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### **US Ski Team Member Attends 5<sup>th</sup> Annual All-Female Ski Event with Boston Nonprofit**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (February 25, 2013)** – Julia Ford, a member of the US Ski Team, joined Youth Enrichment Services (YES), a Boston nonprofit organization, and 30 Boston girls at Pico Mountain Resort this Saturday for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Sisters on the Slopes* event. The event was held in conjunction with YES's *Operation SnowSports* program for Boston children and teens ages 7-18.

Julia grew up in Vermont and has won numerous awards for her downhill skiing achievements. She was the US Downhill Champion in 2012 and 2011 and was the 2012 NorAm Overall and Downhill Champion. Julia formalized a partnership with YES in 2012. This is the second year that Julia attended *Sisters on the Slopes*.

"Skiing has had a huge impact on who I am and the dreams I strive to achieve," Julia says. "By teaming up with YES, I hope to help others discover the power of belief, confidence, and possibility that I've learned through skiing, but can also be applied to all aspects of life."

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Sisters on the Slopes* event hosted by YES. Youth from several girl-serving agencies across Boston had the opportunity to experience the outdoors and learn to ski or snowboard for the first time. Participating agencies included Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE), The Home for Little Wanderers, Roxbury Youth Works, and YES's Girls Outdoor Adventure Leaders (GOAL) program.

YES's *Operation SnowSports* program gives urban youth the opportunity to gain new experiences in the great outdoors, interact with positive role models, and learn to ski and snowboard. Youth receive ski and snowboard equipment, lift tickets, lessons, and transportation to and from the mountain for a fraction of the cost through YES. Trained YES staff and volunteers supervise and teach the youth. Partner mountain resorts provide lift tickets for YES youth and volunteers, giving YES the ability to offer low cost programming to inner-city Boston youth.

**About Youth Enrichment Services** - YES has been serving the youth of Boston since 1968 by providing outdoor, sports-based, and leadership development programs. YES serves over 1,500 youth annually through its three signature programs: Operation SnowSports, Outdoor Adventure, and the YES Academy. Learn more by visiting the YES website at [www.yeskids.org](http://www.yeskids.org).

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