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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MARCH 14, 2008

## PRESS RELEASE

Glenwood Springs Middle School students raise money for soldiers

*Alida Eide and Dara Chase team with Operation Vacation to raise \$6,000*

**GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO** – When Glenwood Springs Middle School eighth-graders Alida Eide and Dara Chase were brainstorming ideas for their PEAC (Program for Educationally Advanced Children) honors program end-of-year project, soldiers who have served overseas came to mind.

And Alida knew right where to turn.

In 2007, Alida was attending the Garfield County Humanitarian Awards banquet and was seated next to Bob Johnson, founder of Operation Vacation. The nonprofit program brings soldiers who have been deployed overseas to Glenwood Springs for all-expenses paid weekends with their families. Johnson's work in the community and for military personnel inspired Alida, winner of the Garfield County Humanitarian Awards' "Never Too Young to Share Your Heart" honor.

"I liked that the program sends soldiers on vacation," she said. "Because it rewards them for their hard work."

The PEAC class challenged Alida and Dara to find a project for the end of the school year that would help them give back to the Glenwood Springs community. The philanthropic students decided to make a chain of \$1 bills to stretch the length of a football field, which amounts to a \$6,000 donation to Operation Vacation.

"We were asked to give back to the community and since Operation Vacation is such a big part of our community, we thought it would be perfect," Dara said.

During their Dollar Chain Campaign, Alida and Dara will approach the community for donations of dollar bills to make the football field-length chain. The project requires \$20 for each foot. There are 300 feet in a football field. Donations are being accepted by the inch, foot, yard or total field. Donations can be sent to Glenwood Springs Middle School, 120 Soccer Field Road, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, Attn: PEAC Project/Operation Vacation. Checks should be made payable to Operation Vacation. Additional information can also be found at [www.operationvacation.org](http://www.operationvacation.org).

Based in Glenwood Springs, Operation Vacation is a nonprofit organization whose sole purpose is to reunite deserving soldiers with their families during all expenses-paid vacations. The program also seeks to promote community support and sponsorship of the organization, funded entirely by private and corporate donations.

Operation Vacation is committed to carrying out missions of gratitude. By "deploying" our troops and their loved ones to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and cities in Texas, the program allows them quality family time and a little bit of the peace and freedom they put their lives on the line for everyday. For information about the program, visit [www.operationvacation.org](http://www.operationvacation.org).

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