

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Cabinet Affairs

Series/Staff Member: Anne McGuire

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 14931

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Corporation for National Service [3]

Stack:

S

Row:

24

Section:

2

Shelf:

1

Position:

1

Office of Cabinet Affairs
interoffice memorandum

TO: ☐ Kris M. Balderston
☐ David Beaubaire
☒ Bibb Hubbard
☐ Jon P. Jennings
☐ Lisa J. Levin
☐ Anne McGuire
☒ Stephen B. Silverman
☐ Elisabeth Sarah Steele
☐ Helen Veit
☐ _____

FROM: Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

DATE: 1/26/98

☐ For your action.
☐ For your files.
☒ For your information.
☐ Per your request.
☐ Sent to Scheduling.
☐ _____

Service

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
★ SERVICE

TO: Colleagues and Friends
FROM: John Gomperts 
DATE: January 15, 1998
RE: National Service Accomplishments and Challenges

As you probably know, I have been working at the Corporation for National Service for nearly a year now. It has been an astonishingly busy year and, as I look back, also a quite successful year. On a number of fronts, the cause of national service made significant and, I think, lasting progress. Needless to say, we also face great challenges ahead.

I thought you might be interested to hear what we've been doing, so I am enclosing a copy of the end of the year letter our CEO, Harris Wofford, sent to the national service field. Attached to the letter are various clippings and documents that give you a feel for our activities. Though the letter and reading material are lengthy, I hope you will take a few minutes to look them over.

As always, I invite your questions, comments, and suggestions. Please call me at 202-606-5000 ext. 121 or email me at jgompert@cns.gov.

Many thanks for your friendship and support and best wishes for a good year.

Goody -
Thanks for doing a
great job at the briefing
You should know that
many of the accomplishments
reported in this packet are
the direct consequence of
exceptional work by your
colleagues Steve Bibb.
They are fabulous!





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.

#

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.

#

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 underneath.

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

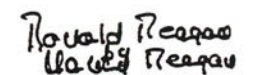


As Americans and as Presidents, we ask every caring citizen to pledge individual commitments of citizen service, voluntary action, the efforts of their organizations, or commitments to individual children in need. By doing so, this nation pledges the fulfillment of America's promise for every American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

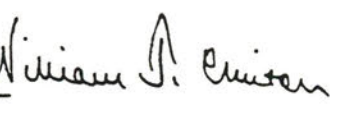
THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


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

"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 taxpayers' 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

"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,
Benteen Elementary School
Atlanta, Georgia**

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.*

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.

© 1997, Creators Syndicate

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 Sallie 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 (Katie) 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.bbbbsa.org

Civic Alliance for Prevention through Service

www.ptsanet.org

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 yesterday'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 Senator 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/File 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.

Blanding talks with her assigned AmeriCorps member, Wamette Cason, almost daily.

"She came in and helped us organize these activities. We didn't have anything before," Blanding 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 Malissa 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.

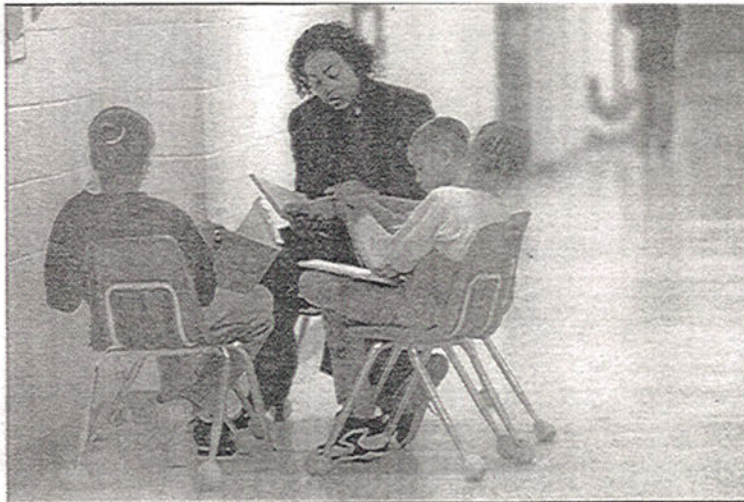
On a recent school day, she sat in the hallway of Churchland Academy surrounded by four youngsters who took turns reading aloud.

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.



The Knoxville News-Sentinel

FINAL EDITION •
www.knoxnews.com

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 31, 1997 •
50 Cents

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

Peace Corps veteran meets with students

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

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

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20525
202-606-5000
www.nationalservice.org

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

Office of Cabinet Affairs
interofficememorandum

TO: ☐ Kris M. Balderston
☐ David Beaubaire
☒ Bibb Hubbard
☐ Jon P. Jennings
☐ Lisa J. Levin
☐ Anne McGuire
☒ Stephen B. Silverman
☐ Elisabeth Sarah Steele
☐ Helen Veit
☐ _____

FROM: Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

DATE: 1/23/98

☒ For your action.
☐ For your files.
☐ For your information.
☐ Per your request.
☐ Sent to Scheduling.
☐ _____

Service opportunities - for USDO

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/22 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 1/26

SUBJECT: Memo - Encouraging Federal Employees' Service Opportunities

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☒
BOWLES	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	RADD	☐	☐
MATHEWS	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
RAINES	☐	☐	RUFF	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	SMITH	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
ECHAVESTE	☐	☐	SPERLING	☐	☐
EMANUEL	☒	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	TARULLO	☐	☐
HILLEY	☐	☐	VERVEER	☒	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	WALDMAN	☐	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LEWIS	☒	☐	BEGALA	☒	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	<u>Silverman</u>	☒	☐
MARSHALL →	☒	☐	<u>Portina</u>	☒	☐
				☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please advise

RESPONSE:



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

98 JAN 22 AM 11:46

January 21, 1998

THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Franklin D. Raines
Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Memorandum Entitled "Strengthening Our Commitment to Service"

SUMMARY: This memorandum forwards for your consideration a proposed Executive order that was prepared by the Office of Personnel Management. The proposed memorandum would direct Executive departments and agencies to take certain actions to expand service opportunities for their employees.

BACKGROUND: Federal employees have been generous with their time and talents and have made positive contributions to their local communities even as they have fulfilled their work responsibilities. The Federal Government, as the nation's largest employer, has a responsibility to set an example by making it possible for its employees to serve others.

The proposed memorandum, therefore, would direct Executive departments and agencies to explore additional measures to expand service opportunities for their employees. It would direct Executive departments and agencies to review their scheduling practices and make maximum use of existing flexibilities to allow Federal employees to perform community service. It would direct the Office of Personnel Management to provide information to Executive departments and agencies to support the effort. It would also direct Executive departments and agencies to report to the Office of Personnel Management within 90 days on the extent to which they are taking steps to implement the memorandum.

None of the affected agencies objects to the proposed memorandum.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you sign the proposed memorandum.

Attachments

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Strengthening Our Commitment to Service

Citizen service is the main way we recognize that we are responsible for one another. It is the very American idea that we meet our challenges as members of a true community, with all of us working together. Citizen service cannot be a pursuit for a week or a month. The ethic of service must extend throughout a lifetime.

I recognize the fact that over the years great numbers of Federal employees have been generous with their time and talents and have made positive contributions to their local communities even as they have fulfilled their responsibilities. As the nation's largest employer, the Federal Government has a responsibility to set an example by making it possible for its employees to serve others.

Therefore, I am directing Federal departments and agencies to explore additional measures to expand service opportunities for Federal employees. Each department and agency should review its work scheduling practices and make maximum use of existing flexibilities to allow Federal employees to plan and take time off to perform community service whenever the public business permits. Each department and agency should also inform its employees of the various flexibilities available to them to participate in volunteer activities. I am directing the Office of Personnel Management to provide information to departments and agencies in support of this effort. I am also directing each department and agency to report to the Office of Personnel Management within 90 days on the extent to which it is taking steps to implement this memorandum.

The Director of the Office of Personnel Management is authorized and directed to published this directive in the Federal Register.

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
★ SERVICE

TO: Colleagues and Friends
FROM: John Gomperts 
DATE: January 15, 1998
RE: National Service Accomplishments and Challenges

As you probably know, I have been working at the Corporation for National Service for nearly a year now. It has been an astonishingly busy year and, as I look back, also a quite successful year. On a number of fronts, the cause of national service made significant and, I think, lasting progress. Needless to say, we also face great challenges ahead.

I thought you might be interested to hear what we've been doing, so I am enclosing a copy of the end of the year letter our CEO, Harris Wofford, sent to the national service field. Attached to the letter are various clippings and documents that give you a feel for our activities. Though the letter and reading material are lengthy, I hope you will take a few minutes to look them over.

As always, I invite your questions, comments, and suggestions. Please call me at 202-606-5000 ext. 121 or email me at jgompert@cns.gov.

Many thanks for your friendship and support and best wishes for a good year.

*Goodies
Thank you for doing a
great job at the briefing that
you should know that
many of the accomplishments
reported in your packet are
the direct consequence of
exceptional work by your
colleagues Steve & Bibb.
They are fabulous!*



CORPORATION
FOR 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.

#

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.

#

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

VIEWPOINT

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

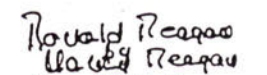


As Americans and as Presidents, we ask every caring citizen to pledge individual commitments of citizen service, voluntary action, the efforts of their organizations, or commitments to individual children in need. By doing so, this nation pledges the fulfillment of America's promise for every American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

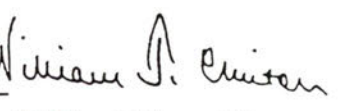
THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


Gerald R. Ford


Jimmy Carter
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,
Benteen 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 a 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 taxpayers' 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.

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.

© 1997, Creators Syndicate

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

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 Sallie 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 (Katie) 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 YEADSF/FILE 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.

Blanding talks with her assigned AmeriCorps member, Wamette Cason, almost daily.

"She came in and helped us organize these activities. We didn't have anything before," Blanding 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.

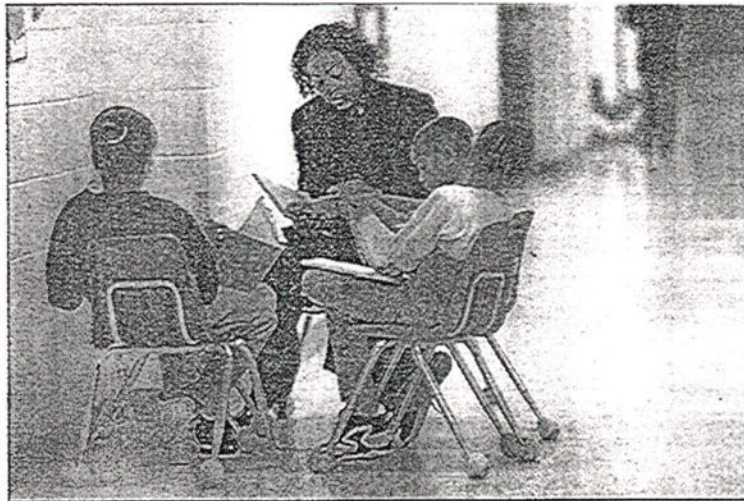
On a recent school day, she sat in the hallway of Churchland Academy surrounded by four youngsters who took turns reading aloud.

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.



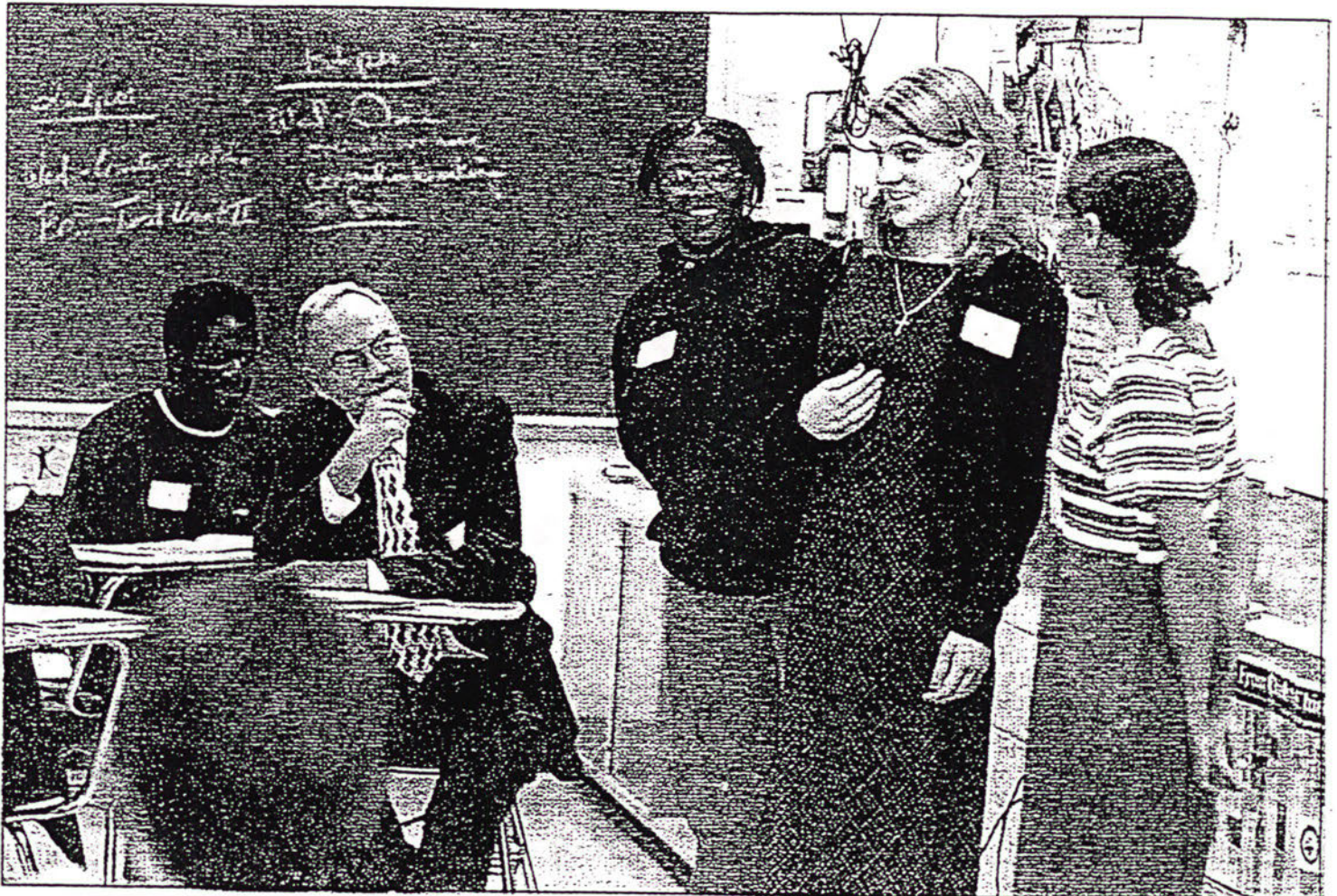
The Knoxville News-Sentinel

FINAL EDITION •
www.knoxnews.com

FRIDAY

OCTOBER 31, 1997 +
50 Cents

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

Peace Corps veteran meets with students

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

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

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20525
202-606-5000
www.nationalservice.org

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

CNS - Daily Points of Lt.



Copies to:
✓ Steve Silverman
Diana Fortuna
FYI.

The Daily Points of Light Award

February 1, 1998

Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to announce the return of the Daily Points of Light Awards program. Initially instituted during the Administration of President George Bush, the Daily Points of Light Awards program was a high profile, highly respected and extremely popular program that celebrated a broad cross section of America's volunteers.

These awards are designed to honor volunteers and volunteer organizations that demonstrate unique and innovative approaches to community volunteering and citizen action, with a strong emphasis on service focused on the goals for children and young people set by the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

The Daily Points of Light Awards program is co-sponsored by The Points of Light Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, the Corporation for National Service, which administers the national service programs authorized by Congress and the President and the Knights of Columbus, the world's largest Catholic Family Fraternal Service Organization. The Knights of Columbus Supreme Council provides full funding.

The award will be given five times a week, Monday through Friday, including holidays. The first award was on January 1, 1998. Information about each Daily Point of Light award recipient and their commitment to service can be found on The Points of Light Foundation's website @ www.PointsofLight.org.

As we seek to call to public attention the contributions that volunteers are making toward solving local and national social problems, we invite your participation in nominating excellent volunteers. This award will celebrate efforts that exemplify the spirit of service as well as inspire other individuals to action by the telling of stories of ordinary individuals performing extraordinary acts of service.

Enclosed you will find a nomination form. If you would like additional forms to distribute to your own network, please do not hesitate to call Toyja Somerville at The Points of Light Foundation, 202-223-9186, ext. 217, or fax a request to (202) 223-9256. While nominations will be accepted throughout the year, the regular selection period will be quarterly, with deadlines of February 28, May 1, August 1, and November 1. We look forward to your participation in this year's program!

Sincerely,

Toyja R. Somerville
Manager, Daily Points of Light Awards

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE
SPONSORS

POINTS OF LIGHT
FOUNDATION



Knights of Columbus



The Daily Points of Light Award

I am pleased that this opportunity allows us to recognize and honor those individuals who exemplify the type of extraordinary service that we all should work toward as a component of citizenship. To meet our many challenges, we must encourage and support the individuals whose dedication to service will inspire caring and commitment in others. — President Bill Clinton

Points of Light are the soul of America. They are ordinary people who reach beyond themselves to the lives of those in need, bringing hope and opportunity, care and friendship.—Former President George Bush

Every year, almost half of the American population volunteers their time, talent and energy to help others, to solve local problems and to build stronger communities. It is through the dedicated work of volunteers that people, especially young people, are being given a chance for a brighter future.

The connections they build exemplify the best in us: a sense of caring and responsibility for others, a commitment to service and a demonstration of citizenship. While their actions go largely unrecognized—volunteers are truly America's unsung heroes.

The Daily Points of Light Awards are designed to honor those who have made a commitment to connect Americans through service to help meet critical needs in their communities, especially focused on the goals for children and youth set by the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

The Daily Points of Light Awards program is co-sponsored by The Points of Light Foundation, the Corporation for National Service and the Knights of Columbus, with program funding provided by the Knights of Columbus.



The Points of Light Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, was established in May 1990 to engage more people more effectively in volunteer community service to help solve serious social problems. In October 1991, the Foundation merged with The National Volunteer Center, which brought a 21-year history of supporting and strengthening volunteer activity. The Foundation helps communities build and strengthen the local infrastructure to support volunteering by working with Volunteer Centers and with companies interested in employee volunteering; it works with nonprofit organizations and government agencies to build their capacity to engage volunteers effectively; it engages the public through increased awareness of the importance of volunteering; and it addresses serious social problems through volunteer service. The Foundation's major new initiative, Connect America, is a collaborative effort to bring together the energies and resources of nonprofit organizations, business and community volunteer to help build the connections that are critical to solving society's problems.



The Corporation for National Service, created by Congress in 1993, is a public-private partnership that engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service that addresses the nation's educational, public safety, environmental and other human needs. The Corporation oversees three national service initiatives. AmeriCorps, which includes AmeriCorps • VISTA and AmeriCorps • National Civilian Community Corps, is a national service network of hundreds of nonprofits and programs that engage thousands of Americans in full-time and sustained part-time community service, and provides education awards in return for such service. Learn and Serve America supports and promotes service-learning in schools, universities, and communities, providing models and assistance to help teachers and community leaders integrate service and learning from kindergarten through college. The National Senior Service Corps is a network of people age 55 and older who participate in the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).



The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization, with nearly 1.6 million members plus their families, in the United States, Canada, Mexico and several other countries. Last year alone, Knights and their families donated \$106 million to charitable causes and volunteered 50 million hours of service to their communities. Activities include distributing food to the needy, conducting sports and education programs for young people, disaster assistance, volunteering in the local Catholic parish, school and religious education programs, and raising funds for families with costly medical bills. In addition, the Knights of Columbus supports Special Olympics and similar efforts. The Knights of Columbus was a 1984 recipient of the President's Volunteer Action Award.

Submitting the Nomination

Please mail all entries to:

The Daily Points of Light Awards
1737 H Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Effective May 1, 1998:
1400 I Street, N.W., Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005

AWARD CATEGORIES

The Daily Points of Light Awards are designed to honor those who have made a commitment to connect Americans through service to help meet critical needs in their communities, especially around the goals for children and youth set by the Presidents' Summit for America's Future. The Summit goals—to secure for every child five fundamental resources needed to lead a productive life—are:

- 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

In keeping with the spirit of the Summit, the Daily Points of Light Awards will be made in six related service areas. Although special consideration will be given to service activities that either *benefit or involve young people*, the categories include service to and by all ages.

Please choose from the following categories:

Ongoing relationship with caring persons

Mentoring and coaching
Youth and peer counseling
Services to the elderly, homebound and those with special needs
Foster care programs
Programs to improve parenting skills

Safe communities

Structured activities in out-of-school time
Assistance to victims of crime and/or domestic violence
Child abuse awareness and prevention
After-school enrichment programs
Assistance to homeless and indigent persons/families
Permanent affordable housing
Conflict resolution
Supervised youth and community recreation
Prisoner rehabilitation programs
Crime prevention efforts
Neighborhood cleanup and rehabilitation efforts
Reduction of environmental hazards in housing
Conservation and restoration of natural resources

Healthy start for a healthy future

Prenatal health care
Youth and community recreation
Wellness and community-based health care
Substance abuse awareness and prevention
Immunization programs
Enrolling children in available health care programs
Services to persons with disabilities or HIV/AIDS
Substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation
Child care programs
Services that provide for the basic human needs—food, clothing and shelter

Quality education for all

Adopt-a-school and/or tutoring programs
Early childhood development
Scholarship and college assistance
Special literacy initiatives for children
Adult and family literacy and community education
Intergenerational literacy programs
Job training, placement/employment readiness, and apprenticeships
Library development and assistance
School readiness programs
School or community-based service-learning
English as a second language training
Computer literacy program

Opportunities for young people to serve

School or community-based service learning
College work-study programs serving the community
Family volunteering
Youth engaged in service to solve community problems
Partnerships between religious groups that engage youth in service
Programs engaging young people of different ages/backgrounds in service
Youth as tutors, mentors, peer counselors or conflict resolution mediators
Youth involved as organizers of service groups or activities
Youth organizing local summits
Youth-led activities as described in all other categories

Community mobilization

Encouraging persons to become involved in service
Bringing together diverse groups to solve community problems
Service through religious congregations or affiliations
Disaster relief assistance
Business and labor volunteer programs
Community-wide conservation and restoration project
Neighborhood revitalization projects

ELIGIBILITY

- ☐ Any individual, organization, group, family, business or labor union actively engaged in voluntary service benefiting the community or nation could be nominated.
- ☐ Service may be directed either at domestic or international problem-solving.
- ☐ Nominated activities typically should be of at least six months duration.
- ☐ Employees and members of the board of directors and committees of The Points of Light Foundation, employees and members of the board of directors of the Corporation for National Service and employees and members of the board of directors of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council are not eligible to receive the award.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- ☐ Separate nominations may be submitted for as many different individuals or groups as desired.
- ☐ Only nominations accompanied by a self-addressed stamped postcard will be acknowledged. Because of the volume of nominations, the Daily Points of Light Awards screening committee cannot respond to queries regarding the status of a specific nomination.
- ☐ Pertinent supplementary materials may be submitted along with the nomination form. See "The Nomination: Accompanying Materials" (page 4) for guidelines. All nominations must be complete in one package when submitted.
- ☐ All entries and supplementary materials will become the property of The Points of Light Foundation and will not be returned. Materials will be held by the Foundation for six months following receipt.
- ☐ The screening committee may request additional information from nominators or references for the judges' consideration.
- ☐ Decisions of the judges are final.

CRITERIA

The following criteria are utilized in reviewing and judging the nominations:

- ☐ **Community Needs and Solution**—Does the nominee's activity meet a real community need or concern? Does it serve those who are disconnected from the larger community? Does the activity lead to a long-term solution? Or does it give the recipient of the service the tools they need to achieve a solution on their own?
- ☐ **Connection Building**—Does the activity demonstrate hands-on service that results in building connections between the community and those who may be isolated from it?
- ☐ **Ongoing Involvement**—Is the activity ongoing? To be eligible an activity should typically be of at least six months in duration. One exception is the category of disaster relief. Strong nominations that do not meet these criteria may be held for later consideration.
- ☐ **Impact**—Is there demonstrated impact resulting from the activity?
- ☐ **Innovation**—Do the activities reflect innovative or unique approaches to solving serious social problems?

THE NOMINATION

Complete the "Official Nomination Form" and attached a statement of up to 500 words describing the nominee's activities. In addition, you may include appropriate supportive materials.

(A) The Nomination Form

Item I. Indicate the nominee's complete name, mailing address and telephone number. If the nominee is a group, indicate the appropriate contact person within the group along with his/her address and telephone number.

Item II. Categories are used as guidelines in the selection process. Please check the appropriate award category. Because some nominations fit appropriately into more than one category, please choose the one you feel is most suitable. Check only one category.

Item III. Because finalists' references will be contacted for verification of their activities and accomplishments, please choose references that are familiar with and can be available to discuss the nominee's community volunteering and citizen service activities.

Item IV. Indicate name, address and telephone number of the nominator and sign the nomination form. If appropriate, indicate the nominator's title and organization.

(B) The Statement

Please attach a narrative statement of up to 500 words, which describes the nominee's service activities and which demonstrates how those activities meet the community's serious social problems. Because the judges will utilize the criteria in the review process, please be sure that you address each of the criteria within the statement. Include information on how and when the activity began. If the nominee receives a stipend or salary for any portion of the nominated activity, please explain the extent of the stipend or salary in the statement and the degree to which the service is beyond the normal activities supported by the stipend.

(C) Accompanying Materials

Up to ten pages (front and back) of supplementary material may be submitted along with the nomination. These materials can include letters, testimonials, news clippings, pamphlets, etc. Anything over 10 pages will be discarded. Do not submit audio or videotapes, display materials, films, scrapbooks, as they will not be considered. Accompanying materials must be no larger than 8.5" by 11". All submitted materials become the property of The Points of Light Foundation and will not be returned.

DAILY POINTS OF LIGHT AWARDS OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

I. NOMINEE:

Name: _____

If nominee is an individual, indicate Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs.;

(Area Code) Phone Number _____

If nominee is a group, enter full name of group, organization or business _____

If nominee is group, enter name of contact person _____

(Area Code) Phone Number _____

Complete Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Please check the appropriate classification **for your nominee** (only one):

____ Youth

____ Civic organization

____ School/School District

____ Adult

____ Media

____ Business

____ Senior

____ Religious organization

____ Government Agency

____ Family

____ Group

____ Nonprofit organization

____ Other (please explain) _____

II. AWARD CATEGORY:

Please check the appropriate category (check only one):

____ Ongoing relationship with caring persons

____ Safe communities

____ Healthy start for a healthy future

____ Quality education for all

____ Opportunities for young people to serve

____ Community mobilization

III. VERIFICATION: In order to qualify, a nominee must have three references who may be contacted to verify the scope and extent of the nominee's activities. References should be persons familiar with the community service activities for which the nomination is made and should not include the nominee or any person related to the nominee if an individual.

Name: _____

(Area Code) Phone Number _____

Title and organization, if appropriate _____

Complete Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Name: _____

(Area Code) Phone Number _____

Title and organization, if appropriate _____

Complete Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Name: _____

(Area Code) Phone Number _____

Title and organization, if appropriate _____

Complete Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Name: _____

(Area Code) Phone Number _____

Title and organization, if appropriate _____

Complete Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

IV. NOMINATOR:

Name: _____

(Area Code) Phone Number _____

Title and organization, if appropriate _____

Complete Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Signature _____