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U.S. Junior National Synchronized Swimming Team Holds Blanket Drive

Donations Benefit Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent

Indianapolis, Ind. – The U.S. Junior National Synchronized Swimming Team, which has been training in Indianapolis since July 19, will be holding a Blanket Drive on Friday, August 6 on Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis. Donations will be collected by the Team between 12:00 p.m. and 1 p.m. The Team will deliver the blankets to the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital at St. Vincent. Only new blankets will be collected.

The Junior National Team athletes have made it their mission to collect as many blankets as possible in efforts to bring comfort to local children suffering from cancer. The Team will also give out an autographed photo card for every donation received. The Blanket Drive is being held in honor of Michael Spada, brother of Junior National Team member, Katie Spada. Michael was diagnosed with Burkitt's Lymphoma and has been collecting donated blankets since his diagnosis.

The Junior National Team will represent the United States on the world stage at the 12th FINA/eSynchro World Junior Championships, held in Indianapolis, August 11-15 at the IU Natatorium on the campus of IUPUI. The event will consist of National Team athletes ranging in ages from 15 to 18. In all, 27 countries will be represented at the event. Ticket and volunteer information for the 12th FINA/eSynchro World Junior Championships can be found on www.usasynchro.org.

The 2010 U.S. Junior National Team consists of:

Morgan Boneberg (Clayton, Calif.); **Emily Burkhart** (Pleasant Hill, Calif.); **Elizabeth Davidson** (Northridge, Calif.); **Alyson Haylor** (Walnut Creek, Calif.); **Phoebe Jen** (Fremont, Calif.); **Taylor Kitayama** (Boulder, Colo.); **Heidi Liou** (Chandler, Ariz.); **Lauren Nicholson** (Riverside, Calif.); **Margo Sargent** (Los Altos, Calif.); **Kathryn Spada** (Las Vegas, Nev.); **Raena Sumiyoshi** (Moraga, Calif.) and **Alexa Tchekmarev** (Troy, Mich.).

The 2010 Junior National Team is coached by **Kim Wurzel-Lo Porto**, a member of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Synchronized Swimming Team and **Sue Nesbitt**, a member of the U.S. National Team which struck gold at the 1973 and 1975 FINA World Championships. The Team has been splitting training time between the IU Natatorium and Ben Davis High School.

Please contact Taylor Payne at taylor@usasynchro.org or 317-507-3410 for more information pertaining to the 2010 U.S. Junior National Team or the 12th FINA/eSynchro World Junior Championships.

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