

**Files of Melanne Verveer,
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady
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National Service

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*The
National Service*

January 1, 1998

Dear National Service Colleague,

As the new year begins, I want to report to you on our progress and salute you and the entire national service family for making 1997 such a success. We have cause to be thankful and proud. We also have new challenges to meet, including reauthorization of the Corporation and its programs.

All of our streams of service – AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps – have flourished, thanks to the work of state commissions, state offices, state education agencies, senior service associations, and our many partners in the private and public sectors. And above all the participants engaged in national service.

AmeriCorps has grown to its largest size, and is recognized in more and more communities for the quality of its programs and participants. That includes the hundreds of state and national grant programs and both the Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) and National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC). Continuing its legacy of service, AmeriCorps*VISTA has been on the leading edge of America Reads, the President's literacy initiative, which led to AmeriCorps*VISTA receiving its largest-ever increase in appropriations. AmeriCorps*NCCC's service, particularly its disaster response efforts, continues to impress those who come in contact with NCCC teams. This fall we opened a new campus of the AmeriCorps*NCCC in Washington DC.

Learn and Serve America is at the forefront of the expanding service-learning movement. A 1997 study by Brandeis University/Abt Associates showed that well-designed service-learning programs not only instill the values of citizenship, but enhance academic performance. Chicago, Philadelphia and Miami are the latest big city school districts establishing service requirements in their schools.

Our senior service programs are winning greater recognition for their impact in solving community problems, which is part of the reason that the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) also received significant increases in funding. Building on the success of the Experience Corps model, we recently launched the Seniors for Schools initiative in nine cities to extend the impact of senior power in schools as part of the America Reads Challenge. We are developing an important new collaboration with the American



Association of Retired Persons (AARP) using service as a strategy to deal with the challenges of long-term care.

The vitality of our core programs gives good reason to believe we can achieve the broader goal of encouraging and promoting a range of service and volunteer opportunities so that Americans of all ages and backgrounds are challenged and inspired – and have the opportunity – to serve. For this we need to move full-speed ahead in improving the capacity of our programs and in forging new partnerships with the great non-profit, civic, educational, corporate and faith-based institutions of our society.

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Congressional Reauthorization of the Corporation: Although many agencies and programs operate without renewed authorization, Congressional re-affirmation is important for the long-term growth and success of national service. That is why the President, in his Thanksgiving weekend radio address, announced that he would ask Congress to reauthorize the Corporation and all its programs.

In communities around the country, people have come to recognize the value of national service. The key role our network has played in the Presidents' Summit for America's Future and in the ensuing state and local summits has produced an opportunity to demonstrate the quality and power of national service. Even though winning reauthorization is a big challenge, if Members of Congress focus on the achievements in their states and districts and the future potential of national service, then the prospects for reauthorization will be good.

I have enclosed a copy of the President's radio address as well as information describing the reauthorization proposal. The full text of the bill and a detailed synopsis are available on our website – www.nationalservice.org – or by calling our legislative information line at (202) 606-5000 extension 237.

The Presidents' Summit for America's Future: One of the ways the Corporation has demonstrated the power of national service was our leadership in organizing the Presidents' Summit in Philadelphia last April. As the co-sponsor of the Summit, along with our special partner the Points of Light Foundation, we helped focus national attention on the need for a new level of concerted citizen action to turn the tide for millions of young people. The goal of the Summit and of America's Promise, the post-Summit campaign led by General Powell, is to mobilize millions of citizens and thousands of organizations – including government at all levels – to help children who lack the conditions for success in life.

At the Summit, the Presidents signed a declaration setting five goals – five fundamental resources for a young person's success:

- an ongoing relationship with a caring adult – as a mentor, tutor, or coach;
- safe places with structured activities to learn and grow during non-school hours;
- a healthy start and a healthy future;
- an effective education providing a marketable skill, including the ability to read well; and
- an opportunity to serve, not just be served.

National service is already playing an active role in achieving each of these goals, and the more the Summit goals catch on, the greater the opportunity for the whole national service family to show the power of service as a strategy for solving community problems. Each of the five goals is part of our mission, and gives us the chance to provide effective service. Of course, the fifth goal – service by young people – is at the heart of our mission. In General Powell's recent progress report on America's Promise, he warmly thanked the Corporation for its role. For more information about America's Promise, please see their webpage at www.americaspromise.org, or call America's Promise at (800) 365-0153.

State and Local Summits: Since April, many states and communities have held their own follow-up summits to gather local partners and get local commitments to pursue the summit goals. From Boston to Baton Rouge, Atlantic City to Jackson, Louisville to Des Moines, I have seen governors, mayors, corporate leaders, non-profit organizations and newly-energized citizens come together to craft and implement plans of action.

In states and communities across the country, our national service network has been crucial in planning and carrying out these follow-up summits. Our state commissions, state offices, project sponsors, and national service participants have risen to the occasion. Government officials and community leaders have seen – sometimes for the first time – the quality of the national service network, the dedication of national service participants, and the power of national service to get things done. Many states have successfully incorporated the Summit's goals into the Unified State Plans being developed jointly by state commissions, state offices and state education agencies.

The greatest number of state and local summits are scheduled for the spring of 1998, and many in the national service network are already hard at work on these events. I urge all members of the national service family to make the maximum effort to support and participate in these summits, and help fulfill America's Promise for all of America's children.

Goal 5 – Service by Young People: While the Corporation is working to achieve all of the goals of the Summit, Goal 5 – the opportunity for all young people to actively participate in service to their community – is our special mandate. General Powell has become an ardent advocate of the value of youth service and service-learning. He told the Board of America's Promise that his points about Goal 5 bring the strongest applause in his speeches – and I've seen this first-hand. I enclose General Powell's holiday essay in *Time Magazine* on the power and potential of youth service, service-learning and AmeriCorps.

The Corporation is taking the lead in carrying out Goal 5 through collaboration with the growing alliance of organizations committed to that effort. This charge fits the Corporation's mission to promote large-scale expansion of youth service and service-learning. In August, on behalf of the Goal 5 Advisory Board, the Corporation teamed up with Do Something to convene a meeting of 150 leaders in the youth service movement on how to achieve this special goal. I hope you will read with care the enclosed paper that summarizes the progress and proposed targets in implementing Goal 5.

New Funds for the America Reads Challenge: Congress focused virtually all of the new funding for Corporation programs on the America Reads Challenge to assure that all children can read independently by the end of third grade. AmeriCorps received \$49 million in additional funds – \$25 million for the AmeriCorps*State program and \$24 million for AmeriCorps*VISTA, (the largest increase, 58 percent, in the 30-year history of VISTA). In addition, the Senior Service programs received a total of \$18 million in new appropriations (most of these funds targeted to America Reads) – \$4.5 million for the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (with which RSVP is mobilizing volunteers for elementary literacy), \$9.7 million for Foster Grandparents to serve children, and \$4.1 million for Senior Companions to strengthen the informal care system for an aging America.

Using these funds well is now one of our big challenges. It is up to all of us to meet this new challenge and prove the value of national service as an integral part of the solution to America's most pressing problems.

Education Awards Only: In 1996, the Corporation began to test an additional approach to AmeriCorps in which the Corporation provides the education award, but almost all other expenses associated with an AmeriCorps member are paid by the host agency or from other sources. At the Summit in Philadelphia, President Clinton called for a dramatic expansion of this program: 50,000 education award only participants over the next five years. The President challenged the great non-profits, faith-based organizations and the whole private sector to take the lead in expanding national service by engaging

and supporting these new AmeriCorps members. The response to the President's challenge has been outstanding. There are already more than 15,000 of these education award only AmeriCorps members, and we will be conducting new competitions in the coming year.

National Service Scholarship Program: In 1997, the Corporation launched a new scholarship program – the National Service Scholarships– to recognize high school students for outstanding service to the community. Under this program, a \$1,000 scholarship (\$500 from the Corporation to be matched by \$500 from a local source) is awarded to a student selected by a process established by the school principal. In the first pilot year of operation, these scholarships were awarded in nearly 1,700 schools. The Corporation's partners in this effort include the Lions, the Kiwanis, Rotary Clubs, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion, to name only a few. Community foundations, local businesses and individual philanthropists also joined in support.

For the coming year Congress has given the Corporation the opportunity to extend this scholarship program to 10,000 high schools. We hope you will help to spread the word about this program – to students, high school principals, school boards, superintendents, and potential community partners. I have enclosed information about this scholarship program – and you can find more at our website.

Martin Luther King Holiday – “A Day On, Not a Day Off”: Three years ago President Clinton signed legislation designating the Martin Luther King Holiday as a national day of service. The law gives the Corporation responsibility for promoting this day of service, in conjunction with the King Holiday Commission (a role now assumed by the King Center in Atlanta). The Corporation has made small grants to groups that are organizing service events and ongoing projects in some 70 communities to mark the King Holiday, which this year falls on January 19, 1998.

I hope that all members of the national service network will take an active part in making this the biggest King Holiday Day of Service to date. Our partners in this endeavor -- the Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change Inc., Do Something, the United Way of America and the Points of Light Foundation – are working with us to produce maximum service opportunities and participation. The National Basketball Association has produced a public service announcement for Martin Luther King Day to broadcast during its games. For more information about the Martin Luther King Day of Service please visit our website or call David Premo at 202-606-5000 extension 278.

Strategic Plan: This fall, the Corporation completed and published a comprehensive Strategic Plan. A great deal of consultation and hard thinking went into

the plan's development. I encourage everyone who is interested in the Corporation's direction to read it. You can find the plan on the Internet at www.nationalservice.org. If you do not have access to the Internet, please call Susan Raines at (202) 606-5000 extension 450 for a copy.

The Corporation in Cyberspace – www.nationalservice.org: As you have noticed, this letter often directs you to our website at www.nationalservice.org. As part of our effort to communicate more quickly and effectively with the field, we have significantly upgraded our website by improving the operation of the site and loading new publications and information promptly. Look for a new, livelier design early in the new year. We invite you to bookmark our site – www.nationalservice.org – and visit it often.

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I hope you share my enthusiasm for our progress and prospects. I look forward to our continued collaboration, and hope you will continue to share your ideas about how we reach the goal of making citizen service the common expectation and common experience of all Americans.

With best wishes for a Happy New Year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harris", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Harris Wofford

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
Saturday, November 29, 1997

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. This week, millions of Americans have gathered with family and friends to share Thanksgiving. Much has changed for America since George Washington first proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for our new nation in 1789. But the Thanksgiving spirit -- sharing our good fortune with others, coming together to meet our common challenges -- that is as important as ever. That's why we must keep that spirit alive throughout the year through citizen service.

Citizen service must be at the heart of our efforts to prepare America for the 21st century, as we work to guarantee all Americans the opportunity and conditions to make the most of their own lives and to help those who need and deserve it with a hand up. My administration's most important contribution to citizen service is AmeriCorps, our national service program that already has given more than 100,000 young Americans the opportunity to serve our country and earn money for a college education. In community after community, AmeriCorps members have proved that service can help us meet our most pressing social needs.

For example, in Simpson County, Kentucky, AmeriCorps members helped 2nd graders jump three grade levels in reading. In boys and girls clubs all across the country, AmeriCorps members are mentors for at-risk young people. Habitat For Humanity relies upon AmeriCorps members to bring in more volunteers and build more houses. In communities beset by floods, tornadoes and hurricanes, AmeriCorps members have helped to rebuild homes and restore hope.

Now, AmeriCorps members are mobilizing thousands and thousands of college students from 800 campuses in our America Reads program, to make sure that all our young people can read independently by the 3rd grade. AmeriCorps brings people of every background together to work toward common goals. And after years of partisan fighting over it, I'm pleased that Congress now seems ready to come together to support AmeriCorps.

Today, I'm proposing legislation to give more Americans the chance to serve by strengthening AmeriCorps and our student and senior citizen service programs and extending them for five years. This legislation reflects the spirit of the President's Summit on Service, where last spring thousands of Americans pledged to give our children the support they need to make the most of their lives. As General Colin Powell reported this week, we've made a lot

of progress since the Summit with more AmeriCorps members, more reading tutors for our children through America Reads, more mentoring programs for young people, more partnerships with private businesses and community groups. At Thanksgiving, I want to thank especially the citizens and businesses who have worked with us to ensure that our nation's surplus food helps to feed the hungry, not fill up dumpsters.

Now we must create more opportunities for people to serve all year long and, through service, to reach out to one another across the lines that divide us. In honor of the spirit of citizen service embodied in the life of Martin Luther King Jr., the Congress has designated the Martin Luther King holiday as a day of national service. And I'm pleased to announce that our Corporation for National Service has awarded 73 grants to communities from Boston to Los Angeles, to help make this day of service a resounding success. Dr. King once said that, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve – you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love."

As we look forward to a joyous holiday season, let us pledge to live up to those words by making citizen service a part of our lives every day.

Thanks for listening.

General Colin L. Powell, U.S.A. (Ret.)

Everybody's Children

Giving helps young people grow

ONE OF THE MOST FRIGHTENING SCENES IN Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* occurs when the Ghost of Christmas Present reveals to the yet unredeemed Ebenezer Scrooge two ragged and wolfish children—a boy and a girl, cowering in the folds of his robe. Even flint-hearted Scrooge is intimidated by the sight of them: "Where angels might have sat enthroned, devils lurked, and glared out menacing."

"Spirit," he asks, "are they yours?"

"They are Man's," the ghost replies. "And they cling to me, appealing from their fathers. This boy is Ignorance. This girl is Want. Beware them both, and all of their degree, but most of all beware this boy, for on his brow I see that written which is Doom unless the writing be erased."

Children can be angels or devils, depending on the kind of nurturing they receive from others. They can grow into responsible and contributing members of society, or they can become its dependents, predators and outcasts. And because they are "Man's" children, they are everybody's children. The whole society has a stake in their destiny and a duty to help them grow up strong and confident.

As chairman of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, I see angels enthroned and devils lurking every day that I deal with this country's young people. I never cease to be amazed at how little it takes to turn one into the other. In a land as richly blessed as ours, it is indeed tragic to reflect that for want of a little guidance and encouragement, a child may drop out of school, turn to drugs or crime, or create new life before he or she is mature enough to assume the responsibilities of parenthood. Yet as many as 15 million American youngsters are at risk of falling prey to these or other social scourges of our time.

America's Promise was created to give these kids a better chance at life. By the end of the year 2000, we aim to provide at least 2 million of them with five basic resources we believe they need to make it in today's America. These are: an ongoing relationship with a caring adult; safe places and structured activities from which to learn and grow during nonschool hours; a healthy start and a healthy future; a marketable skill through effective education; and an opportunity to give back through community service.

The logic of the first four resources is immediately obvious; the logic of the fifth is less so. If youngsters lack basic needs, does it make sense to ask them to give?

Paradoxically, the answer is yes. Young people—like adults—usually find that when they make a real effort on behalf of others, they get back more than they contribute. Many youngsters report that volunteering in their communities has helped them under-



stand people who are different from themselves, has opened up new career possibilities to them and has enlarged their horizons. According to one poll, more than half of teenage respondents said that their grades improved as a result of volunteering. In Maryland, which has a "service-learning" requirement that students must fulfill to graduate from high school, one initially reluctant volunteer later wrote a first-person account for the *Washington Post*, in which she confessed that her experience in community service was generally positive and actually added value to her résumé.

Even youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds find that they are enriched by giving of themselves. The Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps) has some very uplifting stories to tell of young people whose lives have been transformed by serving others. A 20-year-old victim of a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles went on to counsel other youths on how to settle conflicts peacefully. Another AmeriCorps volunteer, a former gang member and drug dealer in Milwaukee, Wis., later founded an organization that helps teenagers break away from gangs.

Recently, I attended a rally for America's Promise in San Antonio, Texas. One of the speakers was a young man who had dropped out of high school at age 15. But his experience as a volunteer inspired him to earn his graduate-equivalency diploma, which set him on the road to college. "Because of community service," he told a hushed crowd of several thousand people, "my life has changed like night and day, and in the process I have made a difference in other people's lives."

Time and again I have been heartened by the willingness of so many young people to embrace an ethic of citizenship that includes service to community and nation. In response to the call issued by America's Promise, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America have pledged millions of additional hours in service projects, as have the youth affiliates of the Kiwanis and Rotary clubs. Not long ago, the Boys & Girls Clubs of America presented me with a "promise book" of commitments made by Boys & Girls Clubs all across the nation. That book is two inches thick!

Giving to our youth, and helping them learn the joys of giving back, could literally transform America, if we were all willing to involve ourselves in this effort. At this time of year, more than any other, it behooves us to ask ourselves honestly if we are doing enough for "Man's" children. If not, Ignorance and Want will dog our steps and dampen our holiday cheer until we do. ■

The author is chairman of America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth. Those interested in volunteering should call 888-55-YOUTH.

SUMMIT DECLARATION



Two centuries ago, America was founded on the proposition that just as all people are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights, citizenship entails undeniable responsibilities. As each of us has the right to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness, each of us has an obligation to give something back to country and community ~ a duty to take responsibility not just for ourselves and our families, but for one another. We owe a debt of service to fulfill the God-given promise of America, and our children.

In this time of opportunity ~ at the dawn of a new century and a new millennium ~ the need for shared responsibility is self-evident.

The challenges of today, especially those that confront our children, require a special commitment of us all. People of all ages and from all walks of life must claim society's problems as their own, pulling together, leading by example, and lifting American lives.

Our obligation, distinct and unmistakable, is to assure that all young Americans have



Caring adults in their lives, as parents, mentors, tutors, coaches

Safe places with structured activities in which to learn and grow

A healthy start and healthy future

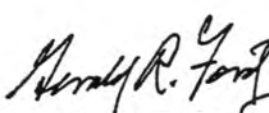
An effective education that equips them with marketable skills

An opportunity to give back to their communities through their own service

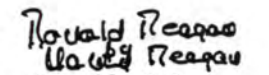


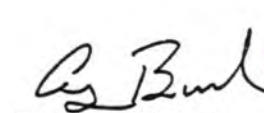
As Americans and as Presidents, we ask every caring citizen to pledge individual commitments of citizen service, voluntary action, the efforts of their organizations, or commitments to individual children in need. By doing so, this nation pledges the fulfillment of America's promise for every American child.

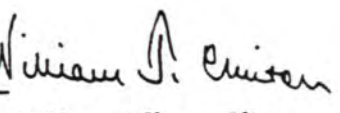
THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


Gerald R. Ford


James Earl Carter


Ronald W. Reagan
by Mrs. Nancy Reagan


George H.W. Bush


William Jefferson Clinton



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT AMERICORPS...

"AmeriCorps is doing a lot of good things around this country. They're leveraging up other volunteers who come in to work with AmeriCorps."

— General Colin Powell

"It is a big help to disaster victims to work with motivated, self-sufficient young AmeriCorps members who will be in the community long after the TV cameras have been turned off and interest has flagged."

— James Lee Witt, Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

"These kids, they're bright, they're clean-cut, they are wonderful role models. It's really the best program I know of, and I would commend it to every community."

— Mayor Joseph Riley, Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina

"We have found AmeriCorps to be an enormously beneficial addition to the traditional voluntary sector... Rather than replacing volunteers or diminishing volunteerism, we are finding over and over again that national service participants are helping draw more volunteers into service in communities across the country."

— Leaders of twenty-four national nonprofit organizations, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, YMCA/YWCA, AARP, and the Girl Scouts

"During my twenty-five years of experience with Atlanta's public schools, I have observed a lot of 'new' programs, but the positive experience that AmeriCorps has had on this school far exceeds anything I have experienced."

**— Don Doran, Principal,
Bentley Elementary School
Atlanta, Georgia**

"Well, four years after the President launched AmeriCorps, and two years after Congress moved in for the kill, it's alive and kicking. The value of full-time, low-pay service à la AmeriCorps and its precursors—Peace Corps and VISTA—is being celebrated at the Presidents' Summit. Now it's time to dramatically expand these programs."

— The Philadelphia Inquirer

"AmeriCorps has helped turn around one of the most troubled parts of our city. The neighborhood has come together, crime is down, and families can use the parks in safety. The partnership of national service and community policing is a winner for Kansas City."

**— Steven C. Bishop, Police Chief
Kansas City, Missouri**

"I do want to suggest one Clinton agenda item that Christians ought to be proud of, and support—the AmeriCorps program. Instead of giving away grants, the AmeriCorps program enables young people to get the financial help they need for education by working for it in programs that are cutting back on urban crime, cleaning up the environment, and improving education in urban schools."

— Tony Campolo, Evangelist and Author

"Every taxpayer's dollar we spend on AmeriCorps comes back threefold, when we add up the value of your innovative ideas, your physical labor, and all of the skills you bring to the workforce when you finish your education.... It is one of the most intelligent uses of taxpayers' dollars ever."

— Governor William Weld, Massachusetts

"As AmeriCorps members gain in construction skill, our affiliates are able to expand the number of occasional volunteers through increased capacity to supervise and manage volunteers.... We at Habitat for Humanity feel privileged and honored to have the AmeriCorps people with us, and we want more of them as time goes on."

— Millard Fuller, Founder, Habitat for Humanity

National Service News

www.nationalservice.org

For citizens in service through Learn & Serve America, AmeriCorps, and the National Senior Service Corps. Published every other Monday on the worldwide-web site of the Corporation for National Service.

For the latest information and updates, visit <http://www.nationalservice.org> (Issue #44, December 29, 1997)

NATIONAL SERVICE WRAPS UP A GREAT YEAR

1997 has been a year of affirmation for national service. The Presidents Summit in Philadelphia last April put the national spotlight on citizen service while setting five fundamental goals to ensure a better future for America's youth. Led by Gen. Colin Powell, America's Promise was established to ensure the goals and commitments made at the Summit are achieved. The Corporation for National Service is doing its part with particular emphasis on ensuring young people have the opportunity to give back through service. In 1998, voluntary service will be recognized through an expanded National Service Scholarship program and resumption of the Points of Light Awards to outstanding citizen volunteers.

Congress reaffirmed its support with major increases in funding for AmeriCorps*State/National and *VISTA and for all three Senior Corps programs, with most of the increase for America Reads. More opportunities for service are being created through partnerships with organizations who provide most or all member costs, while the Corporation funds the education award. 108 AmeriCorps Education Awards Programs, with 15,000 members (the equivalent of 9,000 full-time members) were approved, while AmeriCorps*VISTA cost-share programs have grown to 184 agreements with 1,141 VISTA service years. Seniors for Schools was launched in 9 communities, with over 550 members helping children learn to read.

KEEPING A GOOD THING GOING: AMERICORPS*VISTA SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is a major goal for all AmeriCorps*VISTA projects, as members implement strategies to ensure that after their service concludes, community groups carry on the work the A*VISTA members started or expanded. One great example is in Ardmore, OK where members serving with Communities in Schools developed "Academic Parents" who provide a liaison between residents of Carter Seminary, a boarding home for Native American children, and the local public schools the children attend. The "Partners", who work on a part-time, compensated basis, also serve as mentors for the children, whose real homes are all across Oklahoma. The members wrote a grant to pay for the program and then gradually transferred funding to the Chickasaw Nation. Now, A*VISTA assistance has concluded and "Academic Parents" continues fully supported by the Chickasaw Nation.

FROM THE FRONT:

"We need to make volunteering and community service central to the idea of being an educated citizen." Richard Freeland is President of Northeastern University, where Learn & Serve America students serve the people of Boston, MA.

"It is very rewarding to see clients smile and keep their independence by being able to stay in their own homes." Geneva Thompson serves as a Senior Companion in Fairland, OK.

"This has actually been a lot more rewarding - and a lot harder work - than I expected." AmeriCorps member Mindy LoSauro provides in-home respite care with the Elder Serve program in Ft. Myers, FL.

SERVICE HERO: RSVP VOLUNTEER GEORGE SYMOND

"As a kid, if a problem came up, I'd help out. I just carried that responsibility over into my adult life." After 35 years with Citibank's International Trade Department, George Symond of New York City continued his community service with the RSVP of New York City. Citibank's service program, *Citicares*, recruits retirees for volunteer service and that got George started. He began as a tour guide at Carnegie Hall and now reads one-on-one with the Lighthouse for the Blind. He's also active at a church soup kitchen and volunteers as a docent at the New York Historical Society. Mr. Symond, who has been recognized by the New York RSVP for his longtime social commitment, believes that "if you've got any sense of concern, you've got to roll up your sleeves. I need to feel personally involved."

AMERICA READS: A*VISTA GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

AmeriCorps*VISTA published a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) in the Federal Register on December 18. A*VISTA will be awarding grants supporting a minimum of 20 members to projects working in the area of children's literacy, or "America Reads". The deadline for applications is January 28, 1998. For a copy of the NOFA, see the Corporation web site which links to the NOFA through the AmeriCorps page. If you are interested in an application kit, call (202) 606-5000, ext. 249.

WHAT WORKS: LEARN & SERVE AMERICA'S "KEYS TO KERA"

The Project: "KEYS to KERA" seeks to improve Kentucky Education through Youth Service (KEYS) by establishing a statewide network of service-learning centers at higher education institutions to advance the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA). A consortium funded through the University of Kentucky Community College System, the program integrates service-learning assignments with KERA activities and is now incorporating America Reads projects in its initiatives.

The Results: "KEYS to KERA" has made a significant impact on education in Kentucky. Over 5,600 Learn & Serve America students are now engaged in service-learning at 25 two and four year schools throughout Kentucky. The students and the communities they serve both benefit. At Ashland Community College, 20 education major service-learning students tutor 40 children of non-traditional students while the parents are attending evening class. Elsewhere, a partnership between Midway College nursing students and local Rotary Clubs is working to increase childhood vaccinations in central Kentucky.

Why It Works: The "KEYS" consortium provides faculty members with training, technical assistance and supportive evaluation that results in quality service-learning programs. Community and Student Advisory Councils develop a sense of shared ownership and ensure ideas and concerns are heard. By involving students in service which is relevant to their academic studies and meets critical education, health and other human needs, "KEYS to KERA" has credibility in both campus and community. University of Kentucky dental student Daryl Sims, who serves at a Lexington Salvation Army health program, reflects that "it's a learning experience for us, but we can see that we can help more people too."

Lessons: Through a statewide consortium of public and private colleges, universities and community colleges, "KEYS to KERA" has made an impact in the entire state of Kentucky. The leadership and coordination role of the University of Kentucky demonstrates how the land-grant college concept can be applied to issues of the 21st century. *Contact: Program Director Wendell Cave (502) 573-1535*

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THE PLAIN DEALER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1997

A Forum of Opinion & Ideas

15-B

THE PLAIN DEALER • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1997

Seniors and kids team up to beat illiteracy

By Arthur J. Naparstek
and Harris Wofford

In an East Side Cleveland school, two people are huddled together. John is a retired engineer. Sylvia is a budding veterinarian — at least on some days. On other days, she wants to be an astronaut.

Sylvia is 6 years old; John is 66. Sylvia is fidgety, exuberant and impatient. John is worldly, wise and direct.

What brings this odd couple together?

A book.

They're part of a model literacy project called "Seniors for Schools" that pairs Americans aged 55 and older with young children to provide one-on-one reading support.

This scene soon will be repeated with more than 2,000 students in nine cities across the country. Seniors for Schools is

part of President Bill Clinton's America Reads Challenge to help parents and teachers ensure that every child can read independently and well by the end of third grade. Supported by the Corporation for National Service, the purpose of Seniors for Schools is to mobilize the time, talent and experience of older Americans to help kindergarten through third-graders in our most troubled public schools. They work in classrooms or after-school programs one-to-one, with students identified for special tutoring.

Our nation boasts a senior population larger and healthier than ever before. Seniors provide an enormous and largely untapped resource for our nation's troubled schools. There are 55 million seniors in this country — the largest growing demographic group. Matching older Americans with children in need of tutors is an obvious and effective public policy solution.

In Cleveland and across America, schools are under enormous pressure to provide services to growing numbers of children. They are asked to do this while resources — financial and otherwise — are stagnant. Class sizes are increasing. More often than ever before, English is a second language at home. And yet, educators and business and community leaders agree that children need to learn the basics of reading before the third grade if they are to succeed. Numerous studies conclude that reading is the fundamental building block upon which the rest of learning is built.

In Cleveland, Seniors for Schools volunteers serve in four public elementary schools with a high percentage of low-income students: Marion-Sterling, Adlai Stevenson, Almira and Watterson-Lake. The high poverty rates have severe implications for reading resources available in the community.

The Cleveland initiative has set ambitious goals.

- ✓ To increase reading levels by 30 points on the Ohio state assessment scale.

- ✓ To increase the rate at which at-risk children are promoted to the next grade level.

- ✓ To increase the number of children who pass the fourth-grade proficiency test and to increase test scores by 10 percent.

Why do we expect Seniors for Schools to be successful? Several key factors set this model program apart and contribute to its success.

Intensive Service: Volunteers make a significant time commitment to work a minimum of 15 hours a week. Unlike some volunteer efforts where people show and then don't show, these volunteers are a dependable and constant source of enrichment and assistance for students and teachers. One of our teachers said it best, "What these seniors bring is

a real sense of wanting to be here and a desire to help the kids."

Leadership: Older Americans take initiative and put their years of experience to work as volunteer coordinators, recruiters, teacher liaisons and leaders of parent workshops.

They use their leadership to complement and reinforce the learning objectives set by the teacher and school administrator.

Critical mass: At least 15 volunteers are involved at any one time. This concentration of resources maximizes the volunteers' presence and demonstrates a commitment that school officials can rely on.

Sylvia is squirming in her chair. Her feet barely touch the



ground. John's legs extend far beyond the edge of the tiny seat. Yet, this odd couple is accomplishing a major feat — Sylvia is learning to read. She's proud of what she's accomplished. She's ready to work toward her dreams of caring for sick animals or making it to the moon.

Naparstek, a professor at Case Western Reserve University, is a board member of the Corporation for National Service. Wofford is CEO of the CNS.

ANN LANDERS**DEAR ANN LANDERS:**

I would like to ask you to recognize an extraordinary group of people who are truly saving our younger generation, one child at a time. I am talking about the incredible success story of the Foster Grandparent Program.

What began in 1965 as a program to bring seniors and children together has evolved into a national strategy for dealing with the growing number of young people whose parents are unable to give them love, instill confidence or teach them skills to determine right from wrong. Today, we hear of 12-year-olds killing other kids, bringing guns to school, having babies, selling drugs. For thousands

of high-risk kids, foster grandparents serve as their only lifeline.

One youngster wrote: "I love having a foster grandmother. She treats me with love and does nice things for me. She has helped me with my bad attitude and tells me I should be a role model for the younger children in my family. She has taught me to respect all adults."

The Foster Grandparent Program currently has 24,000 foster grandparents who are serving 80,000 children and teenagers. The program is open to men and women, age 60 and older, who meet income requirements and serve 20 hours a week.

Please tell anyone interested to call 800-424-8867 for information. Thank you, Ann.—Harris Wofford, CEO, Corporation for National Service, Washington, D.C.

Dear Harris Wofford:

Thank you for letting my readers know about this excellent program—and on National Grandparents Day, too. It is sure to fill the empty places in the hearts of both the young and the seniors. I hope that 800 number is jammed. If it's busy, folks, keep trying until you get through.

Questions may be sent to: Ann Landers, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.

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The Administration's National Service Reauthorization Proposal

Key Principles

Expand opportunities for Americans to serve

- Reduces the cost per AmeriCorps member, allowing each dollar invested in the program to go further.
- Supports innovative national service programs like the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships and the high-school National Service Scholarships, promoting new opportunities for individuals to participate in national service.
- Broadens the age and income guidelines for National Senior Service Corps participants, expanding the pool of older Americans who can perform results-oriented service in their communities.
- Simplifies the administration of Learn and Serve America, so states and communities will more easily be able to provide opportunities for students to learn through service in their schools and neighborhoods.

Provide states additional flexibility to administer national service programs

- Creates authority to enter into Service Collaboration Agreements with Governors to provide a means for coordinating the planning and administration of national service programs in a state. The authority will be used selectively and voluntarily, will be tailored to the circumstances of those states wishing to participate and will incorporate performance goals and indicators.
- Shifts the distribution of AmeriCorps*State funds to provide the Governor-appointed State Commissions on National Service with more control over selecting more AmeriCorps programs in their state.
- Increases the minimum amount of AmeriCorps population formula grant per State Commission is from \$450,000 to \$500,000.
- Increases the minimum grant for State Commission administration from \$125,000 to \$200,000.
- Reduces matching requirements for State Commission administration.
- Provides for greater coordination between State Commissions and Learn and Serve programs in a state.
- Provides for greater coordination between Governors State Commissions and AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps projects in a state.

Strengthen partnerships with traditional volunteer organizations

- Makes recruiting, training, and supervising unpaid volunteers by AmeriCorps members an explicit priority. Currently, AmeriCorps members -- on average -- “generate” at least 12 community volunteers in this way.
- Codifies the National Service Scholarships program honoring exemplary service by high school students.
- Expands the AmeriCorps Challenge Scholarships through which national service participants, supported almost entirely by national non-profits, religious groups, or other organizations, can access education awards.
- Authorizes Congressional appropriations to the Points of Light Foundation through the year 2002.
- Highlights representatives of the volunteer sector as potential members of the Governor-appointed State Commissions on National Service.
- Encourages cost-sharing agreements for AmeriCorps*VISTA in which sponsors pay most of the costs associated with the participant.
- Adds to the purpose of the AmeriCorps*VISTA program ensuring the long-term sustainability of program activities after direct support to an organization ends.
- Allows some Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Foster Grandparent Program, and Senior Companion Program participants to serve as leaders in recruiting, training, and supervising other unpaid volunteers; and provides these National Senior Service Corps programs with the flexibility to explore other service options and opportunities.

Codify agreements with Congress and others to reduce costs and streamline national service

- Repeals authority for five redundant or obsolete national service programs, including explicit authority for AmeriCorps grants to federal agencies.
- Shrinks the Corporation’s average budgeted costs per AmeriCorps member to \$15,000 (adjusted for inflation) beginning in 1999.
- Simplifies administration of Learn and Serve America.
- Expands the number of schools at which AmeriCorps members can use their education awards.
- Broadens the age and income eligibility for Senior Corps participants.

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL

November 29, 1997

THE MISSION OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

The mission of the Corporation for National Service is to provide opportunities for Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage in service that addresses the nation's educational, public safety, environmental, and other human needs, to achieve direct and demonstrable results and to encourage all Americans to engage in such service. In doing so, the Corporation will foster civic responsibility, strengthen the ties that bind us together as a people, and provide educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service.

PURPOSE

The proposed bill, entitled the National and Community Service Amendments Act of 1998, will extend and amend national service legislation, including the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, to further the Corporation's mission.

In developing this legislation, the Corporation identified four major goals: (1) devolve more authority and provide greater flexibility to states and local communities in implementing national service programs; (2) streamline the delivery system, thereby resulting in reduced costs and improved efficiencies; (3) increase coordination among national and community service programs authorized under these acts as well as those carried out by states and local communities and organizations; and (4) modify and improve programs based on the experience developed over the last several years. In addition, this bill makes a number of technical revisions to the existing statutes.

This proposed legislation would reauthorize the major national service programs for fiscal years 1998 through 2002. These programs include:

- AmeriCorps, including AmeriCorps*State, which provides grants to State Commissions on National and Community Service appointed by Governors; AmeriCorps*National, which provides direct grants to national organizations; AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America); and AmeriCorps*NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps);
- Learn and Serve America, including Elementary and Secondary Education, Community-Based, and Higher Education programs;

- The National Senior Service Corps, including the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, the Foster Grandparent Program, and the Senior Companion Program;
- Appropriations for the Points of Light Foundation; and
- Demonstration, training and technical assistance, evaluations, and other support services necessary to provide for the infrastructure and quality improvement necessary to enable national service programs to be of highest possible quality.

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THE BILL

A new authority -- Service Collaboration Agreements -- will provide a means for improving the planning and administration of the Corporation's national service programs in a state. The authority will be used selectively and voluntarily, and tailored to the circumstances of those states wishing to participate. Service agreements will be made with Governors and will incorporate performance goals and indicators.

Changes affecting AmeriCorps*State and National include:

- Explicit authority for making AmeriCorps grants to federal agencies is removed.
- The distribution of AmeriCorps grant funds (two-thirds for AmeriCorps*State and one-third for AmeriCorps*National) remains unchanged. However, the relative amounts of AmeriCorps*State moneys distributed to a State Commission on a formula basis ("formula") versus the national competition for submissions by State Commissions ("competitive") are changed from the current 50/50 to 60/40 in 1999; 65/35 in 2000; and 70/30 thereafter.
- Recruiting, training, and supervising unpaid volunteers by AmeriCorps members is made an explicit priority.
- The Corporation's average budgeted costs per AmeriCorps member is reduced; the ceiling is \$16,000 for programs funded in fiscal year 1998 and \$15,000 (adjusted for inflation) thereafter. Waivers of matching requirements are authorized.
- AmeriCorps Leaders are brought under federal workers compensation and tort claims liability laws.
- Enhanced waiver authority is provided to allow the Corporation to test innovative approaches to national service.
- The minimum amount of AmeriCorps formula grant funds per state is increased from \$450,000 to \$500,000. The minimum grant for State Commission administration is

increased from \$125,000 to \$200,000, and matching requirements are reduced.

- The “education-award-only” approach is expanded by authorizing the use of Subtitle C funds for this purpose.

Changes affecting the **AmeriCorps*NCCC** program include:

- Response to natural disasters is added as a purpose of NCCC.
- A non-residential summer program is authorized.
- The minimum age for AmeriCorps*NCCC membership is raised from 16 to 18 (except for summer programs).
- The alternative cash benefit for AmeriCorps*NCCC members is eliminated.

Changes affecting the **National Service Trust** include:

- Expanding the definition of eligible institutions of higher education.
- Ensuring that eligibility for the education award does not reduce eligibility for other federal student financial aid.
- Clarifying that no more than two full-time education awards or their equivalent in part-time education awards may be earned.
- Authorizing use of the National Service Trust for scholarships honoring exemplary service by high school students.
- Permitting the use of Trust funds for purposes related to administering AmeriCorps members' accounts.

Changes affecting **AmeriCorps*VISTA** include:

- The purpose is clarified to emphasize promoting sustainable activities in communities.
- Members are eligible for family and medical leave benefits.
- Cost-sharing with sponsoring organizations is explicitly encouraged.

- Service by an individual is limited to three years, with an education award available for no more than two years of service.

Changes affecting **Learn and Serve America** include:

- Funds available for capacity building activities under Learn and Serve America School-Based programs are increased from 10-15 percent to a maximum of 25 percent of funds distributed by formula.
- Funds distribution for elementary and secondary education programs to states is established at 70 percent via formula and 30 percent on a competitive basis. The minimum grant amount per state is increased to \$100,000, and states are required to distribute funds competitively.
- State Commissions on National and Community Service and State Higher Education Boards, in partnership with institutions of higher education, are added as eligible applicants for Learn and Serve America Higher Education programs.
- Service-learning is designated a fundamental purpose of Higher Education programs
- Authority for supporting multi-state programs, demonstrations, and activities to improve the quality of service-learning programs is added.
- States are given explicit authority to designate a single state entity to administer Learn and Serve America school-based and community-based programs in the state.

Changes affecting the **National Senior Service Corps** include:

- The impact of senior service within communities is emphasized.
- The minimum age for Senior Corps participants is made uniform across all three Senior Corps programs at 55 years.
- The ability to provide incentives for a Leaders program under the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is added; meeting community needs is added as a purpose; and a 45-day period for review of certain RSVP grants is eliminated.
- For the Foster Grandparent Program, authority for Leaders is included; eligibility is raised to 150 percent of the poverty level; up to 10 percent of federal funds may be used to support individuals who exceed income eligibility; and funding for programs

of national significance is simplified.

- The changes in the Senior Companion Program are comparable to those provided for the Foster Grandparent Program. Eligibility is raised to 150 percent of the poverty level; up to 10 percent of federal funds may be used to support individuals who exceed income eligibility; and funding for programs of national significance is simplified.

Changes affecting all streams of national service programs include:

- Authorities for supplemental and outreach grants for individuals with disabilities is extended to all AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and National Senior Service Corps programs.
- Training and technical assistance authorities are also extended to all programs supported by the Corporation.

Administrative and technical changes include:

- Clarifying the role of the Corporations's appointed representatives to State Commissions; revising participant hearing and grievance procedures; and permitting a Member of the Board of Directors to serve until a replacement is appointed.
- Repeal various redundant or obsolete authorities, including the VISTA Literacy Corps; certain Special Volunteer Programs; and Challenge Grants for National Service Programs under the National and Community Service Trust Act.
- Removal of a requirement limiting the use of AmeriCorps*VISTA members to support other Corporation programs, and removal of a redundant requirement mandating a minimum number of AmeriCorps*VISTA service years.

Appropriations earmarked for the **Points of Light Foundation** are reauthorized for five years. The Points of Light Foundation has worked closely with the Corporation on several joint initiatives, including co-sponsorship of the Philadelphia Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

Authority for appropriations is provided as follows:

- For fiscal years 1998-2002, such sums as are necessary.



THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM overview

THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

1-888-275-5018

www.nationalservice.org

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

The following are
examples of
organizations that provided matching
funds for National Service
Scholarships last year:

- ★ American Legion/Auxiliary Posts
- ★ AMVETS/Auxiliary Posts
- ★ Benevolent Order of the Elks
- ★ Chambers of Commerce
- ★ Civitan Club
- ★ Dollars for Scholars
- ★ Elks Lodge
- ★ Exchange Club
- ★ Jaycees
- ★ Junior League
- ★ Kiwanis Club

THIS OVERVIEW PROVIDES INFORMATION ON:

- ★ how the scholarship program works;
- ★ examples of the types of community organizations and groups that may provide matching funds for National Service Scholarships; and
- ★ examples of last year's National Service Scholarship Program winners and their outstanding service to their community.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

The National Service Scholarship Program is an opportunity for schools and communities to recognize young people for outstanding service to their community by providing them with a college scholarship of at least \$1,000.

The Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps) provides \$500 toward the \$1,000 National Service Scholarship to high school juniors and seniors in public and private schools who have performed outstanding service or service-learning for at least a year. In order to award a National Service Scholarship to a student, a school must first obtain matching funds of at least \$500 from the school district, community or civic organizations, foundations, private sector institutions, or other groups or individuals.

HOW DOES THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WORK?

High school principals have the authority to structure the scholarship program as they see fit. They can work with other school officials and teachers, community organizations, civic leaders, and students to determine how applications will be solicited and how scholarship recipients will be selected. Every high school principal may nominate one student per school, per year for the National Service Scholarships. Other service scholarships may, of course, be provided without the funds from the Corporation for National Service.

THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN ACTION.

This is the second year of the National Service Scholarship Program. Last year 1,700 scholarships were awarded across the country. To help you in determining potential scholarship recipients, here are a few of last year's scholarship winners:

Christopher Shields, from Saint Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton, Florida, has volunteered for ten years at the American Red Cross Manatee County Chapter, where he has served in four national disasters, running messages, managing phone operations, distributing food to shelters, and assisting with night shift duties. During tornadoes in

continued on back

THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsored by the Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps)
through the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America
1505 Riverview Road • Post Office Box 68 • St. Peter, MN 56082

**NATIONAL SERVICE
SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS CONT.:**

- ★ Lions Club
- ★ Local businesses
- ★ Masonic Lodge
- ★ The Miss America Organization
- ★ Moose Lodge
- ★ Odd Fellows Lodge
- ★ Optimist Club
- ★ Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- ★ Pilot Club
- ★ Quota Club
- ★ Rotary Club
- ★ Ruritan Club
- ★ The Sollie Mae Foundation
- ★ The Seventh Day Adventists
- ★ Soroptimist Club
- ★ Student organizations
- ★ Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- ★ Women's Club
- ★ YMCA

the Tampa area, he conducted damage assessment. Christopher also helped coach a community soccer team and volunteered at the local Head Start, teaching arts and crafts to children.

Katrina (Karie) Petersen, from Coconino High School in Flagstaff, Arizona, was part of the Graffiti Eradication Program, which involved cleaning up graffiti and refurbishing buildings in the Flagstaff area. Her other activities include volunteering at the Northland Family Food Center; participating in holiday caroling for homebound elderly seniors; providing companionship and assistance at the Los Arcos Nursing Home; tutoring students at Killip Elementary School; teaching religious education to preschool and kindergarten-age children; and acting as a peer counselor and assistant trainer to elementary, junior, and senior high students.

Kimberlee Miramontes-Martin, from St. Pius X High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, dedicated more than 1,000 hours of service to the Veterans' Administration Medical Center, serving during six consecutive summer vacations. Her activities there ranged from doing office work to helping with patient activities. Kimberlee also volunteered at the Presbyterian Children's Health Fair and the local Special Olympics.

Osama Beshir, from Luke C. Moore Academy Senior High School in Washington, D.C., has served in several ways, including participating in weekly community cleanup efforts; volunteering at the Capital Area Community Food Bank; and working with people with disabilities. Osama also educated other students about violence prevention and the importance of graduating from high school and avoiding drugs. In addition to these accomplishments, he also mentored and tutored a ninth-grade student at his high school.

Gregory Winkler, from Stuarts Draft High School in Stuarts Draft, Virginia, volunteered with Camp Joy, a program with a local United Methodist Church, for the past six years. At Camp Joy he helped build and repair housing for elderly, disabled, and low-income people in his community.

The Fifth Fundamental Resource: An Opportunity for Young People to Give Back Through Their Own Service

Five

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Everybody can be great because anybody can serve.” To fulfill America’s Promise every young person must be challenged and inspired to realize that greatness. Young people should view themselves—and be viewed by their communities and our nation—as resources for all five goals set at the Presidents’ Summit For America’s Future and in the campaign for America’s Promise. We must challenge families, schools, colleges and universities, communities of faith, national service and youth corps, and community organizations to create more high quality opportunities for young people to serve America. Most importantly, we must ask all young people to become active duty citizens—and to discover their own potential through service.

Goal 5 Advisory Board (in formation)

Tim Shriver, Special Olympics International, Co-Chair

Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Harvard Business School, Co-Chair

Alan Khazei, Andre Lee, and Shirley Sagawa, Vice-chairs

The Fifth Fundamental Resource: An Opportunity for Young People to Give Back Through Their Own Service

The Goal 5 Challenge and Three Targets

The Presidents' Summit for America's Future was designed to unleash a new level of energy, organizational commitment and citizen power to help turn the tide for millions of children and youth who lack the ingredients for success in life. The goal of America's Promise is to mobilize millions of citizens and thousands of organizations to ensure that every young person in our country has access to five fundamental resources.

Any young person is in danger who does not have (1) an ongoing relationship with a caring adult as mentor, tutor, coach; (2) safe places with structured activities to learn and grow during non-school hours; (3) a healthy start and a healthy future; (4) a marketable skill through effective education; and (5) an opportunity to give back through their own service to the community. Of these five fundamentals, no one should underestimate the importance of the fifth.

- Service by young people can be a powerful resource in helping to solve the problems of our communities and achieve all five of the goals set at the Presidents' Summit and by the ensuing campaign for America's Promise.
- Service answers the need of all young people, rich and poor, for practical experience and an understanding of democratic values in action, and the need to learn how to work with people of different backgrounds and experiences. Working together in common sustained service is one way to close the racial and ethnic gaps that divide America.
- Service is a vital way to learn citizenship, responsibility and discipline; to build skills, enhance self-esteem, develop problem-solving abilities, introduce new career options and prepare young people for future work.
- Service can improve academic motivation, school attendance and performance, and can establish a pattern of future service that will continue through a lifetime of active citizenship.

The overarching thrust of the fifth fundamental resource is that service should be the common expectation and a defining experience of growing up in America. Young people themselves must be asked to create a brighter future for themselves and generations to

come. All young people should be challenged, inspired, and given opportunities to serve. The Advisory Board on Goal 5 has set three targets to advance us toward that goal:

- Two million additional young people by the year 2000 provide at least 100 hours of service each year through high quality programs;
- 100,000 young people become service leaders by providing 1,000 hours or more of high quality service each year;
- Colleges and Universities—and students—commit at least half of the nearly 1 million work-study positions to service to the community.

Last August, the Corporation for National Service and Do Something co-sponsored a two-day strategy session hosted by the United Way of America, in cooperation with the Advisory Board for Goal Five of America's Promise, with keynotes by General Powell and Ray Chambers. More than 150 representatives from nonprofit organizations, state service commissions, service-learning programs, education associations, foundations, and corporations agreed to form working groups to develop and implement strategies for delivering the fifth fundamental resource. The working groups will be structured around the key areas of focus for America's Promise: State Initiatives and Communities of Promise; Schools as the Hub; Commitments; and Communications. Following are among the key initiatives, some new and some already underway, to achieve the targets:

State and Local Summits and Communities of Promise

State and Local Summits: The Summits underway across the nation provide an extraordinary opportunity to engage young people in planning and implementing a community or state strategy for their own service. In most places, summit organizing committees have been including young people as key stakeholders from the start of the planning process, highlighting young leaders who are doing service that relates to the five fundamentals. The state and local plans for achieving goal five that are developed through the regional summits can provide incentives for young people who commit to the three targets: two million additional young people serve at least 100 hours each year; 100,000 young people serving at least 1,000 hours each year; and half of the nearly 1 million work-study positions dedicated to service. In some places, youth groups are organizing local and regional summits such as the successful Central Texas Youth Summit organized by Amy Achor, a high-school student who attended the Philadelphia Summit and is one of the first Daily Points of Light awarded in 1998.

All-Star Service Cities: The idea of All-Star Service Cities, which several cities are now considering, was initiated at the August conference as a strategy for Goal 5. By the year 2000 an All-Star Service City would offer all of the major national models of full and part-time service by youth, including high quality service programs in schools, community

organizations, and colleges and universities. They would seek to reach all three targets of the fifth goal for that town or city. Cities that commit to becoming All-Star Service Cities for Goal 5 would be linked to the Communities of Promise strategy of America's Promise for the achievement of all five Summit goals.

Schools as the Hub

Service As an Integral Part of the School Curriculum: Since all Americans are in school for a crucial stage of their lives, the schools—public and private—are the most promising place to reach and engage them, the sooner the better. Many school districts and the whole state of Maryland, like a high proportion of religious and private schools, already require some form of service to the community as part of the curriculum. This is the most far-reaching way to achieve Goal 5 and General Powell and President Clinton have been encouraging this course. Students in districts requiring less than 100 hours can be challenged to go beyond the call of duty to reach or surpass the 100-hour target. The Learn and Serve America Program of the Corporation for National Service is working with Communities in Schools, Do Something, and a number of service-learning consortia to promote high quality service-learning opportunities. Service-learning and high-quality student service can be a key part of educational reform, including civic and character education and learning-by-doing in a number of academic subjects.

America's Promise in Schools: Led by Communities in Schools, Quest International and the American Association of School Administrators, this initiative being organized by America's Promise seeks to provide more than 2 million young people with access to the five fundamental resources using a school-based delivery system. Through regional Forums convened by Superintendents of Schools, America's Promise in Schools will encourage and work with local schools and communities to secure the five fundamental resources for all students.

National Service High School Scholarships: Congress has provided funds to enable the Corporation for National Service to offer 10,000 schools a scholarship for a junior or senior who is an outstanding example of student service and completes at least 100 hours of such service. (1700 scholarships were awarded this summer.) The Corporation's \$500 is to be matched by \$500 raised locally. The Citizen Scholarship Foundation administers the program.

National Basketball Association: The NBA has launched TeamUp, a program designed to engage middle school students in service. In September, 29 NBA teams met to develop implementation plans to engage 100,000 students by the year 2000. Participating schools receive copies of a teachers guide developed in partnership with Scholastic Magazine that connects service projects to the curriculum.

Student Summits: Led by the National Association of Student Councils, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Points of Light Foundation, student council presidents in high schools across the country are being asked to convene a student summit. Initiated as a way for students to respond to the call issued at the Summit in Philadelphia, these high school events will focus on mobilizing young people to help achieve the goals of the Summit, with a particular emphasis on the 100-hour target of Goal 5.

Service-Learning Coordinators in Schools: Schools adopting a service requirement for graduation or including service-learning in the curriculum are being encouraged to seek service-learning coordinators to help organize and strengthen service initiatives, link them to the curriculum and assist teachers in developing creative projects that best link learning to service. Plans are underway for a meeting of districts and states that have adopted a service requirement to strengthen programs that support the requirement. Schools in a number of communities are demonstrating the value of service-learning coordinators with assistance from the Corporation's Learn and Serve America program, AmeriCorps Members and Communities in Schools.

Community Coaches: Community Coaches, initiated by Do Something, are being appointed in a number of pilot schools to connect students to resources from the community as well as to organize "action teams" that will develop and implement service projects. Coaches will encourage students to reach for the 100-hour mark of Goal 5 and help connect them to all five fundamental resources.

The Compact for Learning and Citizenship: The Compact was initiated by Frank Newman of the Education Commission of the States and is chaired by Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction in Indiana. It is modeled on The Campus Compact of college and university presidents committed to student service. The new initiative will build support for service-learning among top K-12 educators in every state.

Leader Schools for Service-Learning: President Clinton has challenged schools to compete in developing ways of building service into the curriculum and after-school activities at every level (similar to the All-Star Service City idea). The Corporation for National Service is supporting the project to identify and recognize such schools, with the assistance of Educational Services, Inc. Ted and Nancy Sizer will lead a design committee to propose criteria for Leader Schools and incentives to encourage schools to join the effort.

The Partnering Initiative: Jeremy Rifkin and representatives from many of the major education groups have formed a coalition to integrate civic values, including the ethic of service, into the educational process. A key part of the strategy is to "expand opportunities for students to become more involved in meaningful service with neighborhood and community organizations by making service-learning an integral part of the academic experience."

Martin Luther King Day: The Corporation for National Service, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change Inc., The Points of Light Foundation, the United Way

of America and Do Something have joined forces to make the national Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 19, 1998 a day of service. The King Holiday and Service Act of 1994 aims to transform the observance of Martin Luther King's birthday into a day of action that reflects King's life and teaching—bringing people together, breaking down barriers that divide us, and working to solve our problems through citizen service. Schools across the nation will celebrate the King Holiday by participating in the national Kindness & Justice Challenge organized by Do Something. In the two weeks leading up to the holiday, students will perform Acts of Kindness (helping others) and Acts of Justice (standing up for what is right) that are registered on the Internet. Service programs, churches, companies, universities and individuals are also planning service-oriented celebrations on the holiday.

President's Youth Service Award: At the Goal 5 strategy session in August, participants recognized the value of an award that can be distributed widely that would recognize service by young people. The American Institute for Public Service piloted a similar program on behalf of the White House—modeled on the President's Physical Fitness Award. In early 1998, a new initiative will be launched for the President's Youth Service Award that will have as a criterion the 100-hour target for Goal 5. It will be available through schools and youth organizations and will serve as a major source for registering those who serve for one hundred hours or more.

The National Council for the Social Studies: The National Council for the Social Studies has developed a new section on service-learning as part of The American Promise Teaching Guide to support education efforts in the area of responsible citizenship. The new section describes the rationale for service-learning and provides a historical context and gives practical step-by-step directions for implementing and assessing service-learning within social studies courses. The guide itself was introduced to teachers last November.

Commitments

America Reads and Work-Study: The main initiative underway to move toward the third target of engaging half of work-study students in service is in connection with President Clinton's America Reads initiative to achieve the goal of every child learning to read by grade three. In response to the President's challenge, a Steering Committee of 21 college and university presidents, chaired by Robert Corrigan, President of San Francisco State University, and backed by major organizations of higher education is working to secure 100,000 college work-study positions for college student tutors for America Reads. Over 800 colleges and universities have committed themselves to using work-study funds to enable college students to tutor elementary students. College students not eligible for work-study are also being organized on many campuses to become volunteer tutors.

Youth-Serving Organizations: The YMCA of the USA has offered to host a meeting for some of the key youth-serving organizations to consider how they might significantly expand the number of opportunities for youth to serve and to develop more comprehensive service-

learning programs. The YMCA itself is substantially increasing its service-learning programs with its millions of youth members. Big Brothers Big Sisters has committed itself not only to double its 100,000 matches by the year 2000, but to ask each "Big" and "Little" to engage in service together.

Civic Alliance for "Prevention Through Service": Over thirty major national civic organizations representing over 50 million members (20 million of whom are youth) signed a formal alliance to "enhance volunteer service programs for young people" and to "promote community service recognition programs for young people," including the National Service Scholarship program. This is an integral part of the drug prevention initiative they are sponsoring. The leadership of the Lions, Kiwanis, Rotary, YMCA, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, VFW, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and other key organizations signed the Prevention Through Service agreement with Vice President Al Gore, General Barry McCaffrey, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and Harris Wofford at the White House on November 18, 1997.

National Council of Churches and the President's Challenge at the Summit: At the Summit, President Clinton challenged faith-based, educational and community organizations to provide 50,000 or more full and part-time national service opportunities for young people, with AmeriCorps providing the education awards. In the largest single response, the National Council of Churches is recruiting, deploying, and supporting over 5,500 (3500 full-time and 2000 part-time) such "education award" AmeriCorps Members. The Council is doing this through its new African American Church and Community Project, the Latino Church and Community Project and the Council of Religious Volunteer Agencies, which includes the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service. The Catholic Network itself is working through its 175 faith-based service programs to reach one million additional children by engaging an additional 10,000 volunteers in full-time service. Together these efforts take major steps toward the goal of 100,000 young people providing more than 1000 hours of service.

National Council of Volunteer Centers: The National Council has committed to develop 400 new community collaborations on new or expanded youth initiatives to connect one million young people with caring adults and/or an opportunity to serve. To date, more than half of the several hundred volunteer centers affiliated with the Points of Light Foundation have begun developing programs to engage 200,000 young people with an opportunity to serve.

National Youth Movement: A group of young leaders who attended the Summit in Philadelphia are developing a national youth response to the Summit and the five goals. They are being assisted by the National 4-H Council, the National Youth Leadership Council, the Points of Light Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth, the Corporation for National Service and America's Promise. Plans include a National Youth Summit by the year 2000, a series of local forums or meetings and a strong youth network.

Communications

Public Service Announcements: The National 4-H Council, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture, recently released a series of public service announcements asking school-aged young people to serve. The Creative Artists Agency in Los Angeles, with the Entertainment Coalition for Education, is also developing an appeal for youth to serve the young as part of its major entertainment industry focus on education.

MTV: MTV, which has a special commitment to advancing Goal 5, recently released a public service announcement designed to promote full-time service through AmeriCorps. Since May, MTV has donated over \$1.3 million in air time to show the spot.

Nickelodeon's "Kids in History: The Big Help Classroom Video": Nickelodeon is distributing to 25,000 community partners across the country a new video and discussion guide on the famous young people who have made a difference in their communities. The video and guide have been created in support of The Big Help Week, April 18-25, 1998, which asks young people to design creative ways to help their community. An additional 36,000 videos and guides have been sent directly to classrooms around the country to assist teachers in connecting The Big Help to learning activities. In addition, teachers and community partners receive a copy of The Big Help 1997/98 Action calendar, so that classes can log their Big Helping hours every month.

National Youth Service Day: April 21, 1998 marks the tenth anniversary of National Youth Service Day, a national celebration of the positive ways in which young people are improving their communities through service. Youth Service America sponsors the day with many other national partners. A Tool Kit for planning a service project, recognition event or special project is available from Youth Service America.

The Grantmaker Forum on Community and National Service: The Forum consists of corporate, community and private foundation grantmakers who share an interest in promoting the American tradition of community and national service. This January in Seattle, the Forum and the Council on Foundations will launch a series of town hall meetings designed to promote service by young people as a strategy for solving community problems, especially those affecting children and youth. Similar gatherings will follow in other communities across the country over the next year.

Disney's Children's Summit Competition: Disney Adventures Magazine and the Just Think Foundation of Northern California are sponsoring a competition for young people between the ages of 7 and 14 that encourages them in teams of two to design a project to help their community "grow up." Projects should relate to education, nutrition, sports, relationships or children's rights, which are sub-themes of this year's Children's Summit. Five winning teams will represent the United States at the 5th Annual Children's Summit, sponsored by Disney Magazines in Europe and UNESCO, which will be held May 4-8 in Paris.

Goal 5 Website Resource List*

State and Local Summits and Communities of Promise

America's Promise

www.americaspromise.org

Schools as the Hub

America's Promise

www.americaspromise.org

The Corporation for National Service

www.nationalservice.org

The Points of Light Foundation

www.pointsoflight.org

The United Way of America

www.unitedway.org

Do Something

www.dosomething.org

www.kjchallenge.org

Communities in Schools

www.cisnet.org

Quest International

www.quest.edu

American Association of School Administrators

www.aasa.org

National Basketball Association (NBA)

www.nba.com

Presidents Student Summits

www.summitup.org

National Council for the Social Studies

www.ncss.org

Commitments

America's Promise

www.americaspromise.org

America Reads

www.nationalservice.org

www.ed.gov

YMCA of the USA

www.ymca.net

Big Brothers Big Sisters

www.bbbsa.org

Civic Alliance for Prevention through Service

www.ptsa.net

National Council of Churches

www.nccusa.org

Catholic Network of Volunteer Service

www.catholic.net/rcc/cnvs/cnvshome

National Council of Volunteer Centers

www.pointsoflight.org

National Youth Leadership Council

www.nylc.org/NYLC.index.html

National 4-H Council

www.fourhcouncil.edu

Communications

America's Promise

www.americaspromise.org

National 4-H Council

www.fourhcouncil.edu

MTV

www.mtv.org

Nickelodeon

www.nick.com

Youth Service America

www.serve.net

Children's Summit Competition

www.childrens-summit.com

www.justthink.org

*This is a partial listing of resources for Goal 5, as of 1/6/98. This is listed according to appearance in the above progress report.

The Boston Globe

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1997

Summit rallies volunteers to aid state's youths

By Brian C. Mooney
GLOBE STAFF

When he was 6, Anthony Burton of Dorchester feared that running with a gang would destroy his older brother, Tyrone.

"Every time we said goodbye, I was afraid it would be forever," said Anthony, now 12, as he read "An Open Letter to My Brother" at yes-

terday's Massachusetts Summit for volunteers and service providers.

But volunteers at the Dorchester Youth Collaborative helped Tyrone, who went straight and became his brother's role model, says Anthony, who spoke to about 1,700 at the summit, held in Northeastern University's Matthews Arena.

Today, Tyrone Burton, 18, appears in the television comedy "The

Parent Hood." Anthony is enrolled at a boarding school in central Massachusetts.

"I'm one of the lucky ones," Anthony said.

He was among those who came from across the state and from all walks of life yesterday to launch an ambitious three-year volunteerism program to engage and serve the youth of Massachusetts.

On the theme "The Promise of Our Youth," the daylong program, an outgrowth of President Clinton's volunteerism Summit for America's Future last April, set the following state goals for 2000:

- Increase from 10,000 to 50,000 the number of adult mentors for young people.

- Create 500 after-school or evening "safe places" with structured programs for youths.

- Guarantee health insurance for 144,000 uninsured children.

- Double the number of participants in so-called "school-to-work" and children's literacy programs.

- Engage at least 200,000 young people in community-service programs and double the current 1,000 state participants in AmeriCorps, the national service program.

Planners of the summit, which was coordinated by the Massachusetts Service Alliance, also announced the establishment of a non-profit corporation, Massachusetts Promise, to serve as a clearinghouse for information. A toll-free number, 1-888-MASSVOL, will help match volunteers with service agencies. The entity also will monitor progress toward achieving the goals, which include creating an umbrella for what the Service Alliance executive director, Kate Mehr, called the "strong but fragmented" infrastructure of volunteer groups.

More than 60 businesses, religious groups, and non-profit and government agencies have pledged money and other resources. The region's two largest banks, Fleet Bank and BankBoston, announced a joint commitment of manpower and funds

to the effort.

The summit provided a bipartisan showcase for politicians to express their support. Among the Republicans were former governor William F. Weld, who began plans for the summit, and his successor, Acting Governor Paul Cellucci. Democrats who attended were Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, and Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John

F. Kerry, who said helping the young is "the most important work in America, bar none."

But the stars of the event were the hundreds of volunteers and service providers who help others every day in relative anonymity; delegations from 97 of the state's 351 cities and towns attended. They came to share experiences, become part of a massive outreach effort to recruit more volunteers, and to talk about

what they do.

Lily Lee, 16, of South Boston, said she came to learn more about fund-raising to help her volunteer efforts at Boston Do Something, which assists neighborhood youth groups.

"I feel an obligation to help my community," said Lily, a junior at Boston Latin Academy. "I think it makes me a better person."

Frederick Minor, 18, of Cambridge, attending with a contingent from YouthBuild, said he is earning credits toward a high school diploma while he learns construction skills and helps other youths. "I'm learning a lot, and I'm doing something for my community," he said.

The Rev. Joachim Lally, the Lawrence-based director of Hispanic youth for the Boston Catholic archdiocese, spoke of how "the focus in our world today is 'me, me, me. For the kids we deal with, service brings a lot more meaning to their lives.'"

Marja-Leena LePoer, an Ashby town librarian, said she and three other volunteers from her community attended to learn how they can obtain resources. "Sometimes the cities get a lot of attention, and the small towns are left out," she said.

Justin Callendar, 24, of Manchester-by-the-Sea, was part of a group from Boston's City Year program, a non-profit youth service program and a model for AmeriCorps.

A first-grade teacher's aide at the Josiah Quincy School in Chinatown, Callendar said the experience helped her to meet people she would never have had a chance to meet.

"I wake up in the morning and see if there's some way I can influence their lives," Callendar said.

FOCUS: AMERICORPS AT RISK?



AmeriCorps is one of the programs that falls under the Corporation for National Service, an umbrella organization established early in President Clinton's tenure. Clinton wants to extend AmeriCorps for five more years. Clinton has also called for extending the Learn and Serve America and National Senior Service Corps.

AmeriCorps

Nonprofit organizations receive either money for programs or staff to run programs. Members, ages 16 and older, receive a modest stipend and are eligible for a \$4,700 education grant if they complete their service contracts.

■ **VISTA** — Volunteers in Service to America — was established more than 30 years ago. Members work to end poverty through training, literacy, housing, health and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

■ **YouthBuild** puts high school dropouts, ages 16 to 25, in the construction field as they learn on-the-job skills while restoring properties and earning GEDs.

■ **National Civilian Community Corps** contracts people ages 18 to 24 for 10 months as they work in public safety and education agencies.

Learn and Serve America

Links students from kindergarten to college with community service projects so that they can use academic skills to solve real-world problems.

National Senior Service Corps

Established more than 30 years ago, it connects more than a half-million people ages 55 and older with community service.

SOURCE: Corporation for National Service

Left, AmeriCorps member Laura Edmundson, from Richmond, helps pick up trash at Northridge Community Park in Virginia Beach.

CHARLIE MEADS/PI photo

Some in Congress are taking dead aim at the federally funded program that many see as the domestic Peace Corps. In Hampton Roads, 20 projects would be affected directly if the budget cutters are successful in ending the program.

in cities stretching from Williamsburg to Virginia Beach, AmeriCorps has added cash and helping hands in an era of downsized social welfare.

Parents and children with tutors know the work of this domestic Peace Corps. As do seniors who need help to stay independent. And food banks who need a hand past the holiday season.

President Clinton said in his Thanksgiving radio address that AmeriCorps, like himself, has earned another term. Not so, say some in Congress, calling the program another case of misused dollars.

As the battle in Washington over AmeriCorps begins, people around Hampton Roads are paying less attention to what politicians have to say about the program, and more attention to resources it has brought them.

Those resources come in the form of 24-year-old Alicia Holloway, a 1991 Grady High graduate. She entered AmeriCorps as a senior at Lynchburg College.

After completing an assignment in Staunton, Holloway works with VOLUNTEER Hampton Roads. She sets up twice-monthly tutoring programs that get area college students together with elementary school pupils. She plans to bolster the number of college-age volunteers in the area, an age group that she says is underrepresented on local volunteer rolls.

"I think it's important to have a program like this reaching people who wouldn't have been reached," said Holloway, who hopes to earn a master's in public administration and someday direct a non-profit organization.

Lawmakers such as Rep. Pete Hoekstra, R-Mich., and Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, think things can get done without AmeriCorps. This summer both took aim at the program, saying it is too costly.

In Virginia during 1997, AmeriCorps spent more than \$7 million on 68 projects — 20 of them were in Hampton Roads.

"It's an easy target for anybody that either wants to take partisan advantage or wants to hold it hostage for some other program," said Sen. Charles S. Robb, D-Va., an AmeriCorps advocate. "It's not a program that people can become independently wealthy on."

Holloway earns \$9,300 over 11 months for her full-time work. That's less than

minimum wage. She also gets a \$4,700 tuition grant, which puts her salary at about \$8 an hour.

"It is a sacrifice for me to do this job," she said. "Considering my experience and my degree, there is no way we're trying to get over on them. These (AmeriCorps) volunteers are people who want to do this and who believe in it."

Believing in a program may mean working in a homeless shelter in Norfolk. Or running leadership camps for economically disadvantaged children in Virginia Beach. Or building houses on the Eastern Shore.

The staff of CARE, an outreach program of the Virginia Beach Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation, doubled when AmeriCorps members came on board.

Without those extra hands, the after-school tutoring program at Virginia Beach's Newtown Elementary School, the seniors' health screenings, neighborhood parties — they would still be ideas instead of reality, said Barbara Blanding of the

Princeton Lakes Civic League.

Blandish talks with her assigned AmeriCorps member, Warnette Cason, almost daily.

"She came in and helped us organize these activities. We didn't have anything before," Blandish said. "It's good to keep something going. If the program stopped, the kids would go back to doing the same thing. The next thing you know, the drug people will get them."

Such testimonies haven't wowed critics such as Mark Wilson, a policy analyst for the Heritage Foundation, the Washington, D.C.-based think tank. In "Balancing America's Budget: Ending the Era of Big Government," Wilson wrote that AmeriCorps corrupts "true" volunteerism, bloats bureaucracy and diverts able bodies from the military.

Despite the criticism, Robb foresees a future for AmeriCorps past 2000. Rep. Owen B. Pickett, D-Va., agrees, so long as the program doesn't expand in scope or budget. "There is going to be wrangling because I think there is a component in the

Congress that instinctively resists whatever President Clinton wants to do," Pickett said.

Those arguments may be harder to make, considering AmeriCorps' record of success, he said.

Sabrina Joy says she sees that success Monday through Thursday, as head of an AmeriCorps Education Enrichment program. It operates through the Urban League of Hampton Roads.

Joy's AmeriCorps members tutor more than 200 children after school. Her crew also has led recycling and clean-up efforts, along with clothing drives.

She, like other program directors, knows the money will not flow forever. AmeriCorps expects its programs to eventually be self-sufficient by partnering with companies and foundations to continue what the federal seed money has started.

"I'm a firm believer that a person's work speaks for itself," AmeriCorps state coordinator B.J. Northington said. She oversees projects in Hampton Roads, Blacksburg, Richmond and Northern Virginia.

"Whether or not the president proposes that the program stays around five years, if the community wants it, we will be here," Northington said.

Virginia Beach Neighborhood Services Supervisor Malissia Lee wants AmeriCorps to stay around. An audit by Brown & Associates, Virginia, of her AmeriCorps-staffed programs showed their impact. Students' grades and parental involvement have improved.

Alicia Holloway feels that impact, at her office or in classrooms at Portsmouth's Churchland Academy.

On a recent school day, she sat in the hallway of Churchland Academy surrounded by four youngsters who took turns reading aloud.

Temura Owens, 7, begins flanking each carefully pronounced word by short pauses. It's as if the story contains not a jot of punctuation.

"At — last — they — saw — the — house — of — their — friends — it — was — a — little — red — house."

"Try that again," Holloway said, gently but firmly. "That period means that you have to pause. Take a breath and then continue."

"At last they saw the house of their friends. (Pause) It was a little red house." Temura looked up at Holloway, soaked up her smile of approval, and continued.



MARK MITCHELL/The Virginian-Pilot

"I think it's important to have a program like this reaching people who wouldn't have been reached."

Alicia Holloway

As a member of AmeriCorps, Holloway works with second-graders at Churchland Academy.



Class moves teens to get involved



Clay Owen/News-Sentinel staff

West High School students, standing left to right, Keyh Rogers, Rachael Winston and LaShonda Roper, give a report on their service project as Peace Corps veteran Harris Wofford looks on Thursday at the school. Student Michael White sits behind Wofford.

By David Keim

News-Sentinel staff writer

Until she took the ACTS class at West High School, Kristen Swann didn't have big plans for her future.

"Now I want to go to college and major in English or social work," the 17-year-old senior told members of the Corporation for National Service who visited her classroom Thursday.

The transformation came because Swann and a dozen classmates are working together as volunteers at community

Peace Corps veteran meets with students

agencies that help the poor and sick, learning first-hand what it takes to meet the needs around them.

"You go out and see what the real world's like," Swann said simply, as students explained working at a nursing home, AIDS Response Knoxville, Ronald McDonald House and other agencies.

ACTS stands for Action Counts in

Teen Service. The class started when teacher Julie Hembree got training in service-learning with a grant from Learn & Serve America, a program overseen by the Corporation for National Service.

She and another West High teacher are the only Knox participants, Hembree said.

The corporation also oversees AmeriCorps — sometimes called the domestic Peace Corps — and the National Senior Service Corps. Knoxville Mayor

Please see CLASS, page A3

FROM PAGE ONE

Class

Continued from page A1

Victor Ashe serves on the corporation's board, and invited the board to Knoxville for meetings Thursday and today.

"The greatness in people that comes from serving others and learning to serve — learning the art of it and learning that you can do it and make a difference — is what we heard in this class," said Harris Wofford, chief executive officer of the corporation.

Wofford is a former Democratic senator from Pennsylvania who helped to start the Peace Corps with the Kennedy Administration and played a key role in the civil rights movement.

He tells a story about a former gang member from Philadelphia

to explain how service changes lives. The young man had become a leader with Habitat for Humanity.

Wofford asked why he changed his path. "All my life people have been coming to help me in the project where I grew up," he told Wofford. "I got tired of people doing good against me. This is the first time in my life anybody ever asked me to do something."

The boost in self-confidence was evident at West.

"The news is constantly focusing on the bad things teens do," 15-year-old Matthew Killingsworth told the board. "This gives us a chance to be recognized in a positive way."

Wofford was impressed that the students became like a family, bridging racial lines.

"In all my other classes, I don't think about meeting every-

body else," Killingsworth said. Added Nykky Hill, 17: "You have the person you're next to 'till you talk to them, and then you get moved away."

The students also explained how they learned skills in high demand by employers: working as a team, putting aside differences, solving problems, thinking critically, setting goals.

"You'll find more of them will make a job instead of take a job with someone else," board Chairman Bob Rogers observed. "They'll go create their own job because it's an entrepreneurial experience for them to be in service."

President Clinton has pushed national service, spurred largely by the ideas of Northwestern University professor Charles Moskos, and the idea has gained broad support. It was highlighted six months ago by The Presi-

dents' Summit for America's Future, sparked by the corporation and the head of the Points of Light Foundation.

Wofford wants to see ACTS classes at every American high school, preferably more than one class per school. He leans toward requiring them. His board spent two hours with the class, although he left halfway through for a media meeting.

"It seemed to me in just that hour we were seeing a school for citizenship," Wofford said. "And if you think of what this country maybe most needs (it's to address) how you educate the next generation to be good citizens. . . . I don't think you get that by a lecture on citizenship. These students were in action learning what it is to be a citizen, the kind we all want, taking responsibility, learning what the problems are."

Chicago Schools to Require Community Service

CHICAGO, Sept. 4 (AP) — Beginning next year, Chicago's 95,000 high school students will have to put in 60 hours of community service before they may receive a diploma.

"There is no better way to teach and reinforce honesty, respect, tolerance, work ethic, discipline, self-respect and respect for others," the schools' chief executive, Paul Vallas, said today in announcing the policy.

Similar systems have been put in place in many communities across the country. Federal judges have upheld community service requirements in Pennsylvania and New

York, and the Supreme Court rejected an appeal of the Pennsylvania case.

In Maryland, where students statewide must complete 75 hours of community service to graduate, all but 7 of 42,000 seniors completed the requirement in 1997, said Karl Pence, president of the Maryland State Teachers Association.

"We feared that for many students it would just be ticking off time," Mr. Pence said. "But I believe a lot of them found it to be much more beneficial than expected."

Mr. Pence warned that it would not

be easy to begin and coordinate a mandatory program in a major city like Chicago. "It can have a tremendous impact on the staff: coordinating, keeping track and taking responsibility," he said. "This is not necessarily a simple requirement."

Chicago students were not necessarily opposed to the requirement.

"Good idea," Elizabeth Lange, 16, a junior at Lane High School, said.

"They could start by cleaning up this lawn," she said, casting her arm across the spacious school grounds scattered with lunchtime litter.

Daniel Ortiz, a freshman at Carl

Schurz High School, said he could profit as much as anyone from community service.

"If I'm tutoring, I'm learning too," Daniel said. "But some kids won't like it because they have other things to do. Like me. I like to dance and I like to play basketball."

A spokesman for the American Association of School Administrators, Gary Marx, said there was a growing interest in community service for students.

"While we're concerned about kids having the skills to make them employable," Mr. Marx said, "we also want to make sure it's important to care about your community."

"And," he added, "it could lead to a more civil society."

DATE: November 5, 1997
CONTACT: Barbara Lohman, (202) 223-9186
Sandy Scott, (202) 606-5000

President Clinton Announces Resumption of Daily Points of Light Award



Awards Recognize Outstanding Service and Build on Momentum of Presidents' Summit

1737 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
202-223-9186
fax: 202-223-9256
TDD: 202-659-9229

WASHINGTON D.C. -- President Clinton today announced the resumption of the Daily Points of Light award, President Bush's program to recognize outstanding volunteer service. The awards program will be jointly sponsored by The Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service.

"The Points of Light initiative was one of President Bush's most creative contributions to the cause of volunteer service," said President Clinton. "I'm delighted that once again we will recognize and hold up examples of ordinary Americans doing extraordinary service. These awards will give special recognition to those who advance the goals set at the Presidents' Summit last April in Philadelphia."

"As President Clinton has said, the era of big government is over but the era of big challenges is not," said Harris Wofford, CEO of the Corporation for National Service. "To meet our challenges, we need big citizens and effective citizen action. The Daily Points of Light awards will highlight success stories and spread the word that active citizens make a difference in their community."

Points of Light Foundation CEO Robert Goodwin said, "The Daily Points of Light were cherished by the more than 1,000 people who received the award during the Bush administration. Restoring this recognition is one very special way we can all say thank you to those who serve. By rolling up their sleeves and serving, America's volunteers are forging new connections with others in need. It's this spirit the award honors."

The Daily Points of Light awards will be given five times a week, Monday through Friday, including holidays. The first award is scheduled to be announced on January 1, 1998. The Points of Light Foundation will administer the program, with funding provided by the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council. Information on nominating an individual or group for the award is available by calling (202) 223-9186.

The Points of Light Foundation, established in May 1990, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Its mission is to engage more people more effectively in volunteer community service that helps solve serious social problems. The Foundation accomplishes this mission by working with a national network of about 500 Volunteer Centers; hundreds of corporate employee volunteer programs; other nonprofits; youth and family organizations; and the media.

Created in 1993, the Corporation for National Service is a public-private partnership that administers AmeriCorps, the National Senior Service Corps, and Learn & Serve America -- programs that involve more than 1.2 million citizens of all ages and backgrounds in results-driven service. The Corporation was cosponsor of the April Presidents' Summit for America's Future with The Points of Light Foundation.

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
★ SERVICE

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Getting Things Done
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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This marker identifies the place of a publication.

Publications have not been scanned in their entirety for the purpose of digitization. To see the full publication please search online or visit the Clinton Presidential Library's Research Room.

National and Community Service Act of 1990

92

Conference Report

101st Congress 2nd Session

House of Representatives

Report 101-893

file nati' serv

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT OF 1990

OCTOBER 17, 1990.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HAWKINS, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany S. 1430]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the House to the bill (S. 1430), to enhance national and community service, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House to the text of the bill and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE.*—This Act may be cited as the “National and Community Service Act of 1990”.

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—The table of contents is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. Purposes.

TITLE I—NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE STATE GRANT PROGRAM

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Authority to make State grants.

Subtitle B—School-Aged Service

PART I—GENERAL PROGRAM

Sec. 110. Short title.

Sec. 111. General authority.

Sec. 112. Allotments.

Sec. 113. State application.

Sec. 114. Local applications.

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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON SERVICE
THE WHITE HOUSE
April 5, 1997**

Good morning. I want to talk to you today about how we can make this glorious spring a season of service all across our country. As I have said, the era of big government is over, but the era of big challenges is not. Citizen service is how we recognize that we are responsible for one another. It is the very American idea that we meet our challenges not through heavy-handed government, or as isolated individuals, but as a true community, all of us working together.

On April 27, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, we will be convening an historic Presidents' Summit on Service.

I will be joined by President Bush, General Colin Powell, by every living former president or their representative, and by other prominent Americans including former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros and Lynda Robb. Every single person or business represented at the summit will have committed to take specific steps to help serve our children and rebuild our communities. Our mission is nothing less than to spark a renewed national sense of obligation, a new sense of duty.

I hope that many activities in the weeks leading up to this wonderful event will make all Americans think about the duty we owe to one another.

Citizen service can take many shapes -- it can mean volunteering nights or on weekends in a religious group or neighborhood association, or it can mean devoting full years of your life to service like those the Peace Corps or the Jesuit Volunteer Corps.

Over the past four years, we have worked to harness this citizen energy in so many ways. And I am especially proud of AmeriCorps, the national service program that I proposed when I ran for President and that we launched the next year. Since its creation, over 50,000 young people have earned college tuition by serving their communities. It's the heart of America's basic bargain: the opportunity to go to college . . . and the responsibility to give something back.

The success of AmeriCorps shows that service can help meet our most pressing social needs, from renewing our cities to giving young children someone to look up to. And service leads to more service -- a typical AmeriCorps member trains or recruits a dozen or more community volunteers. It can help meet our most pressing challenges.

To focus the American people on the importance of our summit and the urgency of service, I will issue a proclamation designating the week of April 13-19 as a national week of service. During that week, over one million young people will participate in 3,000 events across the country, cleaning up neighborhoods, working with children.

I have asked the thousands of AmeriCorps alumni and returned Peace Corps volunteers to participate as well, reaching out to youth in their communities, speaking in schools, recruiting volunteers, and teaching a new generation about the power of service.

I hope they will teach that citizen service cannot be a pursuit for one week or one month. The ethic of service must extend throughout a lifetime. Nobody is too young to serve -- and as a recent study by Brandeis University shows, when you begin to serve at a young age, schoolwork improves and there is a good chance you will continue to serve in years to come. It's a good habit that's hard to break.

So we must find even more ways to encourage young people to serve.

I am joined here today by young men and women from Maryland, along with that State's Lieutenant Governor, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, who was a leader in making Maryland the first state in the country to require that every student perform some service as a condition of high school graduation. One of the students with me gathered food and clothing for the needy . . . another, dyslexic herself, taught disabled students . . . another tutors young children at a Head Start center.

Today I challenge schools and communities in every state to make service a part of the curriculum in high school and even in middle school. There are many creative ways to do this -- including giving students credit, making service part of the curriculum, putting service on a student's transcript, or even requiring it, as Maryland does. This week, the National Association of Secondary School Principals agreed to introduce service learning to more than 2 million students, and I hope that they work to find even more creative ways to involve service. States and schools should decide for themselves. But every American young person should be taught the joy and the duty of serving, and they should learn it at the moment when it will have the most enduring impact.

Two weeks ago, applications went out to high school principals all around the country, inviting them to select a student in that school who has performed outstanding service, making them eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. Under this new initiative, which we launched last year, the national government will put up \$500 for each student, to be matched by local communities. Already, a host of civic organizations -- including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Moose International, Lions Clubs and the U.S. Jaycees -- have accepted our challenge to work with their local chapters to provide matching funds for these scholarships.

And public servants from agencies like the Agriculture Department will work as partners with schools, sending volunteers to work with teachers and act as mentors to students.

I hope you will all join in the spirit of the Presidents' Summit on Service, and take part in the national week of service beginning April 13. Service is in our deepest national tradition. Millions of young Americans in my generation were inspired by the call to service, issued so often from this very office, by President Kennedy. Now it is up to all of us to take up President Kennedy's challenge -- remembering, as he said, that "every [person] can make a difference, and every [person] must try." Thanks for listening.

year off from college or defer a year from college under the sponsorship of their churches.

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The churches will do what we do in AmeriCorps, helping to provide for the living expenses of the young people. But I think we ought to say to them, at the very least, it shouldn't cost you any money to serve. And so if you've got a college loan and you take a year off to serve under the sponsorship of a religious organization, I'm going to propose legislation to say during that year no interest should accrue on that college loan. It should not cost you any money to serve your country. (Applause.)

But we can do more. We can double the impact of AmeriCorps with the help of our religious and charitable institutions. I want to challenge every charity, every religious group, every community group and their business supporters to give young people the support they need to do a year of community service. If you do that, then in our budget now we will be able to give every one of them the scholarship that AmeriCorps volunteers get for their year of community service. Work with your churches, work with your community organizations, and we can provide that to young people. (Applause.)

Put them to work as mentors, as teachers, as organizers of other volunteers, and we can double the number of full-time youth volunteers by adding another 50,000. By the year 2000, that would mean that in eight years, more children will have served full-time on our streets than have worked in the entire history of the Peace Corps around the world. We can change America, folks, if we'll do it together, hand in hand, community by community. (Applause.)

The same thing is true of the police corps, which offers young people a chance to pay for their college education if they'll be police officers for four years. We can triple the number of young people who do that, and I intend to try. We need more young people going as teachers into our schools. And we must support them in that.

We have to understand that we need a balance between volunteers on a part-time basis, volunteers on a full-time basis, and there is no conflict between the two. We have to understand that we value America's free enterprise system, we know we need our government, but there will never be a time when we need citizen servants more than we need them today, because these children have got to be saved one by one. (Applause.)

And let me say to all of you, the most important people here today are not the Presidents or the General or the governors or the senators. The most important people are those who teach the student to read; who save the health of the infant; who give help to families when all help seems gone. The most important title today is not Senator, Vice President, General, Governor or President. It is, as Harry Truman reminded us so long ago, the most important title any of us will ever hold in this country is the title of citizen.

This is our republic. Let us keep it. Thank you. (Applause.)

And now, I would like to call upon Mrs. Reagan and my fellow Presidents to join me in signing this Summit Declaration, "A Call to Citizen Service to Fulfill the Promise of America." We do this in the hope that in the weeks and months to come, millions and millions and millions of you will join us in putting your names to the declaration, devoting your lives to the mission and beginning the era of big citizenship for the United States.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

10:59 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

For Immediate Release

April 28, 1997

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT FORD,
PRESIDENT BUSH AND PRESIDENT CLINTON
AT LUNCHEON

Benjamin Franklin Ballroom
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1:05 P.M. EDT

GENERAL POWELL: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Ray, for those very generous words, but I've got to say to this audience that the two gentlemen you just saw, Ray Chambers and Stuart Shapiro, have been the real spark plugs behind this whole effort. It's my privilege to work with them and draw inspiration and energy from them.

This luncheon really is for two purposes: to celebrate the President's summit, but as Ray indicated, also to launch America's Promise. America's Promise is the follow-on program. And we'll say more about it a little bit later. But remember the words we've chosen -- America's promise. We're going to move away from commitments. We want you corporation leaders and nonprofit leaders and community leaders and individual Americans all over this land to make a promise to a child, make a promise that you will execute. And not just some bureaucratic commitment, but a promise.

And in the subtitle, "The Alliance for Youth" says we have a new enemy, and now we're creating a new great alliance to go after that enemy. And the enemy is the pathologies of the streets that are destroying our children -- indifference, fear among some of our youngsters that perhaps the American future isn't there for them. We're saying, yes, it is. We're making a promise to you that it is there. And we're creating an alliance to make it real for you.

And so, this is an exciting time in our nation's history. And it's going to be exciting for the next 24 hours, and I assure you for the months ahead.

We are very, very privileged to have enjoyed the support of our Presidents and our First Ladies. And it is my great privilege now to introduce one of them to you -- a man who gave us a most stirring set of remarks earlier today, and especially in that videotaped piece, President Gerald Ford. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT FORD: Thank you, Colin. (Applause.) Thank you. Won't you all sit down, please? Thank you very, very much. Thank you very, very much, Colin. Most regrettably, I could not be here last night. I understand a proper tribute was paid to George Romney, who was one of the initiators of the summit, along with Ray Chambers. I would be very remiss if I didn't make a comment about the role that George Romney had in initiating this summit.

I can recall very, very vividly his coming to my office in California not once, but several times. He was not only an outstanding governor of our state, George Romney was a totally dedicated person to the concept and the action of voluntary participation.

So, George, we all thank you for your contribution.

This morning in front of Independence Hall, where we had a magnificent gathering for a most outstanding cause, I couldn't help but think back 21 years ago on July 4, 1976, when this country celebrated its 200th birthday. I had the very high honor at that time to, first, that morning go to Valley Forge, and then to Independence Hall where we celebrated the Declaration of Independence, followed by the Tall Ship ceremony in New York Harbor. That was a magnificent day in the history of our country -- the dedication to freedom and liberty. It was a kickoff of a history of a country unparalleled in what's good about humanity.

But the meeting this morning gives us all an opportunity again at Independence Hall to show what we can do for the youth of America in the next decade. The goal of 2,000 by 2000, helping some 15 million young people, is a tremendous challenge. I hope and trust the coverage of our gathering this morning will inspire young people, adults and others to walk through that door Colin Powell has opened so they can participate in this tremendous effort to take our youth, so they can become the kind of leaders that we want for the next century.

So it's a high honor and a rare privilege for me to join President Clinton, President Bush, President Carter and others in kicking off this tremendous effort. Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

And now, it's a very special honor for me to introduce a long time very, very dear friend of my wife Betty and myself, the 41st President of the United States, George Bush. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you, Gerry. Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you all -- Mr. President, Hillary, distinguished guests. Thank you, President Ford. I can now call him Gerry. I called him "sir" for all the years we served in the Congress, and then when he became President even better than that.

Looking out at this group, I refuse to give advice to all the leaders assembled here. Remember when President Kennedy went to the group of business guys? He said, "If I

weren't President, I'd be buying stocks right now." A guy in the back said, yes, "If you weren't President, I'd be buying stocks right now." (Laughter.) So I'm not going to give any advice to this crowd.

Seeing Tipper and the Vice President here, I remember getting advice from my mother once right after a State of the Union message. President Reagan was speaking and I get home to the V.P. house; phone rings; it's mother, who gave me advice until the day she died. And said, "George, I watched the State of the Union message, and I noticed that during the message, you were talking to Tip O'Neill." (Laughter.) I said, "He started it." (Laughter.)

So, you might say, what is that apropos of? Nothing, I know I messed up last night, and I'd like to blame the TelePrompter guy, except everybody did it well with that TelePrompter Man. (Laughter.) So I will simply say, thank you to those who I know did a lot, and in doing this, I'm going to risk forgetting a lot of people here. I'm going to forget a lot of people which I shouldn't.

Of course, Colin, my friend and pal, with whom I was so proud to serve and who really has given of his heart. You know, you read all the political stuff and all of that -- this comes from his gut, from his heart. And I know it and I've been around him a lot and I have great respect. And if you don't believe he's been committed, ask Alma; she hasn't seen him in months. (Laughter.)

So, no, but he's wonderful. And Colonel Smullen (phonetic), who works with him, unsung guy behind the scenes with whom my office has worked, I want to thank him. Ray Chambers you've heard about. Ray is an inspiration. I'm getting along in years, and I've got several inspirations yet to come, I'm sure; but one of them is Ray Chambers. He came up to see me early on up in Maine. We talked about all of this, and then he delivered. Active, busy in business and all, he's just carved out an awful lot of his life to helping other people -- long before this summit, I might add. And we owe him a vote of thanks.

And, of course, Stewart Shapiro, perhaps the unsung hero of all of this who we heard from in the beginning. And then Marion Heard and Bob Goodwin.

Harris Wofford, I hadn't known. But President Clinton, you chose a good one when you picked him. He has been fantastic and he's just done a great job for all of us. (Applause.)

And there are many others -- there are many others. I hope you would excuse me if I single out Gregg Petersmeyer, who if I ever got forgetful about this concept of A Thousand Points of Light when I was in the White House, Gregg was my conscience, and he did a great job for us. So I know I'm leaving out some, but I want to say thanks to all. (Applause.)

* * * * *

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I've had a great time here and I want to thank all of you for being so patient while I lumber around with my temporary disability. Can you imagine how bad I would look if I had actually jumped out of an airplane? (Laughter.)

I'm looking forward to not being President. You know, if I can jump out of an airplane and look like Jerry Ford does in 30 years, I'll be one happy guy. That's a great thing. (Applause.)

I want to thank President Bush for all of the people that he mentioned and thanking them -- I join with that. And especially Ray Chambers and Stewart Shapiro and General Powell for their extraordinary efforts.

I'd also like to thank the leaders of the corporate and nonprofit sector who are here today, including my longtime friend, Millard Fuller, Bob Allen, Doug Watson and Gerry Greenwald and so many others. We've all been washed in the warm glow of lots of words and music and the powerful examples, and I must say I will live with the stories that the young people told last night at that event for the rest of my life.

I would just like to make two points here, because I really want this to make a difference. I think there are two keys to whether when people look back on this moment 10 years from now, they say these people really did something special, they changed America. The first is what General Powell and Ray Chambers and others are doing with the follow-up on America's promise. And everything you can do to support that, you should, making those promises. We're going to try to do our part.

I said yesterday that the Department of Defense will tutor or teach a million children in the next four years. The Department of Transportation and the contractors with whom it works have committed to reach another million kids with tutoring or teaching. We are going to go from 1,500 to 2,000 schools we've adopted.

Going back to what Eli said -- we'll have more to say about that later -- we're going to hire 10,000 people to move from welfare to work so they can support their children better. We're going to try to extend health insurance to 5 million kids and try to at least make the first two years of college as available as a high school education is today. We'll try to do our part, and we'll try to do it in very personal ways.

The last Christmas and the last birthday I had were some of the best I ever had in my life because my gift from the White House staff was a notebook of personal pledges for community service. My Secret Service detail adopted a junior high school in Washington, D.C., where those young people are getting the role models that they need. We'll try to do our part.

And the follow-up -- one reason I wanted to do this summit so badly was that I thought we could find a completely nonpartisan way to embrace this issue, and then I knew I could trust Colin Powell and Ray Chambers and the others to do good

follow-up. That's the first thing.

Here's the second thing. Let me just tell you a brief story. Before I came to Philadelphia I asked a man in Washington, D.C., named Kent Amos, a lot of you know, to come in and see me. I met him when my friend Ron Brown died in a plane crash and he was Ron's next-door neighbor. And a lot of you know he and his wife, Carmen, kind of got into this volunteer work by just taking in kids that their children went to school with who came from dysfunctional backgrounds. And they wound up having 20 or more at a time that were, in effect, living with them. And now, he's tried to take the model that he -- I thought he perfected in his own home and kind of take it into neighborhoods and communities.

But I asked him to come see me. And I said, what do you want me to do now? What can I do to help you and what do we have to do now? He said, go to that summit and tell them the breakout sessions are the most important thing that's going to occur, because unless every community gets organized, community by community, we will not have the maximum benefit of this. Because, essentially, the problem is we have an unacceptably high percentage of people living in dysfunctional environments. And you can do a number of good things for them sporadically, but until you completely change the environment, we won't have the success rate we need.

That's essentially what General Powell said in our last conversation before he took his uniform off -- that all the troubled young people that he knew who came into the military had had -- had gone from whatever dysfunctional environment they had into a completely functional environment. Now, you can't guarantee that, any of you individually. But, collectively, community by community, we can. So, in that sense, the governors and the mayors who are here are profoundly important people. And the people who run community-based nonprofits are important people.

But the only other thing I would say is, let's really pay attention to these breakout sessions, and let's promise ourselves that in addition to running up the numbers that we all promised -- and since I've got a big organization, I can promise big numbers -- but we're, honest to goodness, going to promise ourselves that we will try to change the culture in these communities from dysfunctional environments to functional ones. You saw these kids. They're great. They're going to make it. They're going to do just fine if we just give them what they need in a systematic way, place by place.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

1:26 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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President's remarks
at Phila. Summit

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

For Immediate Release

April 28, 1997

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON,
PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER,
PRESIDENT GERALD FORD, GENERAL COLIN POWELL,
MRS. NANCY REAGAN, AND VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE

Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

9:49 A.M. EDT

GENERAL POWELL: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You look wonderful out there this morning. They were worried last night that the rain would wash this out, and as early as this morning there were calls flying around town at 5:00 a.m. in the morning, should we move it. The answer was, it will not rain, not on this parade, not today, not with what we've got going on. And it did not and it will not. (Applause.)

Over 200 years ago, a group of volunteers gathered on this sacred spot to found a new nation. In perfect words, they voiced their dreams and aspirations of an imperfect world. They pledged their lives, their fortune and their sacred honor to secure inalienable rights given by God for life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness -- pledged that they would provide them to all who would inhabit this new nation.

They look down on us today in spirit, with pride for all we have done to keep faith with their ideals and their sacrifices. Yet, despite all we have done, this is still an imperfect world. We still live in an imperfect society. Despite more than two centuries of moral and material progress, despite all our efforts to achieve a more perfect union, there are still Americans who are not sharing in the American Dream. There are still Americans who are not sharing in the American Dream. There are still Americans who wonder: is the journey there for them, is the dream there for them, or, whether it is, at best, a dream deferred.

The great American poet, Langston Hughes, talked about a dream deferred, and he said, "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun, or fester like a sore and then run? Does it stink like rotten meat or crust and sugar over like a syrupy sweet? Maybe it just sags, like a heavy load. Or, does it explode?"

For too many young Americans, that dream deferred

does sag like a heavy load that's pushing them down into the ground, and they wonder if they can rise up with that load. And as we see too often in our daily life, it does explode in violence, in youngsters falling dead, shot by other youngsters. It does explode, and it has the potential to explode our society.

So today, we gather here today to pledge that the dream must no longer be deferred and it will never, as long as we can do anything about it, become a dream denied. That is why we are here, my friends. (Applause.) We gather here to pledge that those of us who are more fortunate will not forsake those who are less fortunate. We are a compassionate and caring people. We are a generous people. We will reach down, we will reach back, we will reach across to help our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Above all, we pledge to reach out to the most vulnerable members of the American family, our children. As you've heard, up to 15 million young Americans today are at risk. They are at risk of growing up unskilled, unlearned or, even worse, unloved. They are at risk of growing up physically or psychologically abused. They are at risk of growing up addicted to the pathologies and poisons of the street. They are at risk of bringing up children into the world before they, themselves have grown up. They are at risk of never growing up at all. Fifteen million young lives are at risk, may not make it unless we care enough to do something about it.

In terms of numbers, the task may seem staggering. But if we look at the simple needs that these children have, then the task is manageable, the goal is achievable. We know what they need. They need an adult caring person in their life, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start, marketable skills and an opportunity to serve so that early in their lives they learn the virtue of service so that they can reach out then and touch another young American in need.

These are basic needs that we commit ourselves today, we promise today. We are making America's promise today to provide to those children in need. This is a grand alliance. It is an alliance between government and corporate America and nonprofit America, between our institutions of faith, but especially between individual Americans.

You heard the governors and the mayors, and you'll hear more in a little minute that says the real answer is for each and every one of us, not just here in Philadelphia, but across this land -- for each and every one of us to reach out and touch someone in need.

All of us can spare 30 minutes a week or an hour a week. All of us can give an extra dollar. All of us can touch someone who doesn't look like us, who doesn't speak like us, who may not dress like us, but, by God, needs us in their lives. And that's what we all have to do to keep this going.

And so there's a spirit of Philadelphia here today. There's a spirit of Philadelphia that we saw yesterday in Germantown. There is a spirit of Philadelphia that will leave Philadelphia tomorrow afternoon and spread across this whole

nation -- 30 governors will go back and spread it; over a 100 mayors will go back and spread it, and hundreds of others, leaders around this country who are watching will go back and spread it. Corporate America will spread it, nonprofits will spread it. And each and every one of us will spread it because it has to be done, we have no choice. We cannot leave these children behind if we are going to meet the dreams of our founding fathers.

And so let us all join in this great crusade. Let us make sure that no child in America is left behind, no child in America has their dream deferred or denied. We can do it. We can do it because we are Americans. We are Americans who draw our strength from this place. We are Americans who believe to the depth of our hearts that this is not a land that was put here by historic accident, it is a land that was put here by Divine Providence who told us to be good stewards of the land, but especially to be good stewards of each other. Divine Providence gave us this land, blessed it and told us always to be proud to call it America.

And so we go forward. Let's go save our children. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

* * * * *

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Thank you, Oprah. To all of the distinguished guests; President and Mrs. Clinton, and former President and Mrs. Bush; former President Ford; Mrs. Reagan; General Powell and Mrs. Powell; to the governors and mayors and senators and congressmen and Cabinet members; and most of all, the volunteers: This is an historic day. And I want to thank you, Oprah, and once again thank you, General Colin Powell, for organizing this project and for standing strong for America's children. We're grateful to you, the whole country is. (Applause.)

In the Bible, Proverbs counsels us, "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act." And later in Isaiah, we learn, "If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noon day."

Today, in America, more and more citizens are realizing that it is within our power to act. And across America, noon day is spreading a warm light of compassion and commitment, a new spirit of service in America. We're seeing it right now in North Dakota, where tens of thousands of relief workers and volunteers responded instantly and selflessly to those terrible floods. President Clinton and I have seen these quiet American heroes in action firsthand, and we have all been inspired by what they are doing right now to help neighbors in distress. That's the American way.

We saw this spirit of service six days ago on Earth Day, Americans of today honoring their duty to Americans of tomorrow by pledging to be good stewards of the environment -- to make sure subsequent generations inherit air, water and land that

is clean, healthy and safe.

We saw it 10 days ago on NetDay, when tens of thousands of Americans came together to pull cable, install software, hook up computers and connect America's classrooms to the Information Superhighway. And we saw it last year, especially throughout the South, when neighbors, black and white, joined hands to hold back the forces of hate and rebuild churches and synagogues and other houses of worship that had burned to the ground, and say, we won't stand for it here in the United States of America. We're one nation, one community, under God and we're coming together to help one another. (Applause.)

And we saw it yesterday here in Philadelphia on Germantown Avenue. This spirit service is both rich with tradition and fresh with possibility. It is as timeless as Independence Day and as modern as NetDay, as old as America and as young as AmeriCorps. And we, all of us, must do everything we can do to keep this spirit growing.

The work of this summit is just beginning. Its goal, of course: to provide 2 million young Americans access to opportunity and opportunity and the fundamental resources they need by the year 2000 -- 2 million by 2000. We can begin by really hearing what others have to say. Indeed, sometimes the greatest act of service we can perform is to listen carefully, especially when we listen to our children.

So let's listen to them now. Two weeks ago, the summit invited young playwrights and students from all over America to create an open letter that would tell grownups how they see the goal of this summit. Here now is a peek behind the scenes at these young Americans wrestling with the same issues that confront us all.

(A film is shown.)

* * * * *

PRESIDENT FORD: As we meet at this historic hall to begin this crusade of giving, sharing and caring for the American family across the land, especially the 15 million young girls and boys who need our help, we should be optimistic, not pessimistic.

Sadly, every day the news media reports the growing number of broken homes, inadequate single family problems, drug problems rampant in our schools and on our streets, with gang warfare loose in metropolitan communities. Should we surrender? Should we capitulate to the worst elements and the challenges in our society? The answer is, emphatically, no. (Applause.)

We in America, thank goodness, have the tools to win this war. The solution is local and personal with generous financial support across the land. Yes, in our hometowns, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Canadian border to the Caribbean, people and organizations can turn disasters to success.

I personally am optimistic because I've seen firsthand a Boy Scout scoutmaster take a tenderfoot or a troop

from the worst circumstances and redirect their lives. The same, of course, is true with the Girl Scouts, the Campfire Girls. Again, as mentors we see identical benefits, from the Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the Boys and Girls Clubs throughout America. During the terrible economic Depression of the 1930s, I witnessed firsthand the uplifting impact of an athletic coach on a player or on a team when their families were on welfare or actually in bread lines. Today, the parent coaches of Little League teams do a superb jobs as mentors, teaching not only teamwork, but athletic skills and healthy habits.

A pat on the back and sound advice can help a troubled boy or a troubled girl in despair. A top-notch mentor can combine winning the game and winning the life. Our churches and synagogues, from the pulpit to the Sunday school teacher, can reach out, embrace the youth in their congregation. I've always admired the wonderful, unselfish work of the individual members of the Salvation Army. Today they are successful mentors because of their spotless dedication to helping America's youth.

A major goal of this summit is to recruit voluntary mentors who are willing to listen to and stand by a youth through joys as well as frustrations. Our mentors must have that unique ability to help the child discover and develop his or her talents. Right now, young Americans need 2 million volunteer mentors who will be caring adults. We warmly welcome volunteers from all walks of life in this great land to join in this critical crusade. By stepping forward in this crisis, you can have a tremendous impact and a tremendous benefit in the challenge to save our youth. What we do here and what you do in this decade can make a better America for the next century.

I say to all of you throughout the land, the door of opportunity is wide, wide open. Please join Colin Powell and all the others at this historic summit. This is truly a call to national service. Thank you. (Applause.)

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PRESIDENT CARTER: (speaking by videotape.) -- to a child finding his or her way in the world, this should not be a privilege, it should be a right. If your street isn't safe, fear is your constant companion. If your school and playground aren't safe, your focus is on surviving, not learning. If your home isn't safe, you have nowhere else to go. This summit recognizes this by designating a safe place one of the five fundamental resources. Kids need a place where they can just be kids, where they can play, learn, grow without constantly looking over their shoulders.

At the Carter Center, we have a program called Atlanta Project, founded on the bedrock of volunteerism. A couple of years ago thousands of volunteers fanned out across some of Atlanta's poorest neighborhoods. Going door to door, these volunteers asked their neighbors to list their major concerns and to suggest ways to improve their quality of life. It will not surprise you to learn that the number one concern was safety.

It's true in cities across our nation. Activities

that most of us take for granted, such as going out to play ball or sitting in a school classroom are fraught with peril for children and their parents. Let me share with you some of the stories I heard. One woman said that she never goes out after dark and doesn't allow her children to go out, either. "We are," she said, "prisoners in our home." Another mother told Rosalyn and me that she has knots in her stomach from the time her young son leaves for school until he returns. Because of the violence of her community, she's waiting for the day when he doesn't come home at all. "It won't really surprise me," she said.

That was one of the saddest statements I've ever heard. Several young people, both boys and girls, talked about the pressure they feel to join gangs. Without his gang to protect him, one young man said, he was sure he would be dead. A 12-year-old boy said his ambition in life is to own a semiautomatic machine gun. "I don't expect to live past the age of 20," he told us, "so why does it matter what I do with my life?"

Finally, we spoke with several young women -- children, really -- pregnant with their first, second, or even third child, who are resigned to a life of poverty and fear. These are children whose spirits have been broken, who feel there's no hope for a brighter future. They and their parents do not have confidence in the very institutions -- law enforcement, the judicial system, schools -- that were set up to serve all people.

This summit can be the beginning of a renewed commitment to our children. But the real revolution will take place only if we carry this new spirit of Philadelphia back to our own neighborhoods and turn it into action. The divisions between those of us who have many opportunities and those who feel they have none are growing deeper. Children are dying, in body and spirit.

I urge you to reach out from the safety and security of your life and extend a helping hand to someone who really knows only fear. Hand in hand, we can create a network that will ensure that our children will do more than just survive, they will thrive. Thank you. (Applause.)

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MRS. REAGAN: Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Thank you, Christina, and thank you very much for asking me here today to help begin this wonderful campaign.

I wish so much that my husband could be here. He would remind us that we're celebrating the best of America, that unique heritage that has always inspired us -- individuals and organizations have banded together since our nation began to help when there was a need. Some have been at it for years. For instance, Save The Children began in 1932, and is continuing to help all over the world.

You know, in my experience, whether it was the foster grandparents program in California, or the private sector initiative in Washington, or the Just Say No campaign to stop

drugs, I've always found that when I give I received tenfold in return.

Ronnie's dream remains that America will be that shining city on the hill, and to make that dream come true we must never fall short in our efforts to ensure that every child in America can fly as high as his or her dreams will take them.

Ronnie is such a caring person. He's always been moved by human kindness. So, for him and for me, I ask a special favor of everyone watching or listening today. From this day forward, when someone asks you to help a child, just say, "yes." (Applause.) Thank you. (Applause.)

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PRESIDENT BUSH: The American Dream is one of the most stirring phrases I know, and it means so many things to so many people all over the world. It means the freedom to worship your own God in your own way without fear of persecution. It means freedom of speech and assembly, and, perhaps most importantly, the freedom to vote. And these are wonderful freedoms. But sometimes I'm afraid we all take them for granted.

And, yet, the American Dream also means something else. It means the opportunity to go as far in life as your abilities will take you. Anyone in America can aspire to be a doctor, a teacher, a police officer or even, as Oprah said, a President. But you can't get any of those important jobs if you don't have the opportunity to acquire the skills you need. You need to learn your job, whatever your dream, before you can do your job. And that's why I believe that the key to the American Dream is education.

And at the most basic level, it gets down to one "R" -- reading. Barbara and I are deeply troubled to know that 2,300 teenagers drop out of school every day. And this is more than a terrible loss to America, it's an epidemic. It just seems wrong that 6.5 million American kids between kindergarten and the 3rd grade are growing up illiterate. Something has gone wrong.

But I am thankful that something right is starting to happen at this summit, because Americans are starting to take it upon themselves to point our kids in the right direction on the road that leads to the American Dream. And the commitments made toward this end are simply terrific. Continental Cable Vision is going to provide free Internet connections to 3 million youngsters by the year 2000. Another great organization, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, is establishing volunteer tutoring and literacy centers in 6,500 towns and cities across this country. (Applause.) And another, Scholastic Books, will donate one million books to the American Reads project to help us reach our goal of a hundred percent literacy for every child by grade three. (Applause.)

You know, humanity has produced few documents more beautiful than the one that Jefferson, Madison and the other founding fathers sweated over here in Philadelphia some 220 years ago -- life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are magnificent words to live by. But you can't understand them if you can't

read them.

Thank you very much.
(Applause.)

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PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I want to begin by taking Matthew and Teevee (phonetic) and Christina and Jamil (phonetic) and Christy (phonetic) for introducing the Presidents and Mrs. Reagan. They reminded us of what this summit is all about.

I thank President and Mrs. Bush, President and Mrs. Carter, President Ford, Mrs. Reagan, Vice President and Mrs. Gore for their devotion to this endeavor. I thank Harris Wofford and Bob Goodwin, the President of the Points of Light Foundation; Henry Cisneros and Linda Robb; and all the others who have worked for this day. I say a special word of thanks to all the public officials who have come from all over our country -- members of Congress, governors, lieutenant governors and others. But, particularly, I want to thank General Colin Powell.

At our last meeting, when he was about to retire as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I asked him if there was another mission which might bring him back into public life. He said he wanted to help children who didn't have what they needed to succeed in life and who needed the chance to serve America.

Well, General, this may be your most important mission, and I want to thank you for reenlisting. Thank you.
(Applause.)

I thank my friend, Mayor Rendell, and the wonderful people of Philadelphia; Governor Ridge and the people of Pennsylvania who have made us feel so welcome.

We come here before the house where America was born. The place where we, the people, took the first step on our centuries-old journey to form a more perfect union. On the last day of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin walked out of this hall and encountered a woman anxious to know what had gone on inside. She asked him, "Well, Doctor, what have we got? A monarchy or a republic?" Mr. Franklin replied, "A republic --if you can keep it."

For more than 200 years, we have struggled to keep this republic. It is an enduring and endless challenge, for endemic in human nature and human frailty are successive generations of problems. But we have always succeeded in making our union more perfect. Consider how imperfect it was when we had people in this country who weren't even treated as people, but slaves. Consider how imperfect it was when children could be forced to work long hours into the night in dangerous conditions. Consider how imperfect it was when women, now more than half the population of America, could not even vote.

So when you get discouraged, remember, we have succeeded in over 200 years in forming a more perfect union.
(Applause.) We have succeeded because we've had a brilliant free

enterprise system. We have succeeded because we had flexible constitutional, evolving, effective government at every level. But we have succeeded mostly because in the gaps between what is done by government and what is done by the private economy, citizens have found ways to step forward and move our country forward, and lift our people up. Citizen service is the story of our more perfect union.

Now we live in one of the great moments of change in our history, more full of promise, as President Ford said, than any period of America's past. More of these children behind me, and more of these children out here on these streets of Philadelphia, will have more chances to live out the future of their dreams than any generation of American children in history if the citizens of this country step forward to fill the gaps in their live and in our national life to form a more perfect union. (Applause.)

But let us not be blind to the facts. Even with all the progress that together we have made -- with 12 million new jobs and a record drop in welfare rolls and years of dropping crime rates -- you and I know that millions of our children are being left behind in lives of too much danger, too many drugs, too little hope and not enough opportunity. You and I know that too many people are out there doing the very best they can and still not keeping up, much less moving forward.

Yes, there are things that the government should do. None of us stand here, President and former Presidents, to say that we must not do our responsibility. Of course, we should do better with our schools. Of course, we should open the doors of college to everyone. Of course, all our children should have health care coverage. Of course, we can do more to make our streets safer. But even if we do everything we should, you and I know that a lot of the problems facing our children are problems of the human heart -- problems that can only be resolved when there is a one-on-one connection, community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, street by street, home by home, with every child in this country entitled to live out their God-given destiny. You know it is true. (Applause.)

I am proud of the fact that because of the computer and microsolutions to problems we don't need big government bureaucracies to do some of the things that used to be done. But as I have said repeatedly, the era of big government may be over, but the era of big challenges for our country is not, and so we need an era of big citizenship. That is why we are here, and that is what we should promise ourselves we will do. (Applause.)

Let me say one other thing, too. Look at these kids behind me. They're America's future -- all of them. And when you think of what is tearing the world apart today -- the racial, the ethnic, the religious hatreds, from Bosnia to Northern Ireland to the Middle East to Africa -- and you look at the children behind me and you realize what a gift from God our diversity is, you know that if we know each other, if we serve each other, if we work with each other, one of the things that will happen is, we will make sure that our diversity is a rich resource to make our union more perfect, not an instrument of our national undoing in the 21st century. (Applause.)

We cherish our citizen volunteers. There are already more than 90 million of us, and after this summit there will be more. Especially because General Powell, Ray Chambers and others have organized a follow-up to this. And the really important work of this summit will begin after my talk's over, when you go into the workshops and the meetings and make a commitment that in every community there will be a systematic, disciplined, comprehensive effort to deal with the five areas outlined as the challenges for our young people. That is what really matters here.

Young people, above all, however, have the time, the energy and the idealism for this kind of citizen service. Before they have their own families, the young can make a unique contribution to the family of America. In doing so, they can acquire the habit of service and get a deeper understanding of what it really means to be a citizen. That is the main reason, perhaps, we are here.

In Philadelphia, the Superintendent of Schools is working to make service the expected thing in elementary and middle schools. Maryland has required it in high school. And I challenge every state and every school in this country at least to offer in a disciplined, organized way every young person in school a chance to serve. A recent survey said if they were just asked, over 90 percent of them would do it. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves if we don't give them the chance to do that. (Applause.)

Let me also say, of course, that we need some of them to serve full-time. They do, you know, in the Peace Corps. And -- (applause) -- we have some former Peace Corps volunteers out there applauding. But we should all applaud them because they have helped to change the world for the better. (Applause.) And they do in AmeriCorps, the national service program that was started in our administration. (Applause.) The idea behind AmeriCorps was to instill an ethic of mutual responsibility in our children so that young people could improve their own lives in return for improving the life of America.

Since its creation, 50,000 young Americans have earned college tuition by serving their communities in many ways. And we know that the typical full-time community servant recruits at least a dozen more volunteers. I saw that in North Dakota when I went to see what the Red River had done to Grand Forks and to the rest of North Dakota and Minnesota. I saw our young AmeriCorps volunteers and I knew that because they were able to serve full-time they'd be there when the waters receded, the mess was there, the people had to put their lives back together and the cameras were gone. I saw it again yesterday when we were working on the streets and on the stadium and on the schools.

The will to serve has never been stronger and more of our young people want to serve full-time. But there's a limit to what we can do now. And, yet, there is a solution -- ironically, one I came to right here in Philadelphia. For here in Philadelphia a minister who is a friend of mine, Reverend Tony Campolo, is helping to organize a movement among churches to get churches to sponsor 10,000 full-time youth volunteers to take a



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White House Press Release

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Remarks By President Bill Clinton, President George Bush, President Jimmy Carter, President Gerald Ford, General Colin Powell, Mrs. Nancy Reagan, And Vice President Al Gore

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

For Immediate Release
28, 1997

April

Remarks By **President** Bill Clinton,
President George Bush, **President** Jimmy Carter,
President Gerald Ford, General Colin Powell,
Mrs. Nancy Reagan, And Vice **President** Al Gore

Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

9:49 A.M. Edt

General Powell: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You look wonderful out there this morning. They were worried last night that the rain would wash this out, and as early as this morning there were calls flying around town at 5:00 a.m. in the morning, should we move it. The answer was, it will not rain, not on this parade, not today, not with what we've got going on. And it did not and it will not. (Applause.)

Over 200 years ago, a group of volunteers gathered on this sacred spot to found a new nation. In perfect words, they voiced their dreams and aspirations of an imperfect world. They pledged their lives, their fortune and their sacred honor to secure inalienable rights given by God for life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness -- pledged that they would provide them to all who would inhabit this new nation.

They look down on us today in spirit, with pride for all we have done to keep faith with their ideals and their sacrifices. Yet, despite all we have done, this is still an imperfect world. We still live in an imperfect society. Despite more than two centuries of moral and material progress, despite all our efforts to achieve a more perfect union, there are still

Americans who are not sharing in the American Dream. There are still Americans who are not sharing in the American Dream. There are still Americans who wonder: is the journey there for them, is the dream there for them, or, whether it is, at best, a dream deferred.

The great American poet, Langston Hughes, talked about a dream deferred, and he said, "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun, or fester like a sore and then run? Does it stink like rotten meat or crust and sugar over like a syrupy sweet? Maybe it just sags, like a heavy load. Or, does it explode?"

For too many young Americans, that dream deferred does sag like a heavy load that's pushing them down into the ground, and they wonder if they can rise up with that load. And as we see too often in our daily life, it does explode in violence, in youngsters falling dead, shot by other youngsters. It does explode, and it has the potential to explode our society.

So today, we gather here today to pledge that the dream must no longer be deferred and it will never, as long as we can do anything about it, become a dream denied. That is why we are here, my friends. (Applause.) We gather here to pledge that

those of us who are more fortunate will not forsake those who are less fortunate. We are a compassionate and caring people. We are a generous people. We will reach down, we will reach back, we will reach across to help our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Above all, we pledge to reach out to the most vulnerable members of the American family, our children. As you've heard, up to 15 million young Americans today are at risk. They are at risk of growing up unskilled, unlearned or, even worse, unloved. They are at risk of growing up physically or psychologically abused. They are at risk of growing up addicted to the pathologies and poisons of the street. They are at risk of bringing up children into the world before they, themselves have grown up. They are at risk of never growing up at all. Fifteen million young lives are at risk, may not make it unless we care enough to do something about it.

In terms of numbers, the task may seem staggering. But if we look at the simple needs that these children have, then the task is manageable, the goal is achievable. We know what they need. They need an adult caring person in their life, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start, marketable skills and an opportunity to serve so that early in their lives they learn the virtue of service so that they can reach out then and touch another young American in need.

These are basic needs that we commit ourselves today, we promise today. We are making **America's** promise today to provide to those children in need. This is a grand alliance. It is an alliance between government and corporate **America** and nonprofit **America**, between our institutions of faith, but especially between individual Americans.

You heard the governors and the mayors, and you'll hear more in a little minute that says the real answer is for each and every one of us, not just here in Philadelphia, but across this land -- for each and every one of us to reach out and touch someone in need.

All of us can spare 30 minutes a week or an hour a week. All of us can give an extra dollar. All of us can touch someone who doesn't look like us, who doesn't speak like us, who may not dress like us, but, by God, needs us in their lives. And that's what we all have to do to keep this going.

And so there's a spirit of Philadelphia here today. There's a spirit of Philadelphia that we saw yesterday in Germantown. There is a spirit of Philadelphia that will leave Philadelphia tomorrow afternoon and spread across this whole nation -- 30 governors will go back and spread it; over a 100 mayors will go back and spread it, and hundreds of others, leaders around this country who are watching will go back and spread it. Corporate **America** will spread it, nonprofits will spread it. And each and every one of us will spread it because it has to be done, we have no choice. We cannot leave these children behind if we are going to meet the dreams of our founding fathers.

And so let us all join in this great crusade. Let us make sure that no child in **America** is left behind, no child in **America** has their dream deferred or denied. We can do it. We can do it because we are Americans. We are Americans who draw our strength from this place. We are Americans who believe to the depth of our hearts that this is not a land that was put here by historic accident, it is a land that was put here by Divine Providence who told us to be good stewards of the land, but especially to be good stewards of each other. Divine Providence gave us this land, blessed it and told us always to be proud to call it **America**.

And so we go forward. Let's go save our children. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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Vice **President** Gore: Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Thank you, Oprah. To all of the distinguished guests; **President** and Mrs. Clinton, and former **President** and Mrs. Bush; former **President** Ford; Mrs. Reagan; General Powell and Mrs. Powell; to the governors and mayors and senators and congressmen and Cabinet members; and most of all, the volunteers: This is an historic day. And I want to thank you, Oprah, and once again thank you, General Colin Powell, for organizing this project and for standing strong for **America's** children. We're grateful to you, the whole country is. (Applause.)

In the Bible, Proverbs counsels us, "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act." And later in Isaiah, we learn, "If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noon day."

Today, in **America**, more and more citizens are realizing that it is within our power to act. And across **America**, noon day is spreading a warm light of compassion and commitment, a new spirit of service in **America**. We're seeing it right now in North Dakota, where tens of thousands of relief workers and volunteers responded instantly and selflessly to those terrible floods. **President** Clinton and I have seen these quiet American heroes in action firsthand, and we have all been

inspired by what they are doing right now to help neighbors in distress. That's the American way.

We saw this spirit of service six days ago on Earth Day, Americans of today honoring their duty to Americans of tomorrow by pledging to be good stewards of the environment -- to make sure subsequent generations inherit air, water and land that is clean, healthy and safe.

We saw it 10 days ago on NetDay, when tens of thousands of Americans came together to pull cable, install software, hook up computers and connect **America's** classrooms to the Information Superhighway. And we saw it last year, especially throughout the South, when neighbors, black and white, joined hands to hold back the forces of hate and rebuild churches and synagogues and other houses of worship that had burned to the ground, and say, we won't stand for it here in the United States of **America**. We're one nation, one community, under God and we're coming together to help one another. (Applause.)

And we saw it yesterday here in Philadelphia on Germantown Avenue. This spirit service is both rich with tradition and fresh with possibility. It is as timeless as Independence Day and as modern as NetDay, as old as **America** and as young as AmeriCorps. And we, all of us, must do everything we can do to keep this spirit growing.

The work of this **summit** is just beginning. Its goal, of course: to provide 2 million young Americans access to opportunity and opportunity and the fundamental resources they need by the year 2000 -- 2 million by 2000. We can begin by really hearing what others have to say. Indeed, sometimes the greatest act of service we can perform is to listen carefully, especially when we listen to our children.

So let's listen to them now. Two weeks ago, the **summit** invited young playwrights and students from all over **America** to create an open letter that would tell grownups how they see the goal of this **summit**. Here now is a peek behind the scenes at these young Americans wrestling with the same issues that confront us all.

(A film is shown.)

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President Ford: As we meet at this historic hall to begin this crusade of giving, sharing and caring for the American family across the land, especially the 15 million young girls and boys who need our help, we should be optimistic, not pessimistic.

Sadly, every day the news media reports the growing number of broken homes, inadequate single family problems, drug problems rampant in our schools and on our streets, with gang warfare loose in metropolitan communities. Should we surrender? Should we capitulate to the worst elements and the challenges in our society? The answer is, emphatically, no. (Applause.)

We in **America**, thank goodness, have the tools to win this war. The solution is local and personal with generous financial support across the land. Yes, in our hometowns, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Canadian border to the Caribbean, people and organizations can turn disasters to success.

I personally am optimistic because I've seen firsthand a Boy Scout scoutmaster take a tenderfoot or a troop from the worst circumstances and redirect their lives. The same, of course, is true with the Girl Scouts, the Campfire Girls. Again, as mentors we see identical benefits, from the Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the Boys and Girls Clubs throughout **America**. During the terrible economic Depression of the 1930s, I witnessed firsthand the uplifting impact of an athletic coach on a player or on a team when their families were on welfare or actually in bread lines. Today, the parent coaches of Little League teams do a superb jobs as mentors, teaching not only teamwork, but athletic skills and healthy habits.

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A major goal of this **summit** is to recruit voluntary mentors who are willing to listen to and stand by a youth through joys as well as frustrations. Our mentors must have that unique ability to help the child discover and develop his or her talents. Right now, young Americans need 2 million volunteer mentors who will be caring adults. We warmly welcome volunteers from all walks of life in this great land to join in this critical crusade. By stepping forward in this crisis, you can have a tremendous impact and a tremendous benefit in the challenge to save our youth. What we do here and what you do in this decade can make a better **America** for the next century.

I say to all of you throughout the land, the door of opportunity is wide, wide open. Please join Colin Powell and all the others at this historic **summit**. This is truly a call to national service. Thank you. (Applause.)

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President Carter: (speaking by videotape.) -- to a child finding his or her way in the world, this should not be a privilege, it should be a right. If your street isn't safe, fear is your constant companion. If your school and playground aren't safe, your focus is on surviving, not learning. If your home isn't safe, you have nowhere else to go. This **summit** recognizes this by designating a safe place one of the five fundamental resources. Kids need a place where they can just be kids, where they can play, learn, grow without constantly looking over their shoulders.

At the Carter Center, we have a program called Atlanta Project, founded on the bedrock of volunteerism. A couple of years ago thousands of volunteers fanned out across some of Atlanta's poorest neighborhoods. Going door to door, these volunteers asked their neighbors to list their major concerns and to suggest ways to improve their quality of life. It will not surprise you to learn that the number one concern was safety.

It's true in cities across our nation. Activities that most of us take for granted, such as going out to play ball

or sitting in a school classroom are fraught with peril for children and their parents. Let me share with you some of the stories I heard. One woman said that she never goes out after dark and doesn't allow her children to go out, either. "We are," she said, "prisoners in our home." Another mother told Rosalyn and me that she has knots in her stomach from the time her young son leaves for school until he returns. Because of the violence of her community, she's waiting for the day when he doesn't come home at all. "It won't really surprise me," she said.

That was one of the saddest statements I've ever heard. Several young people, both boys and girls, talked about the pressure they feel to join gangs. Without his gang to protect him, one young man said, he was sure he would be dead. A 12-year-old boy said his ambition in life is to own a semiautomatic machine gun. "I don't expect to live past the age of 20," he told us, "so why does it matter what I do with my life?"

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This **summit** can be the beginning of a renewed commitment to our children. But the real revolution will take place only if we carry this new spirit of Philadelphia back to our own neighborhoods and turn it into action. The divisions between those of us who have many opportunities and those who feel they have none are growing deeper. Children are dying, in body and spirit.

I urge you to reach out from the safety and security of your life and extend a helping hand to someone who really knows only fear. Hand in hand, we can create a network that will ensure that our children will do more than just survive, they will thrive. Thank you. (Applause.)

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Mrs. Reagan: Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Thank you, Christina, and thank you very much for asking me here today to help begin this wonderful campaign.

I wish so much that my husband could be here. He would remind us that we're celebrating the best of **America**, that unique heritage that has always inspired us -- individuals and organizations have banded together since our nation began to help when there was a need. Some have been at it for years. For instance, Save The Children began in 1932, and is continuing to help all over the world.

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Ronnie's dream remains that **America** will be that shining city on the hill, and to make that dream come true we

must never fall short in our efforts to ensure that every child in **America** can fly as high as his or her dreams will take them.

Ronnie is such a caring person. He's always been moved by human kindness. So, for him and for me, I ask a special favor of everyone watching or listening today. From this day forward, when someone asks you to help a child, just say, "yes." (Applause.) Thank you. (Applause.)

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President Bush: The American Dream is one of the most stirring phrases I know, and it means so many things to so many people all over the world. It means the freedom to worship your own God in your own way without fear of persecution. It means freedom of speech and assembly, and, perhaps most importantly, the freedom to vote. And these are wonderful freedoms. But sometimes I'm afraid we all take them for granted.

And, yet, the American Dream also means something else. It means the opportunity to go as far in life as your abilities will take you. Anyone in **America** can aspire to be a doctor, a teacher, a police officer or even, as Oprah said, a **President**. But you can't get any of those important jobs if you don't have the opportunity to acquire the skills you need. You need to learn your job, whatever your dream, before you can do your job. And that's why I believe that the key to the American Dream is education.

And at the most basic level, it gets down to one "R" -- reading. Barbara and I are deeply troubled to know that 2,300 teenagers drop out of school every day. And this is more than a terrible loss to **America**, it's an epidemic. It just seems wrong that 6.5 million American kids between kindergarten and the 3rd grade are growing up illiterate. Something has gone wrong.

But I am thankful that something right is starting to happen at this **summit**, because Americans are starting to take it upon themselves to point our kids in the right direction on the road that leads to the American Dream. And the commitments made toward this end are simply terrific. Continental Cable Vision is going to provide free Internet connections to 3 million youngsters by the year 2000. Another great organization, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, is establishing volunteer tutoring and literacy centers in 6,500 towns and cities across this country. (Applause.) And another, Scholastic Books, will donate one million books to the American Reads project to help us reach our goal of a hundred percent literacy for every child by grade three. (Applause.)

You know, humanity has produced few documents more beautiful than the one that Jefferson, Madison and the other founding fathers sweated over here in Philadelphia some 220 years ago -- life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are magnificent words to live by. But you can't understand them if you can't read them.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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President Clinton: Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I want to begin by taking Matthew and Teevee (phonetic) and Christina and Jamil (phonetic) and Christy (phonetic) for introducing the **Presidents** and Mrs. Reagan. They

reminded us of what this **summit** is all about.

I thank **President** and Mrs. Bush, **President** and Mrs. Carter, **President** Ford, Mrs. Reagan, Vice **President** and Mrs. Gore for their devotion to this endeavor. I thank Harris Wofford and Bob Goodwin, the **President** of the Points of Light Foundation; Henry Cisneros and Linda Robb; and all the others who have worked for this day. I say a special word of thanks to all the public

officials who have come from all over our country -- members of Congress, governors, lieutenant governors and others. But, particularly, I want to thank General Colin Powell.

At our last meeting, when he was about to retire as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I asked him if there was another mission which might bring him back into public life. He said he wanted to help children who didn't have what they needed to succeed in life and who needed the chance to serve **America**.

Well, General, this may be your most important mission, and I want to thank you for reenlisting. Thank you. (Applause.)

I thank my friend, Mayor Rendell, and the wonderful people of Philadelphia; Governor Ridge and the people of Pennsylvania who have made us feel so welcome.

We come here before the house where **America** was born. The place where we, the people, took the first step on our centuries-old journey to form a more perfect union. On the last day of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin walked out of this hall and encountered a woman anxious to know what had gone on inside. She asked him, "Well, Doctor, what have we got? A monarchy or a republic?" Mr. Franklin replied, "A republic --if you can keep it."

For more than 200 years, we have struggled to keep this republic. It is an enduring and endless challenge, for endemic in human nature and human frailty are successive generations of problems. But we have always succeeded in making our union more perfect. Consider how imperfect it was when we had people in this country who weren't even treated as people, but slaves. Consider how imperfect it was when children could be forced to work long hours into the night in dangerous conditions. Consider how imperfect it was when women, now more than half the population of **America**, could not even vote.

So when you get discouraged, remember, we have succeeded in over 200 years in forming a more perfect union. (Applause.) We have succeeded because we've had a brilliant free enterprise system. We have succeeded because we had flexible constitutional, evolving, effective government at every level. But we have succeeded mostly because in the gaps between what is done by government and what is done by the private economy, citizens have found ways to step forward and move our country forward, and lift our people up. Citizen service is the story of our more perfect union.

Now we live in one of the great moments of change in our history, more full of promise, as **President** Ford said, than any period of **America's** past. More of these children behind me, and more of these children out here on these streets of Philadelphia, will have more chances to live out the **future** of their dreams than any generation of American children in history if the citizens of this country step forward to fill the gaps in

their live and in our national life to form a more perfect union.
(Applause.)

But let us not be blind to the facts. Even with all the progress that together we have made -- with 12 million new jobs and a record drop in welfare rolls and years of dropping crime rates -- you and I know that millions of our children are being left behind in lives of too much danger, too many drugs, too little hope and not enough opportunity. You and I know that too many people are out there doing the very best they can and still not keeping up, much less moving forward.

Yes, there are things that the government should do. None of us stand here, **President** and former **Presidents**, to say that we must not do our responsibility. Of course, we should do better with our schools. Of course, we should open the doors of college to everyone. Of course, all our children should have

health care coverage. Of course, we can do more to make our streets safer. But even if we do everything we should, you and I know that a lot of the problems facing our children are problems of the human heart -- problems that can only be resolved when there is a one-on-one connection, community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, street by street, home by home, with every child in this country entitled to live out their God-given destiny. You know it is true. (Applause.)

I am proud of the fact that because of the computer and microsolutions to problems we don't need big government bureaucracies to do some of the things that used to be done. But as I have said repeatedly, the era of big government may be over, but the era of big challenges for our country is not, and so we need an era of big citizenship. That is why we are here, and that is what we should promise ourselves we will do. (Applause.)

Let me say one other thing, too. Look at these kids behind me. They're **America's future** -- all of them. And when you think of what is tearing the world apart today -- the racial, the ethnic, the religious hatreds, from Bosnia to Northern Ireland to the Middle East to Africa -- and you look at the children behind me and you realize what a gift from God our diversity is, you know that if we know each other, if we serve each other, if we work with each other, one of the things that will happen is, we will make sure that our diversity is a rich resource to make our union more perfect, not an instrument of our national undoing in the 21st century. (Applause.)

We cherish our citizen volunteers. There are already more than 90 million of us, and after this **summit** there will be more. Especially because General Powell, Ray Chambers and others have organized a follow-up to this. And the really important work of this **summit** will begin after my talk's over, when you go into the workshops and the meetings and make a commitment that in every community there will be a systematic, disciplined, comprehensive effort to deal with the five areas outlined as the challenges for our young people. That is what really matters here.

Young people, above all, however, have the time, the energy and the idealism for this kind of citizen service. Before they have their own families, the young can make a unique contribution to the family of **America**. In doing so, they can acquire the habit of service and get a deeper understanding of what it really means to be a citizen. That is the main reason, perhaps, we are here.

In Philadelphia, the Superintendent of Schools is working to make service the expected thing in elementary and middle schools. Maryland has required it in high school. And I challenge every state and every school in this country at least to offer in a disciplined, organized way every young person in school a chance to serve. A recent survey said if they were just asked, over 90 percent of them would do it. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves if we don't give them the chance to do that. (Applause.)

Let me also say, of course, that we need some of them to serve full-time. They do, you know, in the Peace Corps. And -- (applause) -- we have some former Peace Corps volunteers out there applauding. But we should all applaud them because they have helped to change the world for the better. (Applause.) And they do in AmeriCorps, the national service program that was started in our administration. (Applause.) The idea behind AmeriCorps was to instill an ethic of mutual responsibility in our children so that young people could improve their own lives in return for improving the life of **America**.

Since its creation, 50,000 young Americans have earned college tuition by serving their communities in many ways. And we know that the typical full-time community servant recruits at least a dozen more volunteers. I saw that in North

Dakota when I went to see what the Red River had done to Grand Forks and to the rest of North Dakota and Minnesota. I saw our young AmeriCorps volunteers and I knew that because they were able to serve full-time they'd be there when the waters receded, the mess was there, the people had to put their lives back together and the cameras were gone. I saw it again yesterday when we were working on the streets and on the stadium and on the schools.

The will to serve has never been stronger and more of our young people want to serve full-time. But there's a limit to what we can do now. And, yet, there is a solution -- ironically, one I came to right here in Philadelphia. For here in Philadelphia a minister who is a friend of mine, Reverend Tony Campolo, is helping to organize a movement among churches to get churches to sponsor 10,000 full-time youth volunteers to take a year off from college or defer a year from college under the sponsorship of their churches.

The churches will do what we do in AmeriCorps, helping to provide for the living expenses of the young people. But I think we ought to say to them, at the very least, it shouldn't cost you any money to serve. And so if you've got a college loan and you take a year off to serve under the sponsorship of a religious organization, I'm going to propose legislation to say during that year no interest should accrue on that college loan. It should not cost you any money to serve your country. (Applause.)

But we can do more. We can double the impact of AmeriCorps with the help of our religious and charitable institutions. I want to challenge every charity, every religious group, every community group and their business supporters to give young people the support they need to do a year of community service. If you do that, then in our budget now we will be able to give every one of them the scholarship that AmeriCorps volunteers get for their year of community service. Work with your churches, work with your community organizations, and we can

provide that to young people. (Applause.)

Put them to work as mentors, as teachers, as organizers of other volunteers, and we can double the number of full-time youth volunteers by adding another 50,000. By the year 2000, that would mean that in eight years, more children will have served full-time on our streets than have worked in the entire history of the Peace Corps around the world. We can change **America**, folks, if we'll do it together, hand in hand, community by community. (Applause.)

The same thing is true of the police corps, which offers young people a chance to pay for their college education if they'll be police officers for four years. We can triple the number of young people who do that, and I intend to try. We need more young people going as teachers into our schools. And we must support them in that.

We have to understand that we need a balance between volunteers on a part-time basis, volunteers on a full-time basis, and there is no conflict between the two. We have to understand that we value **America's** free enterprise system, we know we need our government, but there will never be a time when we need citizen servants more than we need them today, because these children have got to be saved one by one. (Applause.)

And let me say to all of you, the most important people here today are not the **Presidents** or the General or the governors or the senators. The most important people are those who teach the student to read; who save the health of the infant; who give help to families when all help seems gone. The most important title today is not Senator, Vice **President**, General, Governor or **President**. It is, as Harry Truman reminded us so long ago, the most important title any of us will ever hold in this country is the title of citizen.

This is our republic. Let us keep it. Thank you. (Applause.)

And now, I would like to call upon Mrs. Reagan and my fellow **Presidents** to join me in signing this **Summit Declaration**, "A Call to Citizen Service to Fulfill the Promise of **America**." We do this in the hope that in the weeks and months to come, millions and millions and millions of you will join us in putting your names to the declaration, devoting your lives to the mission and beginning the era of big citizenship for the United States.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

End

10:59 A.M. Edt





White House Press Release

Remarks By President Ford, President Bush And President Clinton At Luncheon

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

For Immediate Release

April 28, 1997

Remarks By **President** Ford,
President Bush And **President** Clinton
At Luncheon

Benjamin Franklin Ballroom
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1:05 P.M. Edt

General Powell: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Ray, for those very generous words, but I've got to say to this audience that the two gentlemen you just saw, Ray Chambers and Stuart Shapiro, have been the real spark plugs behind this whole effort. It's my privilege to work with them and draw inspiration and energy from them.

This luncheon really is for two purposes: to celebrate the **President's summit**, but as Ray indicated, also to launch **America's Promise**. **America's Promise** is the follow-on program. And we'll say more about it a little bit later. But remember the words we've chosen -- **America's promise**. We're going to move away from commitments. We want you corporation leaders and nonprofit leaders and community leaders and individual Americans all over this land to make a promise to a child, make a promise that you will execute. And not just some bureaucratic commitment, but a promise.

And in the subtitle, "The Alliance for Youth" says we have a new enemy, and now we're creating a new great alliance to go after that enemy. And the enemy is the pathologies of the streets that are destroying our children -- indifference, fear among some of our youngsters that perhaps the American **future** isn't there for them. We're saying, yes, it is. We're making a promise to you that it is there. And we're creating an alliance to make it real for you.

And so, this is an exciting time in our nation's history. And it's going to be exciting for the next 24 hours, and I assure you for the

months ahead.

We are very, very privileged to have enjoyed the support of our **Presidents** and our First Ladies. And it is my great privilege now to introduce one of them to you -- a man who gave us a most stirring set of remarks earlier today, and especially in that videotaped piece, **President** Gerald Ford. (Applause.)

President Ford: Thank you, Colin. (Applause.) Thank you. Won't you all sit down, please? Thank you very, very much. Thank you very, very much, Colin. Most regrettably, I could not be here last night. I understand a proper tribute was paid to George Romney, who was one of the initiators of the **summit**, along with Ray Chambers. I would be very remiss if I didn't make a comment about the role that George Romney had in initiating this **summit**.

I can recall very, very vividly his coming to my office in California not once, but several times. He was not only an outstanding governor of our state, George Romney was a totally dedicated person to the concept and the action of voluntary participation.

So, George, we all thank you for your contribution.

This morning in front of Independence Hall, where we had a magnificent gathering for a most outstanding cause, I couldn't help but think back 21 years ago on July 4, 1976, when this country celebrated its 200th birthday. I had the very high honor at that time to, first, that morning go to Valley Forge, and then to Independence Hall where we celebrated the Declaration of Independence, followed by the Tall Ship ceremony in New York Harbor. That was a magnificent day in the history of our country -- the dedication to freedom and liberty. It was a kickoff of a history of a country unparalleled in what's good about humanity.

But the meeting this morning gives us all an opportunity again at Independence Hall to show what we can do for the youth of **America** in the next decade. The goal of 2,000 by 2000, helping some 15 million young people, is a tremendous challenge. I hope and trust the coverage of our gathering this morning will inspire young people, adults and others to walk through that door Colin Powell has opened so they can participate in this tremendous effort to take our youth, so they can become the kind of leaders that we want for the next century.

So it's a high honor and a rare privilege for me to join **President** Clinton, **President** Bush, **President** Carter and others in kicking off this tremendous effort. Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

And now, it's a very special honor for me to introduce a long time very, very dear friend of my wife Betty and myself, the 41st **President** of the United States, George Bush. (Applause.)

President Bush: Thank you, Gerry. Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you all -- Mr. **President**, Hillary, distinguished guests. Thank you, **President** Ford. I can now call him Gerry. I called him "sir" for all the years we served in the Congress, and then when he became **President** even better than that.

Looking out at this group, I refuse to give advice

to all the leaders assembled here. Remember when **President** Kennedy went to the group of business guys? He said, "If I weren't **President**, I'd be buying stocks right now." A guy in the back said, yes, "If you weren't **President**, I'd be buying stocks right now." (Laughter.) So I'm not going to give any advice to this crowd.

Seeing Tipper and the Vice **President** here, I remember getting advice from my mother once right after a State of the Union message. **President** Reagan was speaking and I get home to the V.P. house; phone rings; it's mother, who gave me advice until the day she died. And said, "George, I watched the State of the Union message, and I noticed that during the message, you were talking to Tip O'Neill." (Laughter.) I said, "He started it." (Laughter.)

So, you might say, what is that apropos of? Nothing, I know I messed up last night, and I'd like to blame the TelePrompter guy, except everybody did it well with that TelePrompter Man. (Laughter.) So I will simply say, thank you to those who I know did a lot, and in doing this, I'm going to risk forgetting a lot of people here. I'm going to forget a lot of people which I shouldn't.

Of course, Colin, my friend and pal, with whom I was so proud to serve and who really has given of his heart. You know, you read all the political stuff and all of that -- this comes from his gut, from his heart. And I know it and I've been around him a lot and I have great respect. And if you don't

believe he's been committed, ask Alma; she hasn't seen him in months. (Laughter.)

So, no, but he's wonderful. And Colonel Smullen (phonetic), who works with him, unsung guy behind the scenes with whom my office has worked, I want to thank him. Ray Chambers you've heard about. Ray is an inspiration. I'm getting along in years, and I've got several inspirations yet to come, I'm sure; but one of them is Ray Chambers. He came up to see me early on up in Maine. We talked about all of this, and then he delivered. Active, busy in business and all, he's just carved out an awful lot of his life to helping other people -- long before this **summit**, I might add. And we owe him a vote of thanks.

And, of course, Stewart Shapiro, perhaps the unsung hero of all of this who we heard from in the beginning. And then Marion Heard and Bob Goodwin.

Harris Wofford, I hadn't known. But **President** Clinton, you chose a good one when you picked him. He has been fantastic and he's just done a great job for all of us. (Applause.)

And there are many others -- there are many others. I hope you would excuse me if I single out Gregg Petersmeyer, who if I ever got forgetful about this concept of A Thousand Points of Light when I was in the White House, Gregg was my conscience, and he did a great job for us. So I know I'm leaving out some, but I want to say thanks to all. (Applause.)

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President Clinton: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. I've had a great time here and I want to thank all of you for

being so patient while I lumber around with my temporary disability. Can you imagine how bad I would look if I had actually jumped out of an airplane? (Laughter.)

I'm looking forward to not being **President**. You know, if I can jump out of an airplane and look like Jerry Ford does in 30 years, I'll be one happy guy. That's a great thing. (Applause.)

I want to thank **President** Bush for all of the people that he mentioned and thanking them -- I join with that. And especially Ray Chambers and Stewart Shapiro and General Powell for their extraordinary efforts.

I'd also like to thank the leaders of the corporate and nonprofit sector who are here today, including my longtime friend, Millard Fuller, Bob Allen, Doug Watson and Gerry Greenwald and so many others. We've all been washed in the warm glow of lots of words and music and the powerful examples, and I must say I will live with the stories that the young people told last night at that event for the rest of my life.

I would just like to make two points here, because I really want this to make a difference. I think there are two keys to whether when people look back on this moment 10 years from now, they say these people really did something special, they changed **America**. The first is what General Powell and Ray Chambers and others are doing with the follow-up on **America's** promise. And everything you can do to support that, you should, making those promises. We're going to try to do our part.

I said yesterday that the Department of Defense will tutor or teach a million children in the next four years. The Department of Transportation and the contractors with whom it works have committed to reach another million kids with tutoring or teaching. We are going to go from 1,500 to 2,000 schools we've adopted.

Going back to what Eli said -- we'll have more to say about that later -- we're going to hire 10,000 people to move from welfare to work so they can support their children better. We're going to try to extend health insurance to 5 million kids and try to at least make the first two years of college as available as a high school education is today. We'll try to do our part, and we'll try to do it in very personal ways.

The last Christmas and the last birthday I had were some of the best I ever had in my life because my gift from the White House staff was a notebook of personal pledges for community service. My Secret Service detail adopted a junior high school in Washington, D.C., where those young people are getting the role models that they need. We'll try to do our part.

And the follow-up -- one reason I wanted to do this **summit** so badly was that I thought we could find a completely nonpartisan way to embrace this issue, and then I knew I could trust Colin Powell and Ray Chambers and the others to do good follow-up. That's the first thing.

Here's the second thing. Let me just tell you a brief story. Before I came to Philadelphia I asked a man in Washington, D.C., named Kent Amos, a lot of you know, to come in

and see me. I met him when my friend Ron Brown died in a plane crash and he was Ron's next-door neighbor. And a lot of you know he and his wife, Carmen, kind of got into this volunteer work by just taking in kids that their children went to school with who came from dysfunctional backgrounds. And they wound up having 20 or more at a time that were, in effect, living with them. And now, he's tried to take the model that he -- I thought he perfected in his own home and kind of take it into neighborhoods and communities.

But I asked him to come see me. And I said, what do you want me to do now? What can I do to help you and what do we have to do now? He said, go to that **summit** and tell them the breakout sessions are the most important thing that's going to occur, because unless every community gets organized, community by community, we will not have the maximum benefit of this. Because, essentially, the problem is we have an unacceptably high percentage of people living in dysfunctional environments. And you can do a number of good things for them sporadically, but until you completely change the environment, we won't have the success rate we need.

That's essentially what General Powell said in our last conversation before he took his uniform off -- that all the troubled young people that he knew who came into the military had had -- had gone from whatever dysfunctional environment they had into a completely functional environment. Now, you can't guarantee that, any of you individually. But, collectively, community by community, we can. So, in that sense, the governors and the mayors who are here are profoundly important people. And the people who run community-based nonprofits are important people.

But the only other thing I would say is, let's really pay attention to these breakout sessions, and let's promise ourselves that in addition to running up the numbers that we all promised -- and since I've got a big organization, I can promise big numbers -- but we're, honest to goodness, going to promise ourselves that we will try to change the culture in these communities from dysfunctional environments to functional ones. You saw these kids. They're great. They're going to make it. They're going to do just fine if we just give them what they need in a systematic way, place by place.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

End

1:26 P.M. Edt



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White House Press Release

Remarks By The President And The First Lady To Students, Teachers Parents And Americorps Volunteers

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

For Immediate Release

April 28, 1997

Remarks By The **President**
And The First Lady To
Students, Teachers Parents And
Americorps Volunteers

George Washington Nebinger Elementary School
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

2:46 P.M. Edt

Mrs. Clinton: We are so happy to be here with all of you to celebrate service, and particularly to thank all of the AmeriCorps volunteers who have become partners with the teachers and parents and students of this school.

As we have seen over the past several years, ever since the **President** started AmeriCorps, it literally can change lives. And as we heard from Tiffany and Darryl, it has changed the lives of students here at this school. And I am delighted that as we gather in Philadelphia to celebrate service we are celebrating AmeriCorps, Youth Build, and the National Security and Community Corps. (Applause.)

As the **President** said earlier today, there are many ways to serve. And I know that many of you in this school have found ways to serve, to be helpful to your family, your neighbors, your friends. And AmeriCorps gives us a good example of what service is today on the front lines, working with people like the students here. And the person who made AmeriCorps possible, who believes that the vast majority of the young people in **America** are good, decent, hard-working young people who are doing the best we can is the **President** of the United States, whom I would like to introduce to you now. (Applause.)

President Clinton: Thank you. Thank you very much. I am so pleased to be here. Thank you for making me feel so welcome. I want to say to all of you, I have looked forward to coming to this school since I knew I was coming to Philadelphia, because I knew when I came here the people who come with me, including the press corps, would see what we're talking about when we talk about service. And we say that everyone can serve, everyone can make a difference. And if all young people serve we can turn this country around and put it in the right direction for every single child in **America**. (Applause.)

I want to thank so many people. I thank your principal, John Krauss; the superintendent and my long-time friend, David Hornbeck. And thank you, Harris Wofford, for doing a wonderful job with the Corporation for National Service. (Applause.) I kind of hated to hear David Hornbeck say we had more AmeriCorps volunteers in the Philadelphia schools than anywhere else because now somebody will think that he was doing the home folks a little home cooking. (Laughter.) But I'm glad you're here. And you ought to be here in Philadelphia, where our country got started.

I want to thank the young AmeriCorps volunteers I just saw inside who work with you, Phil -- Antoine Jackson and William McBride. I saw them in the school there. (Applause.) I'd like to thank your wonderful Congressman, Tom Foglietta, and Congressman Don Payne from New Jersey and Congressman Sam Ford

who came all the way from California to be here with us today. We're glad to see them. (Applause.)

I'd like to thank Latifa Beard (phonetic) and the other students here at the Student Council -- the student body -- who gave Hillary and me the gifts. And I'd like to say that I thought Tiffany and Darryl did a very good job introducing the First Lady, didn't you? (Applause.)

And, finally, I'd like to thank Jahi Davis for speaking on behalf of all the AmeriCorps volunteers. He helped me with the **President's** Service Awards last night and he said what he had to say today better than I ever could.

I just want to say to all of you that when I ran for **President** for the first time, starting now more than five years ago, I had a dream that I could give young people in this country a chance to serve in their communities, to help children, to make places safer, to make the schools work better, to deal with the health problems and the worries and the fears of our children and build up their hopes, and at the same time earn a little money for a college education. That's how AmeriCorps was born.

I really dreamed that someday I could walk into a school like Nebinger Elementary and see what I saw today -- two young people tutoring five-year-olds, talking to them about their lives and their **future**. One of the young men actually dropped out of high school before joining AmeriCorps, but now, because of AmeriCorps, he wants to be able to help young people from now on and to go on with his own education. We learn that by giving and serving other people, we're actually helping ourselves.

I told somebody the other day that if we could get everybody in **America** to serve, we'd have the happiest country on Earth, and people would see that service is selfish. Did you ever see an unhappy person who was really helping somebody else? Aren't you all happier because you're in Youth Build, because you're in the National School and Community Corps? (Applause.)

And that's what the **Presidents** and General Powell and others have come together to do here in Philadelphia at this **President's Summit** of Service. We want to try to help guarantee that our children have a better **future**. And what I want to do is to challenge every young person in **America** to serve -- as a volunteer or as a full-time community service person.

Let me tell you, since AmeriCorps opened its door just four years ago, we've had 50,000 young people and some not so young -- 50,000 serve in communities the way these young AmeriCorps volunteers are today. And it's making a difference for **America's future**. (Applause.) More importantly, the average AmeriCorps volunteer helps to generate another 12 part-time volunteers who come along and help. That's what makes **America** strong.

And what I asked **America** to do today was to support me in making it possible for many more young people to serve, like Jahi and the other AmeriCorps volunteers have done, because I found out that here in Philadelphia there's another movement going on spearheaded by a minister whose a friend of mine named Tony Campolo. He's going around to churches and saying, you ought to support young people the way AmeriCorps support young people and pay for them to have living expenses so they can serve a year in community service work.

Today, I said, if those young people do that through their churches or their synagogues or their mosques, through their community organizations, we will make sure, number one, if they're in college and they've got a student loan that they don't have to pay any interest on the student loan during the year that they're working and no interest builds up. (Applause.)

And, number two, if they're willing to go out and meet the same standard of hard work and long hours that the AmeriCorps volunteers meet, they will also become eligible for the scholarship. That could bring 50,000 more young people into the kind of community service we see with Youth Build and with the National School and Community Corps. (Applause.)

And, finally, let me say, you know what the project was that kids were working on in the class I just visited? Every one of them was talking about how they like to serve. Every one of those young children had to say, I like to help, I like to do something, and then draw a picture of what they like to do. No one is too young to serve. No one is too old to serve.

We are the most diverse country in the world with a big democracy. We have people from all different races, all different ethnic groups, all different religions. But when we live together and work together and reach across the lines that divide us, we are the most interesting, the most powerful, the most vital country in human history. If we serve, that's the kind of country we'll be in the 21st century for all these children. That's my promise to you and I want it to be your promise to yourselves.

God bless you and keep it up. (Applause.)

End

3:55 P.M. Edt



White House Press Release

Remarks By President Clinton, President Carter, President Bush, General Colin Powell, And The Vice President

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

For Immediate Release
27, 1997

April

Remarks By **President** Clinton,
President Carter, **President** Bush,
General Colin Powell, And The Vice **President**

Marcus Foster Stadium
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

11:05 A.M. Edt

General Powell: Distinguished guests on the stand with me, ladies and gentlemen, I just want to say to you, it's good to have an army again. I love it! (Applause.)

And it's going to be a great army. Just look around at the uniforms of orange and blue and yellow. Look at us as Americans, white and black, all coming together here in Philadelphia, the birthplace of this great nation. (Applause.) We're coming together because we care. We're coming together because we're a compassionate people. We are coming together because we can look out across **America** and see problems that we can do something about.

We see young people in need, young people who are wondering, is there an American Dream for me; can I achieve my dream; can I achieve my ambition; will people help me; will somebody reach and lift me up? I wonder about that. And the answer we're going to give them is, yes, **America** cares. Each and every one of us cares. (Applause.)

This is not the time to say, are you substituting for government? This is not the time to ask, is there more that government should be doing or less that government should be

doing? This is a time for each and every one of us to look into our own heart, to look into our own community, find someone who is in need, find someone who is wanting, find someone who is looking up to us, and for each and every one of us to reach down, to reach back, to reach across, to lift up a fellow American and put him on the road to success in this wonder country of ours. We can do it. (Applause.)

For those who say, how far can you get, the answer is, not sure yet. There are 15 million young Americans in need, and we should not be satisfied until we have touched the life of every one of those 15 million American youngsters. (Applause.)

How can we fail if we get this kind of an outpouring in Philadelphia -- an outpouring that will be repeated in cities and towns across this nation? This has to be a crusade, a campaign, an alliance that goes on for months and years into the future. How can we fail when we have the kind of commitment we see from our **Presidents** and our political leaders and our public spirited leaders and all the leaders in every institution of **America**? How can we fail when we live in a country as great as ours? How can we fail if we are a people as great as we are? We are Americans. We can make it happen. We will make it happen. We must make it happen. (Applause.)

And now, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure to introduce someone who has been supportive of this effort from the very, very beginning and whose counsel I have used to great value over the last several weeks, and that is our

distinguished Vice **President** of the United States -- Vice **President** Al Gore. (Applause.)

Vice **President** Gore: Thank you. Thank you very much. Hello, Philadelphia! (Applause.) Are you ready for service? (Applause.) Well, thank you.

And, General Powell, I'm going to have the privilege of introducing you tomorrow, but I want to take this opportunity right here and now, at the beginning of this tremendous weekend that kicks off a dramatic national effort -- if I can be so presumptuous, I'd like to speak for the entire United States of **America** in saying to General Colin Powell, thank you for leading this effort on the ground, being a point man. We appreciate it. (Applause.)

Tipper and I are so honored to be here with **President** and Mrs. Clinton. And I'm going to say just a word about them in just a moment. We're honored to be here with **President** Bush, a former Commander-in-Chief and current paratrooper -- (applause) -- and Mrs. Bush. And we want to thank the two of you for your life long commitment to volunteerism and service and for your leadership on this occasion.

And you know, **President** and Mrs. Carter were introduced early as **America's** first volunteer couple. They have been out there with hammers and saws, and we appreciate your leadership here. (Applause.)

And to Alma Powell, to Governor Ridge and Mayor Rendell and Judge Midge Rendell, all the distinguished members of the congressional delegation, Senator Specter and Congressman Borski and Fattah and Foglietta, and Secretary Cisneros and, you know, **President** Ford is going to be here a little bit later. And

I want to acknowledge the daughter of former **President** Johnson, Linda Johnson Robb, who is also here, and all of the others who have played a part in this event. (Applause.)

I'm not quite sure how I feel about being surrounded by all of this star power. It reminds me a little of when championship sports teams visit the White House, like the Bulls did a couple of weeks ago. Maybe the next team will be the Philadelphia Flyers. You can't tell. (Applause.)

But when events like that happen at the White House, they're really great, but not necessarily for me, because people go crazy and they're so excited, I just get brushed aside, pushed to the back of the room and, if I'm lucky, somebody will see me alone in the corner and say, "Excuse me, Al, can you take a picture of me and Michael Jordan?" (Laughter.) And I answer, "Of course, Mr. **President**." (Laughter.)

Tomorrow is a wonderful day, the start of something big. Thank all of you for being here to kick off and participate in this truly historic **summit**. I've been listening, as maybe some of you have, to the overwhelming chorus of approval from Americans that come from every part of our country to say now is the time. Let's do it. Let's put all the divisions behind us. Let's all pitch in -- black, white, brown, yellow, red, Democrat, Republican -- every ideological combination. (Applause.) This is a good thing.

You'll hear a few voices, both on the right and on the left, saying they don't like this or they don't like that. Well, all of the other debates ought to be put to one side because this means we're coming together as a nation to help those who need help. Regardless of what the government does. We're going to pitch in as individual Americans and do what we can. Right? (Applause.)

I want to say that **President** and Mrs. Clinton and Tipper and I have had occasion -- many occasions during the last four years to put on work clothes and rebuild a church, or paint houses, or build houses with **President** and Mrs. Carter, and volunteerism is goof for the soul and good for this country. **President** Clinton has tried to embody that spirit in the AmeriCorps program, in the **America** Reads program -- (applause) -- and there are all different kinds of volunteerism and they all do a lot of good if they're organized correctly.

This kickoff is the time when all of it is brought together. Let's make sure that this is not just a volunteerism **summit**, but the beginning of a volunteerism movement that continues from Philadelphia all across the United States of **America**. Let's do it! (Applause.)

General Powell: And now, ladies and gentlemen, it's my great pleasure to introduce **President** Jimmy Carter. (Applause.)

President Carter: Thank you. (Applause.) No one can come to Philadelphia, the birthplace of freedom and equality in this nation, without thinking about the last more than 200 years of evolution of our great country. We have people here from every nation on Earth, totally different. It's not a melting pot, it's kind of like a mosaic with different people looking different ways, but forming a beautiful picture. But the thing that is constant for all of us is twofold. One is a

commitment to freedom, and the other one is a commitment to equality.

I don't think there's much doubt that in this country we do have freedom. But I don't think there's much doubt that in this country we do not yet have equality. (Applause.) In many ways, we have two **Americas**. We have two Philadelphias. We have two Atlantas. We have two Los Angeleses. One of them is a rich nation with a decent home in which to live, with fairly good health care and education and a job opportunity, and a belief that the police are on our side and that the judicial system is fair, and that if we make a decision, it will make a difference at least in our own lives. Those are the rich people. But we have a lot of neighbors who don't have any of those things.

This **summit** is designed to correct that problem in our great country. (Applause.) What can we do about it? You tell me -- what can we do about it? Volunteer, right? What can we do about it? Volunteer. If we want to have a lot of adventure in life, we can --

Audience: Volunteer.

President Carter: -- volunteer. If we want to do something that's unpredictable, we can --

Audience: Volunteer.

President Carter: -- volunteer. If we want to make new friends, we can --

Audience: Volunteer.

President Carter: -- volunteer. If we want to have a gratifying experience, we can --

Audience: Volunteer.

President Carter: -- volunteer. If you want to shed a few tears of joy and happiness, we can --

Audience: Volunteer.

President Carter: -- volunteer. That's what we're here for. Let's do it. (Applause.)

General Powell: And now, ladies and gentlemen, it's my great pleasure to introduce my fellow paratrooper, **President** George Bush. (Applause.)

President Bush: Thank you, Colin. Thank you all very much. **President** Clinton and Mrs. Clinton, and Mr. Vice **President**, and **President** Carter, and, of course, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs who's now setting such a great example, Colin Powell -- what a joy it is to be working with him again.

Barbara are thrilled to be here, really. And today, we're just Americans -- not Republican, not Democrat; not Jew or Gentile; not rich or poor; not black or white. Today, we are Americans united by a common commitment to our country and to our children -- most of all to the children. (Applause.) And we're here because we want to give something back -- give something

back to this nation which has given us our freedom, and the generation that is our **future**.

And so we've come together in Philadelphia to invite our fellow citizens across this country to get involved in making your community, the whole country a better place to live.

And, of course, this morning I'm privileged to share this stage with a prestigious group of leaders, coming from the world of politics and religion and the military. But looking out here today, I see another group of leaders who are more important when it comes to volunteering and contributing in the community. And that is thousands of citizens who care. (Applause.)

If there's one message -- if there's one message for the people of this **summit**, I hope it's that you don't have to be a **President** to be a leader, and you don't have to be a First Lady to touch the life of someone else. Barbara likes to say, what happens in your house is more important than what happens in the White House. And she is absolutely right. (Applause.)

And, you know, when you look at problems we face as a nation, it would be easy to get discouraged. Too many kids are going to be hungry at night, can't read or don't have someone who cares for them. But when you realize that there isn't a problem we face in **America** that isn't being solved by somebody, someplace, then this is our call to action.

And such is the spirit of Philadelphia, epitomized by your enthusiastic Mayor. And today and tomorrow and Tuesday and beyond, there's something for each of us to do. And Barbara and I look forward to rolling up our sleeves and joining each of you in doing it -- in volunteering. Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

General Powell: Thank you very much, **President** Bush.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we put this **summit** together, we had the full support, encouragement, championship of our next speaker -- a man who has devoted his life to service and has been very, very aggressive in putting the mark of national service back on our national agenda. And he and his wife have a lifelong record of service to youth issues. It is now my great pleasure to present to you our **President, President** William Jefferson Clinton. (Applause.)

President Clinton: Thank you. Thank you very much. Good morning!

Audience: Good morning!

President Clinton: Are you ready to go to work?

Audience: Yes!

President Clinton: Are you warmed up?

Audience: Yes!

President Clinton: Have you heard all the speeches you want to hear? (Applause.)

I want to just say -- let me say, first of all, how

grateful I am to be here with all this people who have made this possible and with all of you. I thank the people of Philadelphia for being so good to me since 1992 and for being my friends and for giving me a chance to work with you to bring Philadelphia back. Thank you so much. (Applause.) I thank all your officials. I thank your wonderful Mayor.

General Powell told me when he retired from the United States Army as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that the one thing he wanted to do more than anything else was to find a way to give every child in this country a chance at a good **future**, and I thank him for doing that. (Applause.)

I thank Colin and Alma. I thank George and Barbara Bush for their examples -- Mrs. Bush with her literacy program; **President** Bush for A Thousand Points of Light. (Applause.) I thank **President** and Mrs. Carter for caring about the children of this country, for the work they've done with Habitat for Humanity and for -- (applause) -- for going all over the world to rid the children of the world of dread diseases, to give them food to eat and a decent, humane place to grow up in. I thank all of you.

But let's face it. I want everybody to face it. Why are we here? We know that a lot of us would be doing a lot of this anyway. There are a lot of wonderful volunteers in **America**. Here's why we're here. This country has produced a lot of jobs in the last four years. The crime rate is going down, the welfare rolls are going down. But we're still losing too many kids to crime, to drugs, to not having a decent income in their home and to not having a bright **future**. And we're here because we don't think we have to put up with it, and we believe together we can change it. Isn't that right? (Applause.)

I'm here because I want the young people out here to grow up in an **America** that is even greater than the **America** I grew up in. That is the eternal dream and promise, and every one of you deserves that. I'm here because, frankly, I believe that as children of God, we can never fulfill our own ambitions until we help our brothers and sisters to fulfill theirs. (Applause.) our brothers and sisters to fulfill theirs. (Applause.)

I'm here because I want to redefine the meaning of citizenship in **America**. I want the children here, starting next week, and all over **America** -- if you're asked in school, what does it mean to be a good citizen, I want the answer to be, well, to be a good citizen, you have to obey the law, you've got to go to work or be in school, you've got to pay your taxes and, oh, yes, you have to serve in your community to help make it a better place. (Applause.)

And, General Powell, since we're going to keep this going and we all have to make an account of ourselves, I'll go first. Here's my commitment to you and your project.

In the next four years, the Department of Defense will mentor, tutor and teach one million children. (Applause.) In the next four years, the Department of Transportation and the private businesses who work with them will do that for one million more. (Applause.) We will adopt a total of 2,000 schools in the federal agencies of this country. (Applause.) We will find one million reading tutors in the **America** Reads program, to make sure every child can read independently by the

3rd grade. (Applause.) And our AmeriCorps volunteers will go across this country to recruit at least a dozen more volunteers

for every one of them, to make sure that all of the items on your agenda succeed. That is our commitment. (Applause.)

Are you ready to keep your commitment?

Audience: Yes!

President Clinton: After today is over, do you promise to keep working tomorrow?

Audience: Yes!

President Clinton: And next year?

Audience: Yes!

President Clinton: And the year after that?

Audience: Yes!

President Clinton: Until the job is done?

Audience: Yes!

President Clinton: I promise. Say it!

Audience: I promise!

President Clinton: Let's go to work. God bless you. (Applause.)

General Powell: All right. The speeches are over. We've had a great morning, but now it's time to get to work. Remember what you've heard here today. Let's go out and take care of our fellow citizens. Let's be volunteers for a better **America**. Let's be prepared to serve. Let what's happening here today spread across the country to every city, to every town.

Are you ready to go, Philadelphia?

Audience: Yes!

General Powell: Well, we're going to get it on! And now I would ask Rabbi Fuchs to come forward and give us a benediction so that we can get on with our work.

End

11:37 A.M. Edt



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White House Press Release

Remarks By The President And Mrs. Clinton, The President And Mrs. Bush In Presentation Of President'S Service Awards

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

For Immediate Release

April 27, 1997

Remarks By The **President** And Mrs. Clinton,
The **President** And Mrs. Bush In
Presentation Of
President'S Service Awards

Exhibit Hall A, Convention Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

9:10 P.M. Edt

The **President**: Thank you. I like that version of "Hail To The Chief." Maybe the Marine Band could pick it up. (Laughter.)

Ladies and gentlemen, these **President's** Service Awards are traditionally presented at the White House every year, but Hillary and I are profoundly honored to be here this evening with **President** and Mrs. Bush, General Powell and all others who are part of this very important ceremony.

As all of you know, we're here along with **President** Ford, **President** and Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Reagan, here in Philadelphia where our great democracy began, for the first **President's Summit for America's future** -- to mobilize every community and challenge every citizen; to give our young people a chance to live up to their God-given potential; and to ask our young people to become citizen servants, too.

So tonight we're going to give these awards, very appropriately, in the categories that have been set out for the challenge to **America**, the categories that General Powell talked about in his moving opening remarks. And I'm going to have the honor of recognizing the caring adults. I'm pleased to be joined tonight by a man who has dedicated his entire life to meeting the challenge of service, Harris Wofford. (Applause.)

Mr. Wofford: Thank you, Mr. **President**, and I salute you and Mrs. Clinton for all you have done to bring out the best in **America** through national service, student service, senior service, citizen service, and to define this new era of ours as the era of big citizens.

Now, in order to achieve the promise of **America**, we must go forth from this place here inspired by these award winners, like Olympic torch-carriers, and carry the challenge they have given to us here to our homes, our neighborhoods, our communities, from sea to shining sea. (Applause.)

The **President**: You know, you might have guessed that before he headed our nation's citizens service effort and the Corporation for National Service, Harris Wofford was in politics -- (laughter) -- the Senator from Pennsylvania. (Applause.) But before that, he was a college **president**; before that, a founder of the Peace Corps; a top aide to **President**

Kennedy; a friend and ally of Dr. Martin Luther King. Hardly any American living today better personifies citizens service than Harris Wofford, and I thank him for that. (Applause.)

As I said, we begin by recognizing that every single child needs a caring adult in his or her life to teach and guide

them. Every child needs to know that he or she is profoundly important to some grownup.

The three Americans we honor now have devoted themselves to meeting this challenge. Marjorie Klein knows that parents are our children's first teachers, and she's doing everything she can to help them. At 20 inner-city schools throughout the Philadelphia area, Pact, or Parents And Children Together, the organization Marjorie founded, brings parents into the classroom to read to the children and to help their children learn to read. At the same time, parents can improve their own literacy and tutoring skills, and they can even earn college credit.

We salute Marjorie Klein and Pact for their tremendous commitment to families and our children.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

Earl Phelan deeply believes that mentoring is the key to young people's success. Through B.E.L.L., or Building Enterprises for Learning and Living, the organization he helped to found, he has given hundred of African American young adults the chance to be role models and tutors to inner-city elementary school students throughout the greater Boston area. Under their tutelage those children are thriving, their **futures** are brighter and therefore so are ours.

Tonight we honor Earl Phelan for his remarkable contribution to our American community.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

Pat Esparza learned early in life that confidence and pride can make all the difference to a young girl's **future**. A single mother of three by the age of 19, she worked her way through school and devoted herself to helping at-risk girls. She founded Las Mariposas as a dance studio, but for the people of El Paso, Texas, it is a community treasure. At Las Mariposas hundreds of young girls have learned to dance and to value

themselves and their culture.

We honor Pat for giving the young girls of her community the confidence and pride they need to succeed in life. Congratulations.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

All of them have helped to make sure that more of our young people do, in fact, have a caring adult to give them the support they need to build positive **futures**. Your work is an inspiration to all of us. I thank you for doing it and I hope all of us will now be more willing to follow your lead. God bless you. (Applause.)

* * * * *

Mrs. Bush: All Americans hope and dream the best for our children. Every mother sees her child as marvelously gifted. And as watch them grow we wonder how these wonderful, unique qualities that we see in each of them will flourish. I remember thinking many years ago, maybe one of them would grow up to be a governor. (Laughter and applause.)

At the very least, we want our children to become independent, self-sufficient adults. We want our children to be able to support themselves, hopefully in a job that they really like. That's why every American child's access to marketable skills is one of the principles of the **summit**.

Right now, unless we all get involved, millions of our children are unlikely to require even the most basic of skills. And it's probably not too much of a surprise to you that in my opinion -- you're a little fast for me -- (laughter) -- I can't believe I'm doing this -- (laughter) -- the key to every skill is the ability to read and comprehend. (Applause.)

You know, one of our children had a learning disability which made reading very difficult. Thanks to some wonderful teachers, loving support from his parents and a determined young boy who worked twice as hard as anyone else, he learned to read and went on to earn a master's degree. Unfortunately, not everyone has access to the superb teachers we did. We need more teachers in our classrooms. And we need to allow them to teach. (Applause.)

We also need more literacy volunteers to help children and adults alike who are struggling to learn how to read and write. The best place of all, of course, to volunteer is in our own homes. We are, after all, our children's first teachers and the home is their first school. Read to your children every single day. (Applause.) There's nothing more important you can do to help prepare them for a life-long love of reading and learning. Sharing a book is also a wonderful way to spend quality time with your children.

Now, joining me to honor the winner's of the **President's** Service Award is a literacy volunteer who also happens to be one of all of our favorite actors, a decent and fine man and a friend, John Travolta. (Applause.)

* * * * *

Mrs. Bush: John, since you're a lot more familiar

with award ceremonies than I am, would you begin?

Mr. Travolta: Well, why not. Careers through Culinary Arts has helped thousands of students to make the transition from school to work and the food service in hospitality industries. For space, C-Cap depends on cooperation of school boards. For funds and equipment it depends on corporate sponsors. But the one thing it can always count on is the eagerness of kids to acquire a marketable skill. We recognize Richard Grausman.

Mrs. Bush: Right there.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

Mrs. Bush: Eight years ago, a group of employees of Lockheed Martin Vought Systems in Grand Prairie, Texas, decided to make a difference. They called themselves the In-Unity Incorporation, and began by tutoring 3rd graders at South Dallas School. Their numbers grew to include people from all walks of life and they were soon providing schools with pens, paper, notebooks and all the practical tools of the learning trade. Now they are mentoring college students, as well.

From In-Unity, Monroe Mays (phonetic).
Congratulations. (The award was presented.) (Applause.)

Mr. Travolta: Six years ago, the volunteer members of a program called Art Start began offering children in New York City's homeless shelters the opportunity to experience the creative process. Volunteers took kids on field trips to the city's museums and other cultural centers.

Today, Art Start also reaches out to hundreds at-risk highschoolers, challenging them to communicate and to shape their visions with all of us. Art Starts founder is painter and photographer Scott Rosenberg.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

* * * * *

President Bush: Thank you very much. Well, thanks. I'd tell you about the parachute jump, but -- (laughter) -- as Dana Carvey would say, "Not going to do it, wouldn't be prudent." So let me -- (laughter and applause.) I just faked out the TelePrompter, it went dead. I'm dead. Listen -- (laughter) -- I've been up here -- you know how I feel about volunteerism. And you know the respect I have for those who are one of A Thousand Points of Light. And you know the respect I have for George Romney, whose picture was on here earlier. So let me just say, I am very pleased to be one of the presenters of the Service Awards.

And joining me tonight to do just that is one of the great stars and one of the most wonderful ladies I know, Brooke Shields Agassi. We love her, and she's here to join me in presenting these awards. (Applause.)

* * * * *

Ms. Shield: Five years ago, her church, the 100-year-old First Presbyterian, was considering moving out of the rundown Argenta section of North Little Rock, Arkansas. But

Carolyn Ringer convinced the church and a 200-member volunteer boosters club that it was much better to revitalize than it was to run. So today, with the renovated homes and safer streets and the church itself as a center for the community, and all activities in the community, people are once again very proud to say that they're from Argentina.

So, everyone, please welcome Carolyn Ringer.
(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

President Bush: The youth program of the Union Temple Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. reaches out with a meals program, with residential care, with counseling and job training to all young people in its community. And every young person who is fortunate enough to be a member of the church have the obligation and the privilege to participate from Union Temple, Lamont B. Mitchell. Lamont. Congratulations, sir.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

President Bush: Not least among the organizations that are giving back to their communities are **America's** unions, working men and women. The Livingston-McLean County Building Trades Council in Bloomington, Illinois, in cooperation with the local Children's Foundation, have donated countless hours to constructing safe places for children. It includes a youth center and a terrific new park, which is called The Poetry Place. Here, representing the Building Trades Council, is John Penn. Congratulations, John.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

* * * * *

Mrs. Clinton: Thank you. Thank you, Oprah, and thank all of you for gathering here in support of this **summit** and, more importantly, in support of the **summit's** goals. I am very pleased that one of the **summit's** goals is to ensure that every American child has a healthy start. And that is something that all of us should be committed to. And that means many different things. It means, yes, guaranteeing insofar as we can that every family has access to quality, affordable health care for their children. (Applause.) And, that cannot be just left to the government and to the medical professionals.

There is a role for many of us to play. We can, for instance, make sure that our communities are free from environmental hazards, toxic waste dumps, areas where children and their families may possibly become sick or be injured. We can work to be sure that every pregnant woman has the prenatal care she needs and the support she requires to be a good mother. (Applause.)

We can work to make sure that every child is immunized, and we've made a lot of progress but we still have a way to go. And we can be sure that every child has access to the well child care and to the emergency care that we take for granted for our own children.

There are ways that we can enlist the volunteer spirit and the hard work that is necessary to reach out to every family so that in this area, which is so difficult for families to handle on their own, that when they have a sick child, when they face the terrible dilemma that many of us face of a child

has been injured or come down with an illness, that there will be help. And that help will not just be in the finest medical care, but in a volunteer to sit by the bedside, to relieve the family, to provide that extra bit of nurturing and loving that families need in crisis.

So we are going to honor tonight and then make a commitment after this **summit** to do what we can in our own ways to ensure that healthy start for every child. And joining me to present the awards for people who are already doing that in their communities is Rob Reiner, who had committed himself to making it possible for every American to be aware of the new scientific evidence about what happens in the first three years of life so that we also can be helping our babies off to a good start by giving them the stimulation and the nurturing they need.

So I would like to ask Rob Reiner to join me for the presentation of these next awards. (Applause.)

* * * * *

Mrs. Clinton: Well, in Fayette County, Kentucky, Baby Health Service has been providing infant formula to those in need since 1914. But growing children have growing needs, and 16 percent of the children in that county have no health insurance whatsoever. So the service has shifted its focus to health care. And last year, 70 volunteers provided free immunizations, checkups and medication to 3,000 children.

Accepting the **President's** Service Award on behalf of the volunteer physicians is Alice Burkhart.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

Mr. Reiner: Spousal abuse is something that happens, as the news has finally made us all too well aware. In Glendale, Arizona, there is New Beginnings, a transitional home for abused women and their children. It provides not only safety, shelter and educational opportunities for the mothers, but most importantly, it keeps families together while they prepare to make a new start in life.

Here's New Beginnings founder, Cindy Silverman.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

Mrs. Clinton: Kids One, Inc. in Santa Rosa, California promotes just one essential issue -- child safety. Galvanized by the Polly Klaas tragedy, which proved that unspeakable horror can happen anywhere, Kids One is teaching kids and parents never to take safety for granted. With the support of community organizations and businesses, Kids One educates and saves precious lives. Its founder is Elizabeth Ecke.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

Mr. Reiner: Twelve years ago, he was still an intern at Miami Hospital. Dr. Pedro Jose Greer, Jr. led teams of young doctors into the streets to make house calls to the homeless. Today, his Camillus health concern is one of the largest providers of medical care for the poor in Florida. He still makes his rounds, visiting his patients under the bridges and overpasses, in the abandoned buildings and decayed lots of Dade County. Here is Dr. Pedro Jose Greer, Jr.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

Mrs. Clinton: These are just four of the many examples that could be up here on this stage of people who are combining their professional expertise, their volunteer spirit to meet the needs of our families and our children who have health care requirements that are otherwise going to be unmet. And so, they should serve as a shining example to all of us to look for ways we can give every American child a healthy start. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

* * * * *

President Clinton: Thank you, Patti LaBelle, for giving us all a second wind. (Laughter.) I want to apologize to all of you for having to spend so much time tonight watching me walk up and down stairs. But, as you know, I need the practice. (Laughter.)

I want to say that this last award in some ways may be the most important, because we're recognizing young people who, themselves, are serving in an extraordinary way. And one of the elements of this **summit** is the proposition that every young person should serve, and that, in so doing, we hope to expand the definition of what it means to be a good citizen in this country so that when we ask young people in years to come, what does it really mean to be a good American, they'll say, well, you have to be in school or work, you have to obey the law, and you have to serve.

I'm joined now on stage by a young public servant, Jahi Davis, an AmeriCorps volunteer from North Philadelphia. (Applause.) Like a lot of high school students, this young man paid more attention to his social life than to his **future**. Then he nearly lost his life in a serious accident. He says now he wouldn't have finished high school without the guidance of a tutor who helped him keep his grades up while he was in the hospital.

When he recovered, he decided to do for others what had been done for him. He joined AmeriCorps in 1995, and since then, he has tutored children, started a mentoring program in his own neighborhood, and rehabilitated houses for low income families. He's planning to attend Temple University, where I know he'll continue to give back. Please welcome him up here with me. (Applause.)

When 21-year-old Na'Taki Osborne learned that Carver Hills, Georgia, a low-income African American community, was the most environmentally polluted area in Fulton County, she didn't just become concerned, she got involved. She got 200 community volunteers involved, too. And together, they spent hundreds of hours cleaning up Carver Hills, making it a safer and more beautiful place for the entire community to enjoy.

Thank you, Na'Taki Yatascha Osborne, for caring enough to change your community for the better.

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

President Clinton: Amber Lynn Coffman is only 15 years old, but she's been volunteering to help disadvantaged people since she was eight. Her mother taught her that even one

person can make a real difference, and for most of her still-young life, she has tried to be that one person and to encourage her friends and schoolmates to do the same.

Working together as a group called Happy Helpers, they make over 600 box lunches every week for the homeless and the hungry. Thank you, Amber Lynn, for your wonderful commitment to your community. (Applause.)

Across **America**, more and more businesses believe that good citizenship is also good business. More and more, they're encouraging their employees to give something back. Target Stores is a perfect example. Through the Family Matters Program, started by Points of Light, Target Stores is the first national company to involve its employees and their families in community service.

Last year, nearly 5,000 Target employees and their families volunteered. Working alongside their parents, young people learned firsthand about the importance and the joy of giving back. We thank Target Stores for helping so many young children start early on a lifetime of service.

With us tonight to represent Target is Julie Hennessy (phonetic).

(The award was presented.) (Applause.)

President Clinton: As Oprah said earlier, the 16 award winners with us tonight represent volunteers all over our country who are committed to helping us all build a better and stronger **future**. In honoring their contributions, we celebrate the spirit of service that has sustained **America** in times of trouble and united us with common hopes and dreams.

At the dawn of a new century, let us all resolve to join hands to do it more. Remember what this **summit** is all about. These people were doing all this before we gathered. Ninety-three million Americans already volunteer. What we're saying is that in every community in **America**, more people must do it in a systematic way and everyone must do it if **America** is going to have the **future** it deserves and our children are going to all be like those whom we honor here tonight.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

End

11:26 P.M. Edt



To comment on this service: feedback@www.whitehouse.gov

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide for the establishment of a Civilian Community Corps.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—102d Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 3114

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1993 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____
and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BOREN, Mr. SIMON, Mr. WOFFORD, and Mr. NUNN)

Viz:

- 1 At the appropriate place, insert the following new
- 2 title:

1 **TITLE ____—CIVILIAN COMMU-**
2 **NITY CORPS DEM-**
3 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM**

4 **SEC. ____01. CIVILIAN COMMUNITY CORPS DEMONSTRATION**
5 **PROGRAM**

6 Title I of the National and Community Service Act
7 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12510 et seq.) is amended by adding
8 at the end thereof the following new subtitle:

9 **“Subtitle H—Civilian Community**
10 **Corps Demonstration Program**

11 **“SEC. 195. PURPOSE.**

12 “It is the purpose of this subtitle to demonstrate and
13 test the feasibility of a federally operated **Civilian Commu-**
14 **nity Corps and to promote the idea of National Service,**
15 **to enable willing young women and men to perform tan-**
16 **gible acts of community service in a manner that will en-**
17 **hance their own skills while contributing to their under-**
18 **standing of the United States.**

19 **“SEC. 195A. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION PRO-**
20 **GRAM**

21 “(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission on National
22 and Community Service shall establish a Civilian Commu-
23 nity Corps Demonstration Program to carry out the pur-
24 poses of this subtitle. Under such Program, a Civilian

1 Conservation Corps shall be established and operate in ac-
2 cordance with this subtitle.

3 “(b) DIRECTOR.—

4 “(1) APPOINTMENT.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall ap-
6 point a Director of the Corps who shall admin-
7 ister the Program as a residential and diverse
8 service program, and who shall report to the
9 Board through an Executive Director to be ap-
10 pointed by the Director. Such Director may be
11 selected from among retired commissioned offi-
12 cers of the Armed Forces.

13 “(B) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The Execu-
14 tive Director appointed under subparagraph (A)
15 shall be responsible for the day to day oper-
16 ations of the Corps.

17 “(2) STAFF.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may em-
19 ploy such staff as are necessary to carry out
20 this subtitle and shall, to the maximum extent
21 practicable, utilize personnel from Federal de-
22 partments and agencies. The Director shall ac-
23 cept and request the detail of personnel from
24 such departments and agencies. The Director
25 may, through grant or contract with any other

1 public or private organization, delegate the re-
2 sponsibility to carry out any program function
3 under this subtitle.

4 “(B) EFFECT OF OTHER LAW.—Staff may
5 be employed under subparagraph (A) without
6 regard to the provisions of title 5, United
7 States Code, governing appointments in the
8 competitive service, and without regard to the
9 provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of
10 chapter 53 of such title relating to classifica-
11 tions and General Schedule pay rates.

12 “(C) VOLUNTARY SERVICES.—Not-
13 withstanding any other provision of law, the
14 Corps may accept voluntary services provided
15 by individuals. While away from their homes or
16 regular places of business on the business of the
17 Corps, such individuals may be allowed travel
18 expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsist-
19 ence, as is authorized under section 5703 of
20 title 5, United States Code, for persons em-
21 ployed intermittently in the Government service.

22 “(c) ADVISORY BOARD.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established
24 a Civilian Community Corps National Advisory
25 Board to advise the Director concerning the admin-

1 istration of this subtitle and to assist in the develop-
2 ment and administration of the Corps.

3 “(2) MEMBERS.—The Advisory Board estab-
4 lished under paragraph (1) shall be composed of—

5 “(A) the Secretary of Labor;

6 “(B) the Secretary of Defense;

7 “(C) the Secretary of the Interior;

8 “(D) the Secretary of Agriculture;

9 “(E) the Secretary of Education;

10 “(F) the Secretary of Housing and Urban
11 Development; and

12 “(G) individuals appointed by the Director
13 who are broadly representative of educational
14 institutions, voluntary organizations, industry,
15 youth and labor unions.

16 “(d) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—

17 “(1) LIAISON OFFICE.—The Secretary of De-
18 fense shall establish an office to be known as the Li-
19 aision Office to the Civilian Community Corps. Such
20 office shall assist in the coordination of activities
21 with the Corps and develop a cadre of Corps person-
22 nel who shall act as supervisors and Corps leaders.

23 “(2) CORPS PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of
24 Defense, in consultation with the Liaison Office es-
25 tablished under paragraph (1) shall develop a list of

1 individuals to serve as a permanent cadre of civilian
2 Corps personnel. Such personnel shall be selected
3 from among a pool of retired, discharged, or inactive
4 commissioned officers of the Armed Forces. The Di-
5 rector shall employ the Corps personnel to manage
6 and supervise Corps units.

7 “(3) FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Defense, in
8 consultation with the Liaison Office established
9 under paragraph (1), shall identify Department of
10 Defense owned facilities, including facilities of mili-
11 tary installations (as defined in section 2687(e)(1) of
12 title 10, United States Code) that are approved for
13 use by the Secretary of the military department hav-
14 ing jurisdiction over the installations, that may, in
15 whole or in part, be utilized by the Corps to train
16 or house Corps members.

17 “(e) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—The Secretary of
18 Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall
19 identify and assist in establishing a system for the recruit-
20 ment of individuals to serve in the Corps. In carrying out
21 this paragraph, the Secretary of Labor may utilize the
22 Employment Service Agency or the Office of Job Training
23 with respect to recruitment for summer and year-long pro-
24 grams.

25 “(f) PROGRAMS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Program shall be com-
2 posed of both a summer and a yearly Corps enroll-
3 ment program.

4 “(2) SUMMER PROGRAMS.—The summer pro-
5 gram shall involve the participation of disadvantaged
6 high school students between the ages of 15 and 18
7 from urban or rural areas, and other individuals de-
8 termined appropriate by the Director, in the Corps
9 engaging in Corps projects during the summer
10 months.

11 “(3) YEARLY PROGRAM.—The yearly program
12 shall involve the participation of high school grad-
13 uates and youths between the ages of 17 and 26
14 from economically, geographically, and ethnically di-
15 verse backgrounds, in the Corps engaging in Corps
16 projects lasting for at least a 1-year period.

17 **“SEC. 195B. SELECTION AND ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICI-**
18 **PANTS.**

19 “(a) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to become a Corps
20 member, an individual shall submit an application to the
21 Director, or a local Corp unit if available, at such time,
22 in such manner, and containing such information as the
23 Director shall require. At a minimum, the application shall
24 contain information about the work experience of the ap-
25 plicant, and sufficient information to enable the Director,

1 or Corp leader of the appropriate unit, to determine
2 whether the applicant is eligible for membership.

3 “(b) SELECTION.—

4 “(1) SUMMER PROGRAMS.—In selecting partici-
5 pants for a summer program, the Director, or ap-
6 propriate Corps leader, shall select a diverse group
7 of eligible students.

8 “(2) YEARLY PROGRAMS.—In selecting partici-
9 pants for a yearly program, the Director, or appro-
10 priate Corps leader, shall select a diverse group of
11 eligible youth.

12 **“SEC. 195C. SERVICE TRAINING AND PERSONAL DEVELOP-**
13 **MENT.**

14 “(a) PERMANENT CADRE.—

15 “(1) DESIGNATION.—The Director shall ap-
16 point individuals recommended under section
17 195A(d)(2) to serve as the permanent cadre of
18 Corps personnel. In making such selections, the Di-
19 rector shall ensure that the cadre is comprised of
20 both males and females of diverse ethnic, economic,
21 professional, and geographic backgrounds. The Di-
22 rector shall consider experience in other youth serv-
23 ice programs when appointing individuals to serve as
24 part of the cadre.

25 “(2) TRAINING.—

1 “(A) FACILITIES.—The cadre appointed
2 under paragraph (1) shall train the members of
3 the Corps with respect to both the summer and
4 yearly programs under the Program. Such
5 training shall be provided at military, national
6 guard or other facilities identified under section
7 195A(d)(3).

8 “(B) CURRICULUM.—Each participant in
9 the Corps under this subtitle shall be provided
10 with between 3 and 6 weeks of training that
11 shall include a comprehensive service-learning
12 curriculum that is designed to promote team
13 building, discipline, leadership, work, training,
14 citizenship and physical conditioning.

15 “(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

16 “(1) UNITS.—The Corps shall be divided into
17 permanent units to which Corps members shall be
18 assigned. Each unit shall be headed by a Corps lead-
19 er selected from the cadre designated under sub-
20 section (a)(1) who shall accompany the unit
21 throughout their term of service.

22 “(2) STANDARDS OF CONDUCT.—The Corps
23 leader for each unit shall establish and stringently
24 enforce standards of conduct to promote the proper
25 moral and disciplinary conditions of the unit. Corps

1 members who are determined by the leader to be in
2 violation of such standards may be transferred to
3 another unit, or dismissed, if it is determined by the
4 Director that their retention in that particular unit,
5 or in the Corps, will jeopardize the enforcement of
6 such standards or diminish the opportunities of
7 other Corps members. Such disciplinary measures
8 will be subject to expeditious appeal to the Director
9 at any stage in the proceeding.

10 “(c) ADVANCE SERVICE TRAINING.—

11 “(1) YEARLY PROGRAM.—Members of the
12 Corps who are participating in the yearly program
13 shall receive advanced service training to provide
14 such members with basic, project-specific skills that
15 such members will employ during their term of com-
16 munity service. Such training shall be provided by
17 the permanent cadre of Corps personnel, under ar-
18 rangements with vocational or technical schools, by
19 other employment and training providers, under ex-
20 isting youth service programs, or by other qualified
21 individuals. Such members shall transfer from the
22 advanced service training assignment to actual work
23 on community projects.

24 “(2) SUMMER PROGRAM.—Members of the
25 Corps who are participating in the summer program

1 shall not take part in advanced service training but
2 may receive skills training during their term of serv-
3 ice in rural units.

4 **"SEC. 195D. PROJECTS.**

5 "(a) CORPS LEADERS.—The Corps leader for each
6 unit shall identify unit locations and projects with respect
7 to which such unit shall operate from and participate in.

8 "(b) ORGANIZATION.—Corps projects shall be orga-
9 nized in such a manner to encourage the interaction of
10 diverse teams working together in Corps or service activi-
11 ties. Such projects shall be labor intensive, provide mean-
12 ingful community benefits and provide opportunities for
13 service-learning and skills development.

14 "(c) DEVELOPMENT.—Proposals for Corps projects
15 shall be developed by the Department of Agriculture, De-
16 partment of the Interior, and the Department of Housing
17 and Urban Development, in consultation with local enti-
18 ties, including existing youth service programs, and in con-
19 sultation with the Commission on National and Commu-
20 nity Service. Both public and private organizations and
21 agencies may develop and appropriately participate in
22 Corps projects that meet an identifiable public need. The
23 Director, in consultation with Corps leaders, shall select
24 projects from the proposals developed under this sub-
25 section.

1 “(d) COMPONENTS.—The components of a Corps
2 project shall emphasize the performance of community
3 service activities and include continued educational and
4 training programs in various technical fields that may be
5 staffed by ex-military and other instructors.

6 “(e) STAFF.—In appointing individuals to staff posi-
7 tions with respect to the supervision, service training and
8 service projects under the Program, the Director shall give
9 consideration to retired, discharged, or inactive commis-
10 sioned officers of the Armed Forces. The Director shall
11 encourage former VISTA, Peace Corps, and youth service
12 program operators to work on the staff of community serv-
13 ice projects undertaken under this subtitle. Such staff
14 shall be subject to section 195A(b)(2).

15 “(f) EVALUATION.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall con-
17 duct an evaluation of the effectiveness of Corps pro-
18 grams.

19 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after
20 the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Commis-
21 sion shall prepare and submit to the Director and
22 the appropriate committees of Congress a report
23 concerning the evaluation conducted under para-
24 graph (1). Such report shall include an assessment
25 of the progress made in establishing and implement-

1 ing Corp units and an analysis of the level of coordi-
2 nation of Corps activities with those of other depart-
3 ments or agencies.

4 “(3) ANNUAL EVALUATION.—As part of the
5 evaluations conducted under section 179, the Com-
6 mission shall annually conduct an evaluation of the
7 projects undertaken by the Corps under this subtitle
8 and prepare and submit to the Director rec-
9 ommendations with respect to such projects.

10 **“SEC. 195E. FACILITIES.**

11 The Director, in consultation with the Secretary of
12 Defense, shall utilize the facilities identified in section
13 195A(d)(3), including national guard and other Federal
14 facilities, or other locations to the extent practicable to
15 train and house Corps leaders and members. The Director
16 shall ensure that such members and leaders are stationed
17 in both urban and rural areas in different regions through-
18 out the country.

19 **“SEC. 195F. BENEFITS.**

20 “(a) PAYMENT.—The Director shall establish proce-
21 dures under which payments may be made to Corps mem-
22 bers under the Program for—

23 “(1) living allowances described in subsection

24 (b);

1 “(2) the educational credit described in sub-
2 section (d); or

3 “(3) the cash benefit described in subsection
4 (e).

5 “(b) LIVING ALLOWANCES.—The Director shall pro-
6 vide living allowances to Corps members for the period
7 during which such members are engaged in training or
8 activity under a Corps project. The amount of such allow-
9 ances shall be determined by the Director but shall not
10 exceed an amount equal to 100 percent of the poverty line
11 for a family of two (as defined in section 673(2) of the
12 Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.
13 9902(2)).

14 “(c) ELECTION.—On completion of service with the
15 Corps, a members shall elect to receive the educational
16 credit or cash benefit.

17 “(d) EDUCATIONAL CREDIT.—

18 “(1) AMOUNT.—Each Corps member electing to
19 receive the educational credit shall receive as pay-
20 ment under the Program a credit equal to the sum
21 of ____ per year of participation.

22 “(2) RECEIPT.—To receive an educational cred-
23 it earned under this section, a participant shall sub-
24 mit to the Director such information and docu-
25 mentation as the Secretary may require, including

1 information indicating the academic program and in-
2 stitution of higher education at which the credit will
3 be used.

4 “(3) ACCEPTANCE.—The Secretary of Edu-
5 cation, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor,
6 shall promulgate regulations establishing a program
7 and procedures under which the credits under this
8 section shall be accepted at institutions of higher
9 education.

10 “(e) CASH BENEFIT.—Each Corps member electing
11 to receive the cash benefit shall receive as payment under
12 the Program a sum of ____ per year of participation.

13 “(f) ASSISTANCE.—The Director shall provide to a
14 Corps member, on completion of Corps service under the
15 Program, assistance to enable such member to pursue a
16 high school diploma or the equivalent of such diploma, to
17 pursue a degree at an institution of higher education, or
18 to obtain employment, and support services where nec-
19 essary and appropriate.

20 “(g) TREATMENT OF CORPS MEMBERS UNDER FED-
21 ERAL LAW.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in this
23 subsection, Corps members shall not be considered
24 to be Federal employees and shall not be subject to

1 the provisions of law relating to Federal employ-
2 ment.

3 “(2) WORK-RELATED INJURIES.—For purposes
4 of subchapter I of chapter 81 of title 5, United
5 States Code, relating to the compensation of Federal
6 employees for work injuries, a member of the Corps
7 shall be considered an employee of the United States
8 within the meaning of the term ‘employee’ as defined
9 in section 8101 of title 5, United States Code, and
10 the provisions of that subchapter shall apply,
11 except—

12 “(A) the term ‘performance of duty’, as
13 used in such subchapter shall not include an act
14 of a Corps member while absent from the as-
15 signed post of duty of such member, except
16 where such absence is authorized by or under
17 the direction of the supervisor of Corps leader
18 of such member; and

19 “(B) compensation for disability shall not
20 begin to accrue until the day following the date
21 that the project on which the member was in-
22 jured is terminated.

23 “(3) TORT CLAIMS PROCEDURE.—For purposes
24 of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, relat-
25 ing to tort claims procedure, a Corps member shall

1 be considered an employee of the United States
2 within the meaning of the term 'employee of the gov-
3 ernment' as defined in section 2671 of such title.

4 **"SEC. 195G. DUTIES OF THE BOARD.**

5 "The Board shall monitor and supervise the adminis-
6 tration of the Program established under this title. In car-
7 rying out this section, the Board shall—

8 "(1) develop guidelines for the selection and op-
9 eration of Corps projects under the Program;

10 "(2) evaluate, monitor and oversee the progress
11 of the Program in achieving the purposes of this
12 subtitle;

13 "(3) coordinate the activities under the Pro-
14 gram with other youth service programs adminis-
15 tered by the Commission; and

16 "(4) carry out any other activities determined
17 appropriate by the Board.

18 **"SEC. 195H. REPORT.**

19 "Not later than 18 months after the date of enact-
20 ment of this subtitle, the Director and the Chairperson
21 of the Board shall prepare and submit to the appropriate
22 committees of Congress a report concerning the desirabil-
23 ity and feasibility of making the Corps an independent
24 agency.

1 **"SEC. 195I. FUNDING.**

2 “(a) DEFENSE FUNDS.—The Secretary of Defense
3 shall make available, out of amounts appropriated to the
4 Department of Defense, to the Director to carry out the
5 Program, \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 1993, and such
6 sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1994
7 through 19____.

8 “(b) LIMITATION.—The Commission, in consultation
9 with the Director, shall ensure that no amounts appro-
10 priated under section 501 shall be utilized to carry out
11 this subtitle.

12 **"SEC. 195J. DEFINITIONS.**

13 As used in this subtitle:

14 “(1) BOARD.—The term ‘Board’ means the
15 Board of Directors of the Commission on National
16 and Community Service.

17 “(2) CORPS.—The term ‘Corps’ means the Ci-
18 vilian Conservation Corps established under the Ci-
19 vilian Community Demonstration Program.

20 “(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
21 the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

22 “(4) PROGRAM.—The term ‘Program’ means
23 the Civilian Community Corps Demonstration Pro-
24 gram established under section 195A.”.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

MEMORANDUM

TO: YSA Working Group

FROM: Shirley Sagawa

RE: National and Community Service Act Reauthorization

DATE: August 4, 1992

As you may know, the National and Community Service Act of 1990 expires at the end of fiscal year 1993. Congress will soon begin thinking about whether the Act should be extended, and if it is extended, what changes are needed in the legislation. Below you will find a list of discussion questions that may be raised during the reauthorization process.

Funding

The Act was authorized for three years, with the third year authorized at \$105 million. In fiscal year 1992, \$75 million was appropriated. Funds are divided by law as follows:

- \$2 million for administration
- 30 percent for Serve-America and Higher Education
- 30 percent for the American Conservation and Youth Service Corps
- 30 percent for National and Community Service demonstration programs

How much money can the field absorb without sacrificing high quality: should the program be extended for three, four or five more years? how much money should be authorized for each year?

How should funds be allocated among the programs?

Federal Administrative Structure

Currently the Act is administered by the Commission on National and Community Service, which is governed by a 21-member board of directors appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate and seven ex officio members who are heads of related agencies (i.e. Secretary of Education, Director of ACTION, etc.). The Commission's staff by law may not exceed 10 employees, although technical amendments are under consideration by Congress to lift this ceiling. The Commission has no state or regional branch offices.

Should the Commission continue to administer the Act or should the programs be reassigned to other agencies, existing or new?

Should the Commission continue to be governed by a 21-member board? How can the ex officio membership be made more substantive and effective?

State Role

By regulation, states are required to appoint a lead agency and are encouraged to appoint an advisory or governing board. In order to receive funding, states are required by regulation to submit a comprehensive service plan.

Should the state administrative structure be maintained? Should the advisory board be required? Should the comprehensive service plan be mandated in law?

Programs

The Act includes four major programs and five minor ones. The major programs are:

- Serve America, funding non-stipended service programs for school-age youth;
- Higher Education, funding campus-based service programs and teacher training in service-learning;
- American Conservation and Youth Service Corps, funding corps programs for youth aged 15 to 25 who receive provide job training, education, living allowances, and post-service benefits in exchange for full-time or part-time service;
- National and Community Service demonstration, funding programs for individuals age 17 and older, who receive education, living allowances, and post-service benefits in exchange for full-time or part-time service.

The minor programs are:

- Foster Grandparents/Head Start
- Employer-based Retiree Program
- Peace Corps/VISTA Training
- Rural Youth Demonstration Program
- Governor's Innovative Program

*Should these program categories be retained?
What is missing?*

Eligibility to Receive Grants

Currently states have priority over local applicants to receive grants under the Serve America, Youth Corps, and National Service demonstration programs. Partnerships of local education agencies and community-based organizations may apply for Serve-America grants if the state does not apply, and any public or private non-profit organization may apply for a Youth Corps grant if the state does not apply. Higher Education grants may be made to institutions of higher education or public or private agencies (including states) in consortia with institutions of higher education. Local organizations are not eligible to apply for National Service demonstration grants.

Should states continue to have priority for funding under the Serve-America and Youth Corps

programs in all cases? Should local applicants, such as those in high poverty areas, be eligible for a specific set-aside of funds in each program?

Should applicants other than states be eligible for the National Service demonstration program?

Should Higher Education applicants be required to be part of the state comprehensive plan?

Should multi-site national models be eligible for funding under any of the programs independent of state administration?

Should the partnership requirements under Serve-America be retained?

Good Programming

What aspects of the Act and/or regulations promote or inhibit:

Good practice?

Collaboration?

Cross-streams efforts?

Efficient administration?

Involvement of low-income participants, communities?

Innovation?

Combining funding streams?

Youth voice?

Criteria for Selection

The Act provides funding to states under Serve-America based on a formula. In all other cases, the regulations provide that funding be based on four criteria: Quality, Innovation, Replicability, and Sustainability, with greatest weight given to quality.

Should the Serve-America formula be retained?

Should the criteria in the regulations be retained or modified?

Substate Allocation of Funds

Currently, states under the Serve-America and Youth Corps programs are required to allocate funds based on general criteria specified in the legislation. 85 percent of Serve-America funds must be subgranted, while only a "reasonable portion" of Youth Corps funds are required to be distributed to programs not run by the state.

Should more specific processes for substate allocation of funds be provided to ensure funds are going to where they are most needed or where they will have the biggest impact? Should there be mandate to fund a certain number of rural and urban programs?

Should a specific percentage of funds be set-aside for local programs within the state?

National Identity

How can the Act be strengthened to promote a national identity and visibility for programs and participants but continue to allow for local, decentralized control and a diversity of program models?

Training and Technical Assistance

The Commission is authorized to provide training and technical assistance to the field directly, through grants to outside organizations, or by funding regional clearinghouses.

What type of assistance would most benefit the field? How should it be provided?

What shape should clearinghouses take? Should the legislation more clearly specify the types of clearinghouses to be funded?

State Match

Each program requires a different non-federal match, payable in cash or in kind:

- Serve-America: from 10 to 30 percent
- Higher Education: 50 percent
- Youth Corps: 25 percent
- National Service: 1/2 the post-service benefit

Should the match be changed for any program?

Should federal funds be used to meet the matching requirement?

Benefits

The Youth Corps and National Service programs require that participants receive a living allowance worth up to the poverty line for a family of two for each year of service. Post-service benefits must be made available to such participants, up to approximately \$5,000 per year of service (full-time) and \$2,000 per year of service (part-time).

Should benefit levels be changed? Should there be a minimum benefit?

Participants

Currently, no program is restricted based on income. However, all programs are required to ensure that economically disadvantaged youth are provided opportunities to participate.

Are disadvantaged youth able to participate or is greater attention to supportive services or

benefits needed?

Should there be greater targeting? Or a mandate for diversity?

Volunteer Participation

According to the regulations, all programs must specify how volunteers other than regular participants will assist the program.

Are stipended programs using volunteers? Should this requirement be made specific in the Act?

Training/Education

Are requirements that Youth Corps and National Service programs provide job training and education too restrictive or too loose? How should they be modified?

Amendment of Other Statutes

Should other laws be amended to remove barriers to service programs (such as tax laws, AFDC, minimum wage, etc.)

Should the Points of Light program or Youthbuild be amended for any reason?

**AMERICA 2000
AND
SERVICE-LEARNING:**

A Promising Partnership

*Compiled by Cinnamon Bradley and
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**AMERICA 2000 and SERVICE-LEARNING:
A Promising Partnership
Proposal from Youth Service America Interns
to the AMERICA 2000 Office
at the U.S. Department of Education
and
U.S. Secretary of Education
Lamar Alexander**

At Youth Service America, we believe that the youth of this nation are entitled to high quality educational experiences. We applaud the efforts of Secretary Lamar Alexander and the U.S. Department of Education in devising and implementing the AMERICA 2000 strategy for broad based educational restructuring across the country. While the National Education Goals established by President Bush and the nation's Governors are optimistic, we realize that if we expect only a little, that is all that we will receive. Therefore we would like to do all that we can to ensure the realization of the America 2000 goals. To this end, we propose extensive service-learning programs as a means of education reform. It is our hope that those reading this document at the U.S. Department of Education will seriously consider our recommendations and work to incorporate the following suggestions into the nation's education program.

The United States is no stranger to youth service. Its roots can be found in the days of Franklin Roosevelt with the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps. In the early sixties, John F. Kennedy advanced the movement even further when he urged America to give of themselves for their country. With the establishment of the Peace Corps in 1962, Kennedy expanded the vision: not only could young American volunteers contribute at home, but their influence could also be felt abroad.

Today, the Youth Service Movement continues to grow. Youth Service America was founded in 1986 to serve as a nerve center, bringing together the many different "streams" of service. Over 60 youth service corps, approximately 500 higher education programs, some 1500 school-based service programs, and many community organizations provide service opportunities, many created in recent years. Youth service in the 1980's and 1990's is primarily an entrepreneurial, organizational venture. Youth participating in these programs are not only making a difference in their community, but in their own lives.

Recently, President Bush and Congress have launched several new initiatives which promote an ethic of service amongst the American people. Among these are, the Points of Light Foundation, the Office of National Service, and the Commission on National and Community Service.

The Place of Service-Learning in Educational Reform

All effective service programs are, in fact, service-learning programs, meaning that there is a process to ensure all participants learn from their experiences. This can be done through structured reflection opportunities in extracurricular programs, but when service-learning is integrated into the curriculum, it provides a vital and necessary link for making school subject matter more interesting and relevant in today's society. By integrating service in the curriculum, lessons are infused with real meaning and students are more motivated to learn.

The American 2000 plan has adopted the African proverb "It takes an entire community to raise one child." The truth of these words cannot be ignored, neither can we ignore the fact that each and every child being raised by the community must in turn make valuable contributions to that community throughout their lifetime. It is essential that a bond be created between learning in the classroom and learning in the community. In fact, the community must become a classroom. The benefits of tying service learning to education are numerous. An effective partnership between the two will:

- give youth the opportunity to address the social issues facing their community;
- tie youth to their schools and communities, much like athletics do today;
- increase self esteem which will improve student performance;
- provide youth with a sense of future and ownership;
- enable young people to use acquired skills in service to others;
- promote intergenerational partnerships, that will help to breakdown negative stereotypes too often associated with young people;
- instill traditional American values and encourage effective citizenship; and
- empower youth by providing leadership opportunities in the larger community;

AMERICA 2000 and Youth Service

If educational reform is to occur, it must occur on the community level. With over 1500 AMERICA 2000 communities in existence, steady progress is being made on improving the quality of American education. The idea of a strong community is at the very heart of the American 2000 strategy. We believe that community service is essential to strong communities. Therefore, linkage between AMERICA 2000 and community service is fundamental. AMERICA 2000 can advocate youth service in a variety of ways. For example:

- Spotlight successful community service/education partnerships on satellite town meetings to other AMERICA 2000 communities.
- Build working partnerships with the Commission on National and Community Service and the Office of National Service, Youth Service America (YSA), and other similar organizations.
- Encourage the New American School Development Corporation (NASDC) to incorporate research and possible implementation of service learning programming into their break-the-mold schools.
- Develop a database of successful community service programs that address the six educational goals. This project would encourage collaboration between various service and educational organizations including: the Department of Education, Youth Service America, the Youth Policy Institute and the Points of Light Foundation.
- Encourage local America 2000 Boards to invite youth representatives to serve on boards where policy affecting youth is being developed; provide support and training so that the youth representatives can act as full board members.
- Develop packets of information, including successful community service/education partnership programs, Youth involvement in AMERICA 2000 communities, and concrete examples of how service learning programs can be implemented in their community.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." The AMERICA 2000 strategy is one which encourages achievement; one which encourages our students to give their very best; one which encourages greatness. It is our hope that this end can be achieved, and these goals met by creating a powerful partnership between service and education. Following are some ideas on how service and service-learning can play a vital role in achieving the six National Education goals.

Service-Learning and the Six National Educational Goals

Goal 1: By the year 2000, all children in America will start school ready to learn.

A child who does not start school ready to learn is already in a precarious position. There is a large chance that that child will get behind and never have the opportunity to catch up. We do not want our children to be "at risk" before they have even begun.

In order to ensure that our children are starting school ready to learn, our communities must see to it that the children are well, parents are supportive, and preschools are established for low income children. Service is essential to the achievement of this goal.

Some examples include:

Middle schools, and junior and senior high schools would be encouraged to form partnerships with preschools in their community. Younger students would provide tutoring on basics such as counting, the alphabet and basic phonics. Tutors can coordinate numerous learning games which will stimulate young children's interest in learning. Tutoring sessions will allow more personalized learning experiences for the preschoolers.

Older students could aid in providing basic nutrition and health care information. For example, the science club of the neighborhood high school could administer eye exams to preschoolers; the home economics class could prepare a nutrition workshop and help prepare free breakfast for their designated preschool.

Also, it is essential that parents become involved in a child's preschool education. Local high schools could develop after school programs where preschool children, their parents, and high school students all interact in a multigenerational reading environment.

Middle school students could begin a campaign to encourage parents and older siblings to read to the younger children in the family.

Of course we cannot afford to overlook the fact that there are a myriad of social problems which might contribute to a child being unprepared for school. These include poverty, homelessness, and drugs. Youth can take leadership in combatting these problems. Any effort which helps combat this country's major social problems will benefit the children. The rallying cry for today's youth must become "We didn't make the world how it is, but we will work to improve it because it is ours."

Through commitments such as these, the youth of today, through their schools and greater communities, can play a pivotal role in providing what is necessary to ensure that the children are well and ready to learn.

Goal 2: By the year 2000, the high school graduation rate in our community will increase to at least 90 percent.

Service-learning can contribute to the achievement of Goal 2 in the following ways:

1. Mentoring programs in which students tutor and mentor their peers as well as younger students are shown to be an effective way of motivating both the mentors and the mentees. The mentees benefit from a one-on-one learning experience from someone they can relate to, while at the same time, mentors are able to reinforce their own learning.

2. Doing service has been shown to increase the self-esteem and feelings of self-worth of the individuals who participate. This in turn can help produce positive feelings about the future and reinforce the importance of staying in school.

3. Service-learning can make education and school more interesting and useful to the youth at risk of dropping out. By stimulating their interest in academic subjects through the use of meaningful, hands on service experiences, school may actually be fun and relevant.

Service learning is a necessary way to improve the quality and value of education for today's youth. Service has the potential to make learning more interesting, enjoyable and realistic for both high achieving and at risk students.

Goal 3: By the year 2000, American students will leave grades four, eight, and twelve having demonstrated competency in challenging subject matter including English, mathematics, science, history, and geography; and every school in America will ensure that all students learn to use their minds well, so they may be prepared for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment in our modern economy.

Competency in challenging subject matter such as English, mathematics, science, history and geography is an important goal for all young Americans. In order to be prepared to face the challenges of responsible citizenship, young people need skills, knowledge, and the ability to link what they learn in school with real-life problem-solving. What better way to prepare them for this challenge than to provide leadership opportunities through community service while they are still in school.

Service can easily be integrated into almost every subject area. In science, students can apply the laws of chemistry, biology or physics by working within their communities to clean up the environment. Good oral and written communications skills can be developed through history classes by having students research the unique history of their communities. Students might apply the math skills learned in class by helping local non-profits with their accounting or fundraising, tutoring other students in these math skills, or partnering with local businesses or corporations on specific projects. English can easily be tied in with the written and oral reflection components of any service project, and students might apply lessons learned in geography by working with other cultural/ethnic groups within their communities.

What is needed to achieve this? First, a commitment from the Department of Education that service is a valuable and critical component of education reform and something that should be promoted and encouraged. While the Department of Education cannot mandate service, it can certainly promote these ideals through satellite town meetings, publications, and speeches.

Second, there must be meaningful service work that ties in with class activity and contains a strong and definitive reflection piece. To achieve this, students must become excited about the work that they do and the impact it has on the community. Finally, support and training must be provided for teachers and communities to help make these programs sustainable and real. Some national community service leaders that might help put these pieces in motion include Youth Service America, the National Youth Leadership Council, the National Society for Experiential Education, Campus Compact, and the Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL).

Goal 4: *By the year 2000, U.S. students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement.*

In order to achieve the goal of making U.S. students first in the world in science and math achievement, several concerns must be addressed. First, student attitudes towards the science and math disciplines must be changed. There seems to be a lack of enthusiasm among students towards science and math.

A second problem that needs to be addressed is the method of teaching the course materials. For many young people, the science and math fields are not exciting subjects. An emphasis should be placed on making course work interesting at all levels of science and math curriculums. Students should be provided with meaningful, hands on experiences while learning subject matter.

The inclusion of service-learning and experiential education in math and science curriculum is a possible solution to the aforementioned problems. Secondary students can be used as tutors and mentors for elementary level science and math students. Students can provide services such as testing local water supplies, streams, ponds, testing air quality and for radon. Students can be involved in learning while performing community service.

In addition to integrating service-learning into the classroom, innovative approaches to science and math education should be encouraged. The use of computers, robotics and hands on types of learning should be implemented into the curriculum. One way to do this is to form partnerships with local science and math-oriented businesses. These partnerships could aid in providing necessary equipment and support experiential education opportunities. Partnerships may aid in not only stimulating interest in science and math but may also serve to increase awareness of the field and begin to change student attitudes towards math and science.

Goal 5: *By the year 2000, every adult American will be literate and will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to compete in a global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.*

In striving to accomplish this goal, attitudes toward education must be changed. People must see that what they learn in high school will apply to those careers they pursue after graduation. Learning must be presented in a manner which allows all people to take hold of their interests and pursue them. Learning must be transformed from didactic lectures that no one wants to hear, to a form of participatory education that everyone wants to be a part of. Service-learning provides this type of an opportunity. If we can spark the nation's interest in education, we can educate the nation.

Service can offer youth the opportunities to practice those skills they will be using later in their adult careers. Young mechanics could provide auto repairs at cost for senior citizens in their communities. Aspiring writers could write letters for developmentally disabled who are unable to, while hopeful young actors/actresses could read books and poems to senior citizens. Those interested in science and the environment could volunteer to work for local federal and state agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Natural Resources. Math students and future business leaders could offer their knowledge to help others plan a budget or just balance a checkbook. Young people pursuing a career in food management could donate their time and skills to a food shelter. The list of possibilities for young members of society to practice skills they will need in the future through community service are endless.

Young people could also offer their services to those adults who lack some of the skills necessary to compete in today's society. High school and middle school students could serve in literacy programs ranging from younger children to prisoners to senior citizens who need their aid. Mentoring programs could also be established which might target at-risk youth. These programs could be run in the school, in the community, or even by corporate sponsors. Peers could also serve as mentors or counselors helping other children accomplish their goals and gain necessary skills.

Community service can be an important part of a child's education if educators make it so. High school civics, government, sociology, and psychology courses should take the time to explore each student's service involvement, whether school related or non-school related, and discuss its importance. Youth must be taught at an early age how volunteerism relates to being a responsible citizen of this country. Service when complimented with learning in the classroom can be a powerful tool for creating good American citizens who will have the ability to make a difference.

Goal 6: *By the year 2000, every school in America will be free of drugs and violence and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning.*

In order to achieve the goal of "drug-free schools," youth must be the prime catalysts for change. This entails making young people feel that they have a stake in their schools and communities. Early in school, youth must be educated on the effects of drug abuse. The school systems cannot afford to wait until high school to address problems affecting even those in kindergarten. The best way to address the problems that youth face involves hands-on participation, or experiential learning.

By integrating service-learning into education, young people are given the opportunity, early on, to make a difference in their communities. Service programs can help young people start believing in themselves. They can then take that positive energy and invest it into their schools and communities. By working in their communities at a young age, the youth will see the negative effects that drugs and violence have on their community. Educating them on ways to affect change in their community will carry over into ways they can affect change in the classroom.

Involving youth in constructive, productive ways in which to achieve the goal of eliminating drugs and violence can come in various forms. Youth participation can be implemented in current programs. There are many student support groups; having high school students talk to younger students about the ill effects of drugs and violence can produce change. Also, having adults mentor students, who then go on to help younger students is a good start. Finally, having young people design a program to be used to target other youth is often more effective than a program designed and run by adults.

APPENDIX

BIOGRAPHIES OF YOUTH SERVICE AMERICA INTERNS

Administration and Finance Division:

James Donegan: Ogdensburg, New Jersey. Jay came to Youth Service America from PennSERVE, where he worked extensively on the Pennsylvania's application to the Commission on National and Community Service. He expects his B.A. in Political Science from Bloomsburg University in December. His work at Youth Service America has included developing a filing system for the office and researching grant foundations.

Communications and Constituent Relations Division:

Cinnamon Bradley: Chicago, Illinois. Cinnamon is a recent graduate of Duke University, with a degree in English. Previous activities include working as an intern/advocate at the Orange/Durham Coalition for Battered Women, serving as Vice President for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and editing Prometheus Black (campus literary magazine). Here at Youth Service America Cinnamon has helped to write, compile, and edit our Affiliate Directory. She has also written articles for YSA's newsletter STREAMS.

Policy and Programs Division:

Jared Genser: Potomac, Maryland. Jared is a returning intern and a junior at Cornell University majoring in Human Service Studies and Policy Analysis. He was instrumental in developing a "Best Buddies" program at Cornell University. During the summer he worked on state Youth Action Council development and high school community service training.

Vollie Melson: Frankford, Delaware. Vollie is a graduate student at George Washington University. His service involvement comes from work he did as president of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Vollie will also be spending a year in Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. While at Youth Service America, Vollie helped organize the Youth Service Congressional Round Table and he assisted the Working Group on Youth Service Policy.

Superconference:

Len Davis: Boston, Massachusetts. Len is a recent graduate of the D.C. Service Corps. Through his work with the corps, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to service and youth. While at Youth Service America, Len helped to plan the 1992 Super Conference, "The Power of Youth Service", November 5-8, 1992.

Youth Service Leadership Institute:

Dan Carter: Washington, D.C. Dan is also a recent graduate of the D.C. Service Corp. A 1990 graduate of the Cardoza High School, Dan was active in the Mayor's Youth Leadership Program, where he learned leadership skills and was involved in community service activities. Dan was responsible for organizing community service projects for interns. He also played an integral part in the recruitment of New Generation Training Program participants.

Torrance Colvin: Nashua, New Hampshire: Torrance is a sophomore at The America University, majoring in CLEG (Communications, Law, Economics, Government). Torry was involved in founding and running STOPP- Students To Offset Peer Pressure - throughout junior high and high school. Through STOPP, he was heavily involved in community service activities and organized a conference for more than 400 people during his junior and senior year. While here at Youth Service America he has served as recruiting coordinator for our New Generation Training Program and also helped write a proposal for a joint YSA and Department of Housing and Urban Development venture.

Diane Jackson, Intern Coordinator: Fayetteville, North Carolina. Diane is currently beginning a new job as Program Director at the D.C. Service Corps. She will be managing the higher education grant under the National and Community Service Act for the District. At Youth Service America, she first served as an intern with the New Generation Training Program, and later as intern coordinator. She graduated from The American University in May with a degree in communications and political science. Diane is currently National Media Chair for Into the Streets, and served as Into the Streets Hub Director for the Washington, D.C. area in 1991-92.

Jennifer Porter: Sante Fe, New Mexico. Jenny is the Youth Action Council intern for the Youth Service Leadership Institute, and manages logistics for all conferences and trainings. She is a senior at The American University, majoring in public communication and CLEG - Communications, Law, Economics and Government. Jenny is currently president of the Golden Key National Honor Society. Jenny spent a year traveling with the international organization *Up With People*, and hopes to work with them or another non-profit in events planning and fundraising after graduation.

Sean Smith: Caro, Michigan. While pursuing a joint internship the U.S. Department of Education and Youth Service America, Sean researched mentoring programs across the country and drafted a proposal for the mentor component of YSA's New Generation Training Program. He also did extensive research into service-learning and its role in AMERICA 2000. His interest in service stems from volunteer work he has done through 4-H, the Michigan Youth Corps, and at the University of Michigan.