For Immediate Release
Contact: Patrice Gans, Random Hacks of Kindness Junior
reesegans@gmail.com
203-263-0396

RHoK Jr. holds "Kids Coding for a Cause" Hackathon hosted by Mitchell College with help from Pfizer colleagues Saturday, October 7, 2017

New London, Conn. –Patrice Gans from Random Hacks of Kindness Jr. (www.rhokjr.org) is hosting a "hackathon" for social good for local students in grades 4th-8th on Saturday, October 7, 2017, 8:30 am -3:30 pm at Mitchell College.

Volunteer mentors from Pfizer, Mitchell College and local universities/colleges will work with students to devise smartphone applications that address a range of problems facing local nonprofits.   Organized by Emily Smith, Senior Information Manager in Operations Center of Excellence at Pfizer, and Patrice Gans, Director of RHoK Jr., the Hackathon introduces students to technology and demonstrates how it can benefit nonprofit organizations.

The goal of the event is two-fold: 1) to bring together various local organizations serving students in southeast CT to raise awareness in the community of the resources available, 2) to expose students to the joy of programming and perhaps shape their interest in STEM-related careers at a young age, which can increase their education and career opportunities.

"Participants will be working with computer science mentors to create technology for social good," Gans explained. "By the end of the day we hope they will see how technology can have a positive impact on someone's life. Coding is more than a computer game," said Gans. "Technology really has a purpose." All of the solutions developed over the course of the day will be considered "open source," Gans noted, meaning that they will be available for use by anyone free of charge.

Students in grades four through eight are invited to attend, but must register in advance by visiting rhokjr.org. Parents who would like their children to take part in the hackathon, as well as area non-profit organizations interested in participating, are encouraged to contact Gans at reesegans@gmail.com; they may also visit the Random Hacks of Kindness Jr. website at rhokjr.org.
Random Hacks of Kindness Jr. was developed by Gans as an opportunity to empower and inspire youth to use technology for social good. Gans, a technology educator, organized the first Random Hacks of Kindness Jr. event at the Fraser Woods Montessori School

in Newtown in May 2013. This event will be the nineteenth RHoK Jr. event since the organization was recognized as a formal 501c3 in October 2015.

About Mitchell College
A small liberal arts college, Mitchell developed its distinct educational approach over 80 years, blending a tradition of mentoring with an expertise in teaching diverse learning styles to create a highly individualized model that benefits all students. Mitchell is committed to the broader community through building strong, creative and cooperative partnerships. Located on a beautiful waterfront campus in historic New London, it is also home to championship NCAA Division III athletics and the Duquès Academic Success Center which includes the renowned Bentsen Learning Center.