



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BILLERICA, MA. – Zack Gosselin, a philanthropic 10 year-old boy from Billerica, MA, in conjunction with Leah Okimoto, Executive Director of Aaron's Presents, announced that Zack hosted his 5th annual Skate-A-Thon event at the Tsongas Center in Lowell, MA at the end of February, which raised enough donations to fund community service projects for 50 children in the Merrimack Valley.

With more than 300 in attendance, Zack organized this spectacular event with the financial support of dozens of small-to-medium-sized businesses who call the Greater Boston area or the internet their home, but Monique's Bath Showroom of Watertown, MA took the leading role in specifically funding this life-altering event for the diverse group of children from Lowell and surrounding area that for the first time had the opportunity to try ice skating.

Between the skating event and corporate sponsor support, more than \$5,500 was raised for Aaron's Presents. Aaron's Presents is an organization that has helped hundreds of elementary and middle school-aged children put "service before self" in extremely thoughtful ways by doing various community service projects in the Merrimack Valley region of Massachusetts since 2013.

As co-founder of DreamBigVille.org, Zack, with the mentorship and guidance of a small team and his father has helped an impressive list of causes and thousands of people facing 'trying' times see a brighter future.

“After learning about some of the things Zack and John Gosselin have done to raise the level of promise and hope for so many people – I was honored when this father and son team reached out to see if Aaron's Presents would be open to being the organization Zack partnered his charitable endeavor with for 2017,” Okimoto said. “Working with a young boy who many people aligned with our organization would consider the 'poster child for what we do has renewed my passion for how inspiring a child can be for making massive amounts of momentum appear at the just right time for people who could benefit by having a smile put to their face. I am amazed at how Zack has raised over \$10,000 since he started his annual Skate-A-Thon event back in 2013 - he's such a dreamer that follows through in life. Bravo for young girls and boys like Zack - the world needs more young leaders like them.”

When attendees at the skating event asked this head-strong, handsome, and humble boy about his motivation for doing such kind deeds for others, Zack replied "there are times in life when we can all benefit from a little pick-me-up... it's as simple as that!"

About Zack Gosselin and DreamBigVille.org. Zack has spent the last several years of his childhood doing great things for others. Some of the other contributions he has helped organize and achieve include the following:

- In 2013, Zack made an anonymous donation to the survivors of the Sandy Hook School shootings in Newtown, CT.
- In 2014, Zack donated \$400 to the fallen fire-fighter fund (the lieutenant Ed Walsh and Michael Kennedy Memorial Fund) after the “Back Bay Blaze” took the lives of two of Boston’s best.
- In 2015, Zack headed to Worcester, MA to donate \$1,300 in support of Dress For Success – an organization that serves as a support system for women facing ‘trying’ times to get back on their feet in the working world.

- In 2016, Zack donated \$2,642 in support of Catie's Closet of Dracut, MA - who, according to their website, "improves school attendance and removes social stigma by providing an in-school resource of clothing and basic necessities to students living below the poverty line."

Mr. Gosselin said, "It's amazing, so many people go through a majority of their lives struggling to discover who they *REALLY* are and what they are *TRULY* passionate about – you know, the things they'd do for free each and every day. And then there's Zack: At just 6 years of age, he began bringing thousands of people together in the most elegant of ways to celebrate memory making, fun with friends, and how being a mission-driven marketer and social entrepreneur is just as cool (and fun) as being an elite athlete or high achiever in the classroom."

About Aaron's Presents. Aaron's Presents is a Lowell-based 501(c)(3) youth development program founded in 2014 in memory of Aaron Makaio Schneider. The mission behind Aaron's Presents is to "inspire kids to give of themselves for the good of the world."

Aaron's Presents offers 1) hands-on, individualized mentoring, 2) materials or services needed, and 3) age-appropriate logistical help to any children in 8th grade or below who want to carry out an idea that benefits at least one other person, animal or the environment. Aaron's Presents follows their vision as they create and lead a memorable, meaningful, and fun experience while practicing kindness, empathy, and generosity—traits that are being shown by more and more research to lead to positive life outcomes.

Aaron's Presents has served over 450 children in the Merrimack Valley and North Shore through over 250 projects benefiting over 20,000 people in their communities and beyond. To learn more, please visit: AaronsPresents.org.

In May 2017, Zack is set to publish his first book, *13 Ways To Put Service Before Self: A Guide For "Winning" With Others And Playing A Bigger Game In Life*. His book will highlight how putting "Service Before Self" doesn't cost a thing. Zack shares stories about his journey that he says acts as the "ingredients" for his success recipe, and hopes others will be inspired to follow his lead and do special things in the world.

These Sponsors Made The 2017 Skate-A-Thon Event A Whopping Success

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