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2,725 UNDERSERVED STUDENTS ADOPTED SINCE 2005

San Juan Capistrano, CA – November 6, 2009 ---Mission San Juan Capistrano brings history to life for 2,725 underserved California 4th graders through the Mission Preservation Foundation's "Adopt-A-Class" program. Each student receives a free field trip, docent-guided tour, and interactive activity book—"Passport Explorer", courtesy of the donations made to the "Adopt-A-Class" program by corporate and individual sponsors.

Spearheaded in 2005, the "Adopt-A-Class" program has allowed low-income children the ability to take part in the fun and hands on learning that only a field trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano can provide.

"We are grateful to our supporters who recognize that investing in a child's inspired learning experience via our Adopt a Class program has direct long term benefits in generating respect, learning, and appreciation of the past in this next generation. This year is a tough one for many families, and still there is a need to make learning about history more engaging, hands on, and memorable. A field trip with programming, at OC's most historic landmark makes a life time learning memory for the children that can enjoy one." said Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director at the Mission.

This year the three deserving schools that have been selected and will be hosted at the Mission are:

- Walt Disney School in Anaheim with 96 students on October 13, 2009.
- November 13, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. Orangethorpe Elementary School in Fullerton with 27 students.
- November 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. 112th St. Elementary School in Los Angeles with 90 students.

Title 1 (low-income) schools that would like to apply for the “Adopt-A-Class” program are asked to visit www.missionsjc.com/edu_adopt.html.

Unfortunately, the Mission is unable to fund all requests and therefore invites new donors to support the “Adopt-A-Class” program. 100% of each donation is used to fund the schools’ visits. For information on donating, call (949) 234-1300 or visit www.missionsjc.com/donations-class.html.

About Mission San Juan Capistrano:

Known as the “Jewel of the Missions,” Mission San Juan Capistrano is a historic landmark and museum that boasts of quality permanent exhibits featuring original artifacts as well as traveling and temporary exhibits on a wide variety of topics.

The site itself serves as a living outdoor museum with original buildings constructed by Native Americans in the 18th century including the Serra Chapel, Great Stone Church, and the original padres’ quarters of the South Wing.

The Mission was founded on November 1, 1776 by Padre Junipero Serra as the seventh in the chain of the twenty-one California missions established by Spain, and is Orange County’s only mission. Every year, over 50,000 students visit the Mission and engage in an inspirational learning experience via the Mission Matters programming, as part of their State required California history studies.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is owned by the Diocese of Orange and is supported by the Mission Preservation Foundation, which is comprised of business and community leaders committed to ensuring the long term preservation and viability of Orange County’s only Mission. The Mission receives no funding from either the Church or the State of California and charges admission funds as a means of providing public access.

Mission San Juan Capistrano is located at 26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Open Daily 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Good Friday afternoon. Admission is \$9 adults; \$8 seniors (60 years or over); \$5 children (ages 4 to 11); and children ages 3 and under are admitted free. Free audio guide with senior and adult admission. For more information, call (949) 234-1300 or visit www.missionsjc.com.

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