

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

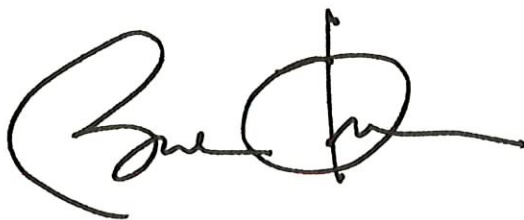
March 2009

I am pleased to send my warmest regards and congratulations to the participants in this year's Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program (HOBY).

When I was in my early twenties, I worked as a community organizer for a group of churches on the South Side of Chicago in areas that had been devastated by steel plant closings. This opportunity provided me with the perspective that, even as a young adult, I could make a difference. Service has always been a cornerstone of my life—and will continue to be in my Presidency.

The year 2009 marks HOBY's 50th year of cultivating generations of America's future leaders, and I hope that the parents of HOBY Ambassadors will continue to provide the love and support our students need to grow into responsible young adults. Additionally, I encourage the HOBY Ambassadors to dream big dreams and always remember your service and active participation in your community—no matter how small—can have a profound effect on the world.

Again, congratulations on being a part of this year's HOBY program.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is centered on the page.