

Diversity Solves Problems

VAQUEROS DEL OIDO (THE HEARING COWBOYS)

San Antonio, TX
Daily Point of Light No. 2132
April 5, 2002

As a board-certified audioprosthologist, Blaine Smith understands the challenges facing individuals with hearing-impairments. It was still painful for him to learn, however, that many children in low income communities in Mexico and Central America suffer from hearing loss and go untreated because their families cannot afford rehabilitation services. Plagued with diseases such as rubella and scarlet fever, youngsters living in poverty go to the hospital only when their problems are life threatening. At that critical point, the children receive high doses of antibiotics that in many cases destroy hair cells, damage the middle ear, and cause hearing loss.

When Smith first learned about special education students who needed hearing aids at a school in Saltillo, Mexico, he set out to bring his services to the children free of charge. On that first trip in 1988, Smith used all of the 50 hearing aids he took with him, and wished he had brought more, because the number of children in need was larger than he had anticipated. Through subsequent visits to the region, Smith learned that hearing loss among children in Mexico and Central and South America is widespread, and, in some areas, reaches epidemic proportions.

In his research, Smith found studies that showed 60% of children in elementary schools living in border

towns of Mexico and USA failed a hearing test. This number, however, does not include the children who live in smaller towns or villages where they have no access to education, and therefore are never tested. Smith estimates the problem may be even more prevalent than research indicates. After that first trip to Saltillo, Smith formed "Vaqueros del Oído" ("The Hearing Cowboys"), a group of audiologists and other professional volunteers committed to bringing hearing aids and hearing health care to indigent populations.

Over the last 13 years, Smith and his volunteers have cared for more than 2,000 children and adults during their journeys to Mexico and Central and South America. On average, the group makes two trips per year, bringing hearing aids to as many as 200 children per visit. All the services are provided free of charge and the group does not receive any compensation for their work. But the most important contribution is that they rely on the generosity of their own patients in the United States, who donate their old hearing aids understanding that volunteers with vision, love, determination can make a difference in other people's lives. Charitable and civic organizations have helped out by paying for airline tickets and donating hearing aids.

Smith hopes he will someday have the means to expand the project and is already planning a trip to Chile. The contribution Smith has made in children's lives crosses borders of the United States, Mexico and countries in Central and South American. In San Antonio, Smith founded Advanced Hearing & Communications, Inc., a service-oriented practice he has run for 15 years. On many occasions, Smith also donates reconditioned hearing aids to indigent patients. For the past six years, Smith has also served on the Board of Directors of Sunshine Cottage School for Deaf Children in San Antonio. At the school, he is well known for sponsoring an annual "Cowboy Breakfast" for the 100 deaf children enrolled at the school.

Establishing Lasting Institutions!

URBAN PEAK

Denver, CO

Daily Point of Light No. 2179

June 11, 2002

Homelessness is a grave problem in many areas of the United States, and there seems to be no simple solution. In Denver, Colorado, increasing numbers of homeless youth lived in the city. Rather than accepting that more children were living on the streets, the citizens of Denver vowed to act to help these young people turn their lives around.



Members of Denver's Capitol Hill community founded Urban Peak in 1988. Urban Peak is the only agency in Colorado providing programs exclusively for homeless and runaway youth. Urban Peak has many different programs: street outreach, and emergency shelter, GED classes, job training and placement, medical care, case management, and housing assistance. Each youngster coming into the shelter is required to commit to a carefully monitored case management plan for how he or she will leave the streets. Youth are required to follow rules, help with chores, and adhere to their case management plan in order to stay at the shelter.

Urban Peak is so comprehensive thanks to an extensive volunteer program. Volunteers help with street outreach, tutor youth in the school and computer lab, serve meals, work in the medical clinic, and mentor the youth. These community

members make Urban Peak possible and have made a difference in hundreds of young people's lives.



What began as a drop-in center and street outreach program has evolved into a full service agency providing a complete continuum of services to homeless and runaway youth. In 2000, 647 youth received services through Urban Peak. Forty-eight percent of those young people left the streets permanently. Urban Peak continues to expand its programs and its capacity to serve and help more and more homeless youth each year.

Denver residents knew that they had to do something about the problem that existed in their communities. They took action and established an institution that provides an expanding array of much-needed services. This institution is evidence of the commitment that the people of Denver have made to their communities: they will not abandon their neighborhoods. Instead they will ensure that the neighborhoods remain safe, secure, and well-connected places to live.



Creating a Sense of Community!

GANGS OUT OF DOWNEY (GOOD)

Downey, CA
Daily Point of Light No. 2201
July 11, 2002

In 1989, the city of Downey, California began to see a large acceleration in crime. As gang-related activity increased, Downey residents decided to take a stand and reclaim their streets. Late in the summer of 1989, community members took action and founded GOOD, "Gangs Out Of Downey," a community-based, pro-active organization.

Gangs Out Of Downey developed a program to eliminate gang activity and take back the city. GOOD meets on the first Tuesday of every month and sponsors anti-crime activities. One of their most successful programs is the "10-20" Club, an organized program for at-risk students between the ages of 10 and 20. Gangs Out Of Downey also supports a community policing program, increased school campus supervision, an after school and summer sports program, and a youth jobs-career program that provides employment for at risk students. Through the years, the anti-gang organization has offered counseling to youth and their parents and siblings, free sports and recreation programs for at risk youth, and gang-prevention programs for elementary school children. GOOD also provides scholarships for students who complete its 10-week counseling program and choose to attend a two-year college.

Gangs Out Of Downey has done so much more than simply decrease gang-related activity in Downey. It has changed young people's lives by showing them that there are other options available besides gangs, and that there are people, neighbors, and community members who care enough to reach out and help them.

GOOD is an example of how a committed group of people can create change. Gangs Out Of Downey has helped young people live up to their potential, empowered them to take control of their lives, and transformed Downey into a safe and supportive community.



What is a Daily Point of Light Award?

The Daily Point of Light Awards are designed to honor those who have made a commitment to connect Americans through service to help meet critical needs in their communities, especially focused on the goals for children and youth set by the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

The program is sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, Corporation for National and Community Service and the Knights of Columbus, with full program funding provided by the Knights of Columbus.

Who may apply?

Any individual, organization, group, family, business or labor union actively engaged in voluntary service* may be directed either at domestic or international problem-solving.

* Employees and members of the board of directors and committees of Points of Light Foundation; employees and members of the board of directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service; and employees and members of the board of directors of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council are not eligible.



The Daily Points of Light Award

What criteria must be met?

The following criteria are utilized in reviewing and judging nominations:

- Community needs and solution – Does the nominee’s activity meet a real community need or concern? Does it serve those who are disconnected from the larger community? Does the activity lead to a long-term solution? Or does it give the recipient of the service the tools they need to achieve a solution on their own?
- Connection building – Does the activity demonstrate hands-on service that results in building connections between the community and those who may be isolated from it?
- Ongoing involvement – Is the activity ongoing? To be eligible, an activity should typically be of at least six months in duration. One exception is the category of disaster relief. Strong nominations that do not meet this criteria may be held for later consideration.
- Impact – Is there demonstrated impact from the activity?
- Innovation – Does the activity reflect innovative or unique approaches to solving serious social problems?

How can I submit a nomination?

Complete the “Official Nomination Form” and attach a statement of up to 500 words describing the nominee’s activities. In addition, you may include appropriate supportive materials.

For more information, visit our website at <http://www.pointsoflight.org>.



POINTS
OF LIGHT
FOUNDATION
&
VOLUNTEER CENTER
NATIONAL NETWORK

The **Points of Light Foundation**, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, established in May 1990 to engage more people more effectively in volunteer community service to help solve serious social problems. In October 1991, the Foundation merged with the Volunteer Center National Network. The Foundation helps communities build and strengthen local infrastructure to support volunteering by working with Volunteer Centers and with companies interested in employee volunteering; works with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to build capacity to engage volunteers effectively; engages the public through increased awareness of the importance of volunteering; and addresses serious social problems through volunteer service. Contact Points of Light Foundation at www.pointsoflight.org.

The **Corporation for National and Community Service**, created by Congress in 1993, is a public-private partnership that engages all Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service that addresses the nation's educational, public safety, environmental and other human needs. The Corporation oversees three national service initiatives: AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps. Learn more about the Corporation for National and Community Service at www.cnsc.gov.

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICE



The **Knights of Columbus** is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization, and includes more than 1.6 million members plus their families in the United States, Canada, Mexico and several other countries. Last year, Knights donated \$125 million to charitable causes and volunteered 58 million hours of service to their communities. Activities include distributing food to those in need, conducting sports and education programs for young people, disaster assistance, volunteering in the local Catholic parish, school and religious education programs, and raising funds for families with costly medical bills. Contact Knights of Columbus at www.kofc.org.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the U.S. Established in 1948 by Jim Casey, one of the founders of United Parcel Service, and his siblings, who named the Foundation in honor of their mother. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants that help states, cities, and communities fashion more innovative, cost-effective responses to these needs. Find out more at www.aecf.org.



The Annie E. Casey Foundation



The Daily Points of Light Award



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