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MIXED RACE YOUNG PEOPLE TO CROSS AMERICA IN NATIONAL AWARENESS TOUR

(Seattle) This spring, five mixed race teens and 20-somethings will travel 8,000 miles across the United States in a 26-foot RV to raise awareness of the nation's multiracial baby boom. Their efforts will jumpstart a national dialogue about how multiracial youth are redefining diversity and changing the face of America.

A recent cover of PARADE magazine proclaimed that multiracial youth are "the changing face of America." Census 2000 marked the first time that Americans could identify with more than one race. Today, in states like California, Oregon, and Washington State, **more mixed race babies are born than any other race but Caucasian.** Despite this dramatic demographic shift, studies show that there is little awareness of the unique challenges and opportunities that confront multiracial youth and families in our racially conscious society.

"The next generation of multiracial Americans present an exciting opportunity to help heal our nation's painful history with race," says Marinda Melonson, the 20-year-old project manager of the Generation MIX National Awareness Tour. "With connections to multiple racial and cultural communities, **we can be race ambassadors to provide insight into how to create a cohesive, multicultural America in the 21st century.**"

The Tour will stop at 16 community centers and college campuses from Seattle to Boston, working with local mixed race organizations to coordinate events on the multiracial experience. Follow the tour online with streaming video, daily blogs by tour participants, and in the pages of MAVIN magazine.

The Generation MIX National Awareness Tour is a project of MAVIN Foundation, the nation's leading organization that celebrates and advocates for mixed race people and families. Since 1998, MAVIN's award-winning projects like MAVIN magazine and the MatchMaker Bone Marrow Project have raised awareness of this rapidly growing population. For more information, visit www.mavinfoundation.org or www.generationmix.org.