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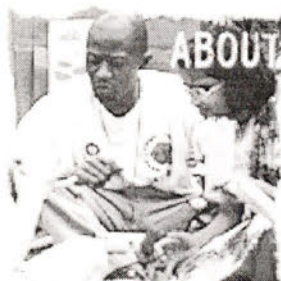
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President Clinton joins City Year's diverse young leaders in a celebration of youth, service and community action at City Year's annual convention.

Cleveland, OH -In a personal response to 500 handwritten letters of invitation from City Year corps members, President William Jefferson Clinton participated today in CYZYG '98, City Year's Annual National Service Convention. CYZYG (pronounced si-zi-gee) comes from the Greek word "syzygy," an alignment of the sun, moon and stars. **City Year's "cyzyg" convention aligns its corps members, partners and friends from across the country.**

President Clinton delivered a special address at CYZYG '98. Standing before City Year corps members, school children served by City Year, and City Year private sector, community and civic partners, **President Clinton lauded young people as a powerful force for creating active solutions to the pressing issues of our nation. A year after the President's announcement of his race initiative City Year showcases practical, concrete solutions to breaking down social barriers and tapping the talents of our nation's youth. City Year's inspirational corps members personify the national service movement AmeriCorps that President Clinton has made a priority of his administration.**

Guided by 19 year-old City Year corps member Charlotte Pierre, President Clinton greeted the students of Stephen E. Howe Elementary School. The Pioneer Standard Electronics/Rockwell Automation City Year Team has tutored, mentored and provided one-on-one attention to students at the school for two years running.



In 1991, in a converted warehouse in Boston, then Presidential candidate Clinton participated in a discussion on national service with corps members of City Year -a

fledgling corps of 70 young people. The President's leadership on AmeriCorps has enabled City Year to grow from one program in Boston, to ten programs in Chicago, Cleveland, Columbia, Columbus, Philadelphia, Rhode Island, San Antonio, San Jose and Seattle. **To date, City Year has contributed over 6 million hours of service, inspired 81,000 citizens to civic action, engaged 642 corporate sponsors and partnered with 313 community-based organizations.** City Year, with its 4000 alumni, is a proud member of the AmeriCorps National Service Network, weaving service into the fabric of everyday life in America. Since 1994, 100,000 young people have given a year of service through AmeriCorps.

City Year is a national service program that unites diverse young people, ages 17 to 24, in a rigorous year of full-time community service, leadership development and civic engagement. City Year, part of the AmeriCorps national service network, provides its service with the help of the federal government, corporations, foundations and individuals. Founded in Boston in 1988, City Year has since expanded to Chicago, Columbia, SC; Cleveland, Columbus, Rhode Island; San Antonio, San Jose, Philadelphia, and Seattle/King County. City Year corps members are going out every day into communities and "putting their idealism to work." National Board Members include Jeffrey Swartz, Rosabeth Moss Kanter, Mitt Romney and Debra Jackson.

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**City Year to hold National Town Meeting on Race and Service:
City Year demonstrates successful and practical strategies
in support of Clinton's Race Initiative**

Event: City Year's National Town Meeting -One America**Date:** June 4, 1998**Time:** 7:00 - 9:30 PM**Place:** Kulis Auditorium, John Carroll University**Participants:** City Year AmeriCorps members, corporate sponsors, community service and civic leaders

Cleveland - City Year's Annual Convention CYZGY held June 2-5, 1998, marked the one year anniversary, almost to the date, of President Clinton's announcement in San Diego of his focus on race in America. In an interview earlier this year with The New York Times, President Clinton noted that citizen service could be a vehicle to unite people from different backgrounds and help bridge the growing racial divide in America. The City Year AmeriCorps program is a concrete and tangible example of this philosophy.

Thursday, June 4, a day after City Year was honored by a visit from President Clinton, the Youth Summit featured a remarkable day of city-wide service by 1300 City Year corps members, corporate CEO's, children, civic leaders and local volunteers. The day was capped off by a National Town Meeting on race. The Meeting initiated a dialogue



designed, as stated by the White House, to "engage the nation in moving toward a stronger, more just, and more united American Community, offering opportunity and fairness for all Americans...America can reach its full potential only by enlisting the full energies of all our people, and by giving all our citizens, of every background, the chance to

make the most of their own God-given talents."

City Year's hallmark is in uniting young adults across boundaries of race, class, age, gender, education, and geography for a rigorous year of community service. From gang member to Harvard graduate, from young mother to

budding entrepreneur, **City Year believes passionately that the key to unlocking the grip of racism and breaking down social barriers of all kinds is in tapping the civic power of young people and working together toward a common goal of community service.** A recent U.S. News and World Report article stated, "Few things force you to take an honest measure of people as much as having to rely on them to accomplish an objective...The young people of City Year didn't learn that everyone worked hard or was pleasant company; they learned that there wasn't a correlation between those qualities and race."

As the premiere event of the CYZYG '98 convention, the City Year community heeded the President's call to engage in a dialogue on race. Through words and actions, City Year continues to advance the notion that service is a successful strategy for breaking down social barriers in our country.

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Corps members transform inner city schools and inspire children.



In his inaugural address, Thomas Menino, the mayor of Boston, called for City Year teams in every public school. To date, 31,701 school children across the nation have been served by City Year teams. Corps members serve as teachers aides and

mentors. They run after-school programs, school vacation camps, conflict resolution workshops, and develop HIV/AIDS curricula. Mary Russo, then principal of Mason Elementary School, Roxbury, MA, says "City Year's presence has translated into more for the kids...The partnership is a synergistic relationship. Both the Mason School and City Year brought particular strengths to the partnership. **The two coalesced and produced something even better than the original plans. Every group in the school has been impacted.**"

Uniting a cross section of diverse young Americans.

City Year provides a powerful meeting ground for young people from all walks of life. Governor Jim Edgar of Illinois believes, "City Year has done an outstanding job of bringing diverse youths together to work for the betterment of their communities as well as for the personal growth, education and development of the young people who participate." Columbia, SC, corps member Cheryl Dessausure reflects, "I'm used to being around mostly black people. My neighborhood is black. In the classroom, it's blacks on one side, whites on the other. We [City Year] do things as if there is no black and white, as if everybody's blind and we're all the same."

Corps member demographics since 1988 include:

Click [here](#) to view demographics.

Serious leadership training.

An innovative school for civic skills, City Year requires corps members to register to vote, learn to file tax forms, be certified in First Aid/CPR, and obtain library cards. Spending 40 hours a week in diverse teams of ten, corps members achieve computer literacy, practice public speaking and effective communication, conflict resolution, decision making, evaluation and teamwork.



Active citizenship gets in the blood of City Year participants. City Year seeks to engage people in a lifetime commitment to service. Working as children's librarians, school teachers, counselors, health workers, park rangers, doctors and lawyers, or attending 2 and 4 year colleges after City Year, corps members continue active lives of engaged citizenship. Roly Mercado, a City Year Boston corps member reflects, **"Through City Year I have learned how to accept people who are different from me. And after City Year I'll be able to go anywhere and ask, 'What can I do?'"**

High standards and rigorous expectations.

Corps members must adhere to strict standards of professional conduct, uniform dress, punctuality, attendance, service excellence, courtesy, self-evaluation and physical training.

City Year has the highest retention rate of any youth service corps in America - 85% of City Year corps members graduate from the program. Joel Smith, president of NationsBank says, "I don't know of any other program in recent times that is as important as this one."

Fierce competition to join the corps with a 5 to 1 applicant ratio.

Young people vie for 1,000 spots in the City Year corps. Therese Gibson, City Year Boston corps member, feels, **"City Year restored my faith in myself and my generation."**

Corps members reinvigorate communities.

Working with the elderly and homeless, rehabilitating

housing, community centers, and constructing playgrounds and gardens, "City Year provides the kind of



community-based solutions that Columbus needs and it inspires others to take initiative and make a difference," says Mayor Greg Lashutka of Columbus, OH. Robert Van Landingham, an elder resident in Codman Apartments, Boston, MA, shares, "What does it mean to have [City Year corps members] here? Well, sir, I think it

means we are not ready to die yet. At least I'm not. I'm planning to stick around and enjoy these young people."

City Year is the inventor of the "Serve-a-thon" concept, a fundraising special event that brings citizens together from all walks of life to give a Saturday of their time for community service. Since 1989, the Serve-a-thon has brought a total of 33,000 citizens together to give 200,000 hours of service. Local corporations often form teams and volunteer together. City Year Serve-a-thon gives employees throughout the organization a sense of really being involved with the community. It is far more tangible than writing a check.

Launched entirely with private dollars.

City Year was launched in 1988 through funds solely from the private sector - the only youth corps of its kind to do this. Starting with four founding City Year Team Sponsors ten years ago - Bain & Company, BankBoston, The Equitable and General Cinema - today City Year is backed by hundreds of companies, who have invested over \$40 million in City Year since 1988. City Year's Founding National Sponsors, The Timberland Company and Digital Equipment Corporation, have each invested more than \$1 million in City Year.

Ira Jackson, senior vice president of Bank Boston says, "Our commitment to City Year has been the most cost-effective philanthropic investment this institution has made in its 208-year history...it has paid off and continues to pay off."

A national operation in ten sites nationwide.

Given strong interest and demand by corporations, service organizations, citizens and governments in cities across America, City Year continues to grow into new communities each year. Founded in Boston in 1988, City Year has expanded to Chicago, IL; Columbia, SC; Columbus and Cleveland, OH; Rhode Island; San Antonio, TX; San Jose/Silicon Valley, CA; Philadelphia, PA; and Seattle/King County, WA. Part of the AmeriCorps national service network, City Year provides its service with the help of the federal government, corporations, foundations and individuals. **City Year has aided ten cities in engaging their citizenry and promoting volunteerism as corps members go out every day into communities and "put their idealism to work."**

Attracts top staff talent.

Leading professionals from the private and public sector, higher education and non-profit organizations join the City Year staff: a Harvard University professor at John F. Kennedy School of Government; former vice presidents from Bank Boston and the Boston Company; former executive director of Community Initiatives, Boston Housing Authority; former dean of students at Stanford University; and former director of the Aids Action Committee.

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Co-Founders' Message.

City Year's Annual Campaign of Idealism 1996-1997

There is a special story that we tell and re-tell at City Year - one that gets at the heart of what the nearly 1,000 members of the City Year corps and staff do every day:



A little girl was walking along a beach covered with thousands of starfish left dying in the sun by the receding tide. Seeking to help, she picked up a starfish and tossed it back into the ocean. A man, amused by her action, said to her, "Little girl, there are too many starfish. You will never make a difference." Discouraged, she began to walk away. Suddenly, she turned around, picked up another starfish, and tossed it as far as she could back into the sea. Turning to the man, she smiled and said, "I made a difference to that one!"

City Year's mission is to tap the civic power of youth for an annual campaign of idealism and collected on the pages of this annual report are just a few of the thousands of daily "starfish" stories of City Year's 1996-97 campaign.

More than ever, it is vital for Americans to find meaningful ways to connect to each other , to learn from each other, and to unite for the common public purpose of making our communities and our country strong and just. This is the enormous promise of voluntary national service, and it continues to be the motivating premise of our work at City Year.

A true microcosm - reaching across the divides of race, ethnicity, education, geography and socioeconomic background - of the American community, the 1996-1997 City Year corps and staff generated more than one million hours of community service  and partnered with over 300 community-based organizations in nine City Year sites nationwide to meet critical needs in literacy, education, HIV/AIDS awareness, domestic violence prevention, and youth development.

National service can unite the major sectors of our society for progress and change. Led by the Corporation for National Service's AmeriCorps initiative and City Year's National Founding Sponsors, the Digital Equipment Corporation and The

Timberland Company, the 1996-97 campaign was fueled by a growing private/public alliance among 642 corporations, 150 foundations, 18 state and municipal governments, and 15,000 individuals - including thousands of Serve-a-thon volunteers.

Perhaps the greatest positive impact of national service can be to help educate, mentor, and protect the health and safety of our nation's children. This year, our "Young Heroes" service corps for middle school students ran in City Year sites from coast to coast. Our hope is that one day, tens of thousands of children are provided with an opportunity to be service heroes in their communities.

As more communities seek to tap the power of young people, City Year continues to grow. This fall we welcomed the inaugural corps of City Year Cleveland, founded by a remarkable team of civic leaders and led by advisory board Co-Chairs Tom Sullivan, CEO of RPM, Inc. and Jan Roller of Davis & Young. At the same time, community, civic and business leaders in Pennsylvania and Washington state were hard at work developing City Year Philadelphia and City Year Seattle/King County, City Year's ninth and tenth corps.

It has been a year of imagination, inspiration, transformation - and challenge. In the months and years ahead, City Year seeks the resources to strengthen its national corps recruitment and service impact, to build a strong technological infrastructure, to train a growing number of corps members and staff members in the skills of social entrepreneurship, to meet the demands of communities for new City Year sites, and to launch an endowment that can provide the organization with the resources to fuel innovation and provide long-term financial stability.

At City Year we believe passionately that national service and social entrepreneurship can help unlock the enormous power of American citizens to solve problems, bridge differences, end injustice and build a strong democracy. This year, City Year's new public service announcement, generously developed by Hill, Holliday, Connors, Cosmopolos, reminds us all that like the little girl in the story, we are all "young enough to want to change the world - and old enough to do it." We can all put our idealism to work.

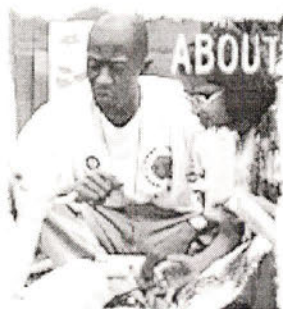
On behalf of the entire City Year community - our boards, investors, service partners, corps, staff and alumni - thank you for your interest in City Year, and welcome to our 1996-97 annual report.

Co-Founder

Co-Founder

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**CITY YEAR'S MISSION**

is to put idealism to work by tapping the civic power of young people for an annual campaign of idealism.

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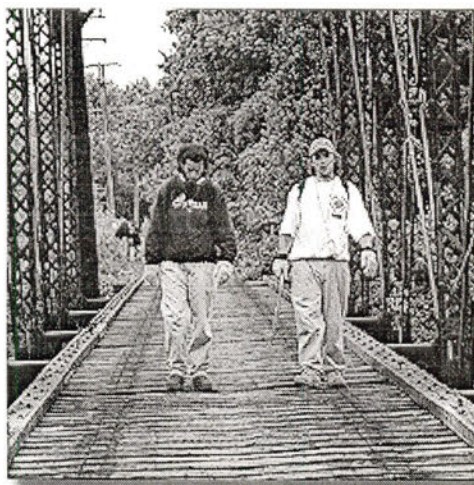
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CITY YEAR'S GOALS

are to generate transformative community service, break down social barriers, inspire citizens to civic action, develop new leaders for the common good, and improve and promote the concept of voluntary national service.

CITY YEAR'S VISION

is that one day the most commonly asked question of an eighteen year-old is:



"Where are you going to do your community service year?"

Service News

at the Corporation for National Service

April 29, 1999



Harris Wofford

You can read Mr. Harris Wofford's Bio [here](#).

Harris Wofford speech at the National Press Club

Thank you, Mark, my special partner in this call to service we're taking around the country. President Larry Lipman, Bill Roberts, our sponsor for today, thank you for this opportunity; friends, so many of you.

Sam Farr, I've just come back from your congressional district and saw a college at Monterey Bay that is built around the idea of calling on every student to serve. And you've got a community college that has 57 Americorps members, and they see Americorps service for a year as a tremendous transition from two-year college to four-year college, organizing VISTA Americorps members or organizing high school and middle school students to serve in the community. You've got a cascade of service there, and you've been a champion for it.

And Melody Scales, you're the living answer to that question of why do you need to pay volunteers if you want full-time service. I think you might be on the way to becoming a saint, but you either need to be a saint or pretty wealthy to spend a year full-time without some minimal subsistence allowance, whether it's in the military services, the volunteer army, or in the Peace Corps or in Americorps. And without it, you wouldn't have been part of a crack team bringing disaster relief to Puerto Rico. You wouldn't have led spring break college students in large numbers building homes for Habitat for Humanity in Lynchburg, Virginia. You wouldn't be tutoring with a team, tutoring and organizing tutoring programs for seventh graders in a Washington D.C. charter school. So I'm privileged to count you among my friends.

And Art Napperstack (sp) of our board of directors has to be my friend, and he is my friend. (Laughter.) So is Bob Goodwin of the Points of Light Foundation, which is a major partner with us, along with General Powell's Campaign for America's Promise.

And then I left out a friend of mine who I would say you always look and hope in life that you'll have a friend with a capital 'F,' and I would say Sarge is that friend. I think there are a lot of people in this room that agree with me that he's the most inspired and inventive example of service and leader of citizen service and leader of our country that we have known. Sarge. (Applause.) World War II Army Corps salute to Sarge Shriver.

Well, Mark, I had another answer to Al Kamen, which is half and half. And I was thinking first of the high note of Plato suggesting that everyone is looking for the other half to complete a life, and I'm very glad that you're the other half today for me, but that the Peace Corps has found its other half in Americorps.

And if I were to choose a song that you could play while I'm talking -- (laughter) -- I think I'd take Bob Dylan's old refrain for the '60s. "Something's happening here, but you don't know what it is, do you, Mr. Jones?" because there is so much happening in the Peace Corps as it moves to new frontiers in the

former Soviet empire, China, Eastern Europe, South Africa, some places we couldn't get passports to in the '60s, and because there is so much happening with the domestic Peace Corps, Americorps, and the new patriotism of the home front.

Nearly four decades ago, as he sent Peace Corps volunteers off to Asia, Africa and Latin America, John Kennedy turned afterwards to Sargent Shriver and to those of us who, in a small junior partner way, were helping him launch the Peace Corps. Kennedy said, "Someday we must bring this idea home to America."

Later, President Johnson, as part of the war on poverty that Sarge also led, urged Americans to apply the principles of Peace Corps on a large scale in America. At the University of Kentucky in 1965, President Johnson proposed that the nation search for new ways through which every young American will have the opportunity and feel the obligation to give at least a few years of his life or her life to service in the nation or the world.

One of those new ways was VISTA, the first domestic Peace Corps that Sarge also started. Robert Kennedy put the case for it to Congress in testifying this way: "Every sixth citizen in the United States needs our help. There are five of us who should help him." He urged that Americans be asked to invest a year of their lives at no salary and under spartan conditions to help millions of their fellow citizens who, through no fault of their own, are denied the essentials of a decent life.

Those were years of high hopes, great goals and terrible disappointments. We then envisioned large armies of Americans in citizen service to overcome poverty at home and abroad. But instead of moving up from 15,000 volunteers when Sarge left the Peace Corps towards a goal of 100,000 volunteers a year, the Peace Corps fell back to 5,000 and stayed there. VISTA never got much beyond 5,000 volunteers per year. The war on poverty had been submerged by the war in Vietnam.

Today, after a quarter of a century of lost opportunities, the history of citizen service is being written again—bigger, stronger, bolder. With President Clinton's leadership and with growing bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House, we're moving ahead on both fronts, at home and abroad.

Peace Corps, under Mark's good direction, is reaching so many new countries and is well on its way to doubling its number. And national service at home is also on the move. As you said, Larry, in four years more than 100,000 Americans have taken the Americorps pledge to get things done for America. And Sarge, you must be pleased to know that as a revised and vital part of Americorps, VISTA has virtually doubled in the last two years in appropriations and volunteers.

Then this spring, President Clinton called on Congress to expand the number of Americorps members to nearly 70,000 in the year 2001 and to 100,000 a year in 2003. That's a bold request. Scientists would call it a quantum leap. But what we've learned in the first five years of Americorps tells us that this expansion is just right for our time, for our young people and for our country.

First, we've learned that if you ask them, they will serve. When a journalist asked one of the Peace Corps volunteers on the White House lawn that day on the launching, "Why did you join?" he said, "Nobody ever asked me to do anything patriotic, unselfish and for the common good before. Kennedy asked." We're here to say it's time to ask again.

Three decades later, I asked one of the members of the Philadelphia Youth Service Corps who had dropped out of high school, been a member of a street gang, was now a star in a Habitat building program, why he had joined Americorps. He first said he thought it might be a better gang, different type, he might not die in the end. And then he turned to me and said, "You know, I think it's because for years, in the housing project where I grew up, good people had been coming to help me. I think I got tired of people doing good against me. It's the first time in my life I've ever been asked to do something good."

So Americorps is asking young people to take responsibility and to take a leadership role in their communities. And our experience tells us that those who call this a slacker, do-nothing generation are

flat wrong. The fact that during this time of prosperity and economic opportunities, 100,000 young people have been signed on to spend a year living and working in the toughest communities, receiving near poverty-level living allowance and a post-service education award, is evidence that the idealism and energy of youth is strong today, as it proved to be when the so-called silent, self-centered generation of the late '50s responded so enthusiastically to the Peace Corps.

But I must add that the focus of the idealism and energy of young people has changed. Survey after survey tells us that young people are turned off by Washington. I wonder why. They aren't voting in high enough numbers and they don't count many, if any, politicians among their heroes. At the same time, we find more young people volunteering, taking responsibility in their communities. Surveys like those by Peter Hart for Public Allies tell us that young people are interested primarily in solving problems in their own backyards more than in what's happening in Washington.

The growing interest in Americorps is a sign of this new patriotism, a patriotism focused on the home front. As Colin Powell says in his current America's Promise letter to campaigners all across the country, including 40,000 Americorps members in service right now, "For some of our young people, preserving our democratic way of life means shouldering a rifle or climbing into a cockpit or weighing anchor and setting out to sea. For others, it means helping a child to read or helping that child to secure needed vaccinations or it means building a park or helping to bring peace to troubled neighborhoods or helping communities recover from natural disasters or reclaiming the environment."

Our country needs more of both kinds of patriotism. Americorps encourages and inspires this patriotism of the home front, and so do the other key parts of the Corporation for National Service, our nationwide student service program, student service learning program involving about a million young people and growing, and the senior service programs, Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents, another of Sarge's lasting social inventions, and the 450,000-strong volunteers in RSVP.

Second, we've learned that service helps solve critical problems. The era of big government may be over, but the big challenges remain. And more than ever, we need citizens who are active-duty citizens willing to step up to the plate through the service of Americorps members themselves and of the volunteers whom they recruit and mobilize. And it's estimated for every full-time Americorps member, they recruit and mobilize 12 regular occasional unpaid volunteers. Americorps is helping communities solve problems all across this country.

One of the most vital things it does is to ask young people to serve, not only full-time in Americorps or the Peace Corps, but as volunteers while in school or on summer vacation. And the president has just announced the president's student service award, to encourage such student initiative, an award for 100 hours or more of community service. It will parallel the president's physical fitness awards. Believing that civic fitness is as important as physical fitness, Americorps members will be working to spread this award to every school in the country.

Third, we've learned that devolution works. Few people realize the extent to which Americorps is an unprecedented, decentralized, locally driven program. That's why one of Americorps' other great congressional champions, Connecticut Congressman Chris Shays—a former Peace Corps volunteer, too—called Americorps a Republican idea. Unlike the Peace Corps, which quite rightly, for an international operation, recruits, selects, trains and deploys its volunteers, the vast majority of Americorps members are recruited, selected and deployed by more than 600 local, non-profit, educational, civic and religious groups. This decentralized system is what makes Americorps so popular with the civic sector.

Another little-known fact about Americorps is the role that governors have in administering the program. Two-thirds of Americorps positions go directly to governor-appointed state commissions, three-fifths of whom are Republicans. And these commissions are responsible for deciding which programs get Americorps positions and what the priorities are for those programs.

This structure has helped Americorps win the support of Republican governors and members of Congress, as well as civic leaders like Elizabeth Dole, who sought and got Americorps members for the

American Red Cross; Colin Powell, who now has 500, about, Americorps Promise fellows in the front lines of his Campaign for America's Promise; Millard Fuller, the head of Habitat for Humanity, who started skeptically but now has 600 Americorps members and finds them a major way of multiplying the number of volunteers they can use and houses they can build; and leaders of religious and faith-based organizations that have some 6,000 Americorps members.

Each of these lessons is borne out by an independent study we're releasing today by Geary (sp) International. After studying data from Americorps programs from 1994 to 1996, Geary International concluded that Americorps effectively prepares young Americans for the future. Americorps strengthens communities and non-profits to do what they do best and giving them people power. And the benefits of Americorps far outweigh the costs. Taken together, these lessons and the findings of this new report make a powerful case for the bold growth President Clinton proposes.

In the end, the heart of the Peace Corps and of Americorps is the young people who accept the challenge and the responsibility. The real story of both lies not here in Washington but in their talent, energy and idealism. Over the past two months, I've been in more than a dozen states with this call to service, and each stop joined by Americorps members, past or present, like Melody Scales. Their stories are not only the story of Americorps, but the story of the next generation of America's leaders.

So Mark and I and the Peace Corps volunteers and Americorps members and our student and senior volunteers we represent, I submit, are part of the antidote this country needs for the toxic culture of violence and alienation that led to the horror at Littleton. That tragedy at Columbine High School gives ever more reason why we must invest in our young people, why we must ignite their imaginations to greater adventures than the adventures of evil, why we must engage their minds and bodies in working alongside people of different racial, economic and religious backgrounds to solve problems and achieve common goals and discover the happiness that comes from doing that.

We must, to do that, see young people as resources and help them see themselves as resources, not as victims or problems. We must ask them to take responsibility, work hard and become leaders. Our experience in the Peace Corps and in Americorps tells us that service can best bring out what is best in our people and best in this country.

Vaclav Havel put it simply in his "Meditations on Our Complicated Time": "The dormant good will in people needs to be stirred. People need to hear that it makes sense to behave decently or to help others, to place common interests above their own, to respect the elementary rules of human coexistence. Good will longs to be recognized and cultivated."

Americorps and the Peace Corps are in the business of recognizing and cultivating that good will. Mark and I are here because we need your help in doing that. Thank you. (Applause.)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Aboard Air Force One)

For Immediate Release

May 20, 1999

PRESIDENT CLINTON NAMES AMY ACHOR AND CHRISTOPHER GALLAGHER TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

The President today announced his intent to nominate Amy Achor to serve as the Youth Member and to nominate Christopher Gallagher for a second term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Ms. Achor, of Waco, Texas, graduated from Midway High School in Hewitt, Texas in 1998, and is currently a freshman at Rice University. She co-founded the Loving Hands community outreach program and served as Waco's youth delegate to the Presidents' Summit for America's Future. She also served as the Director of the Central Texas Youth Summit at Baylor University, an event sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. In recognition of her community service, she was named a Daily Point of Light on January 1, 1998. Ms. Achor was named an "Outstanding Young Citizen" by the Rotary Club, an "Ordinary Hero" by Channel One (a national classroom television broadcast), and a "Local Hero" by Teen People magazine. She has been a speaker at the U.S. Conference of Mayors as well as youth summits and leadership conferences across the country. She has served as an intern at the Points of Light Foundation in Washington, D.C, and is currently employed as an intern at Executive Education. She serves as the Freshman Representative for the Rice University Service Volunteer Program and recently traveled to Monterrey, Mexico to participate in the State of the World Forum for Emerging Leaders.

Mr. Gallagher, of Concord, New Hampshire, has served on the Corporation's Board of Directors since 1994. He is founding and senior partner of Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell, a Concord, New Hampshire law firm specializing in public policy issues and practice before government agencies and the state legislature. An active advisor to state and federal banking officials, he has testified before both houses of Congress on matters affecting federal banking policy. He is a frequent commentator in the media on issues affecting financial services and other regulatory policies. He serves on the Board of Governors of New Hampshire Public Television. Mr. Gallagher received a B.A. degree from Holy Cross College and a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School.

Created in 1993, the Corporation for National Service engages more than a million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to their communities. Through its three service initiatives -- AmeriCorps, the National Senior Service Corps, and Learn and Serve America - the Corporation provides opportunities for Americans to meet critical challenges in the areas of education, public safety, the environment, and other human needs.

30-30-30

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 5, 1997

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

10:06 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I want to talk with you today about how we can make this glorious spring a season of service all across America. As I have said many times, the era of big government may be over, but the era of big challenges for our nation is surely not. 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 not through heavy-handed government or as isolated individuals, but as members of a true community, with all of us working together.

On April 27th through 29th, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, we will be convening an historic Presidents' Summit on Service. I will be joined by President Bush, General Colin Powell, by every living former president or his representative, by other prominent Americans, including former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros and Lynda Robb. Every person, business or organization represented at the summit will have already committed to take specific steps to help to serve our children and to rebuild our communities. Our mission is nothing less than to spark a renewed national sense of obligation, a new sense of duty, a new season of service.

I hope that many activities in the weeks leading up to this wonderful event will make all Americans think about the duty all of us owe to one another. Citizen service can take many shapes -- it can mean volunteering nights or on weekends in a religious group or neighborhood association, or devoting full years of your life to service like those the Peace Corps or the Jesuit Volunteer Corps members do.

Over the past four years, we have worked to harness this citizen energy in so many ways. I am especially proud of AmeriCorps, the national service program I proposed when I ran for President, that we launched the very next year. Since its creation, 50,000 young people have earned college tuition by serving their communities, with the basic bargain of getting the opportunity to go to college in return for giving something back to their friends and neighbors.

The success of AmeriCorps shows that service can help to meet our most pressing social needs, from renewing our cities to protecting our environment, to immunizing poor children, to giving them mentors and someone to look up to. And that service often leads to more service -- a typical AmeriCorps member trains or recruits a dozen or more community volunteers.

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

I've asked the thousands of AmeriCorps alumni and returned

Peace Corps volunteers to participate as well, reaching out to youth in their communities, speaking in schools, recruiting volunteers and teaching a new generation about the power of service. I've very pleased that some of them have joined our Peace Corps Director, Mark Gearan, here with me today.

I hope that they will teach that citizen service cannot be a pursuit for just a week or a month, that the ethic of service must extent throughout a lifetime. No one is too young to serve, as a recent study by Brandeis University shows -- when you begin to serve at a young age, schoolwork improves and there is a good chance you will continue to serve in the years to come. It's a good habit that's hard to break. And no one is too old to serve, either. But we must find even more ways to encourage our young people to begin to serve.

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

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

Two weeks ago, applications went out to high school principals all around our nation, inviting them to select a student in that school who has performed outstanding service, thereby making them eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship. Under this new initiative, which we launched last year, our national government will put up \$500 for each student if it is matched by local communities. Already, a host of civic organizations -- including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Moose International, the Lions Clubs, the U.S. Jaycees -- have accepted our challenge to work with their local chapters to provide matching funds for these scholarships. And public servants from agencies like the Agriculture Department will continue to work as partners with these schools, sending volunteers to work with teachers and acting as mentors to students.

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

Thanks for listening.

END

10:12 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 26, 1997

RADIO ADDRESS
BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The East Room

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I am pleased to be joined here at the White House by the young men of American Legion Boys Nation, an outstanding youth organization that has inspired thousands of young people -- including me -- to serve our country by serving in our communities.

I want to talk with you today about what we must do to make citizen service a part of every American's life, for his or her entire lifetime. As I said at the Presidents Service Summit in Philadelphia this past April, the era of big government may be over, but big challenges remain for America, and they require an era of big citizenship -- an era with new partnerships between government and business and labor, between wealthy, middle class and poor Americans, between cities, suburbs and rural areas and across all racial lines. At the Presidents Service Summit, thousands of Americans pledged their commitment to service. As we prepare to go forward into a new century, every one of us must join them, so that we can meet our challenges and come together as one America.

For the past four and a half years, my administration has worked to give every American a chance to serve. We want to spark a renewed sense of obligation, a new sense of duty, and a new season of service all across our nation.

Of everything we've done to meet that challenge, I am proudest of AmeriCorps, our national service organization that has helped more than 70,000 young Americans all over the country to earn money for college while serving in their communities.

AmeriCorps members do real work to address critical problems -- from cleaning the environment, to helping at-risk children learn to read, to working with police to keep our streets safe, to helping our nation reach record levels of child immunization.

At the Service Summit, one of the goals for young Americans announced by the Presidents and General Powell was that every young American should be challenged and given the chance to do citizen service. To support that goal, I announced at the summit that our administration would provide 50,000 new AmeriCorps scholarships over the next five years to organizations that offer young people the chance to serve. I am pleased to say today that 77 organizations have answered that challenge by offering to sponsor 10,000 new AmeriCorps members next year alone. I thank them for their commitment.

The success of AmeriCorps proves that citizen service works. And it's only one of the many things the national government is doing to work in partnership with citizens, businesses and civic groups. Our administration is busy following up on the commitments

we made in Philadelphia at the Service Summit. This fall, for example, the Department of Agriculture will hold a food recovery summit to help organize volunteers to distribute food to the needy. The Justice Department's new Mentoring Alliance will link children in need with volunteer mentors. And the Department of Health and Human Service's new partnership with the Girl Scouts of America will teach girls about the dangers of drugs. In all these ways, we are committed to encouraging service throughout American life.

Commitment to community should be an ethic that our children learn as early as possible, so that they carry it with them throughout their lives. That is why I have called on every state to make service a part of the curriculum in high school or even middle school. There are many creative ways to do this -- including giving students credit for service, incorporating service into course work, putting service on a student's transcript, or even requiring service as a condition of graduation, as Maryland does.

In addition to the AmeriCorps scholarship program we announced at the Service Summit, last year we took additional steps to encourage our young people to serve in their communities while in high school. We said we would offer \$500 scholarships to high school juniors and seniors with the best record of service in their class if their communities and private service organizations would match that amount.

Just a year later, I am proud to say that some of our nation's most prominent service organizations have answered that call. Today, I'm pleased to announce that 1,600 high school students -- some of whom are standing with me today -- will receive scholarships of up to \$1,000 to help pay for college. The American Legion, the Kiwanis Club, the Rotary Club, the Elks Club, the Lions Club, the Junior Leagues and the Miss America Foundations -- these are community groups that are the glue that hold America together. And now, they're giving our young people another reason to give something back to our communities.

This is just the first year of the National Service Scholars Program. I know that next year it will be even bigger. Our goal is to make this program available in every high school, so that every high school principal in America can stand before a graduating class and announce the name of a National Service Scholar. And with the support of groups like those who have already committed to help, I am confident we can make it happen.

Something very important to our nation occurred at the Presidents Service Summit. There, people from all walks of life looked beyond their differences and came together around the common goal of serving our country, to give all our young people a chance to have a better life. This is the way we have to meet our challenges: business, working together with government and labor, religious and community groups joining forces, people lending a hand to help one another. Today, we take another important step to build on that progress.

The spirit of the Service Summit is stronger than ever, and it's up to us -- all of us -- to keep it alive as we move forward together into a new century.

Thanks for listening.

END

Office of the Press Secretary
(Bedford, Massachusetts)

For Immediate Release

April 16, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO MAJORITY 2000

Private Residence
Weston, Massachusetts

10:15 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, I would like to thank Senator Kennedy and Senator Daschle for their introductions. (Laughter.) I don't want Senator Kennedy to be upset at Senator Daschle. I told Senator Daschle I did not want Kennedy to introduce me. (Laughter.) And he drew the wrong conclusion -- I just didn't want Patrick up here making those gestures introducing me. (Laughter.)

I tell you, Patrick, I have never heard you so funny -- you've got a second career. (Laughter.)

Like everyone else, I want to thank Alan and Susan and all of the others who helped to raise the funds tonight. I'd also like to thank the people who provided our meal and those who served it. And I want to thank our wonderful, wonderful musicians, Gary Burton and his pianist. They were terrific. Thank you very much. You guys were great, thank you. (Applause.)

As Senator Kennedy said, I am profoundly indebted to the people of Massachusetts. Massachusetts has been wonderful to me and to Hillary, to Al and to Tipper Gore, to give our administration the support that we need and to send such remarkable people to the Congress. A majority of all of the Congress people from Massachusetts, all Democrats, are here tonight. And I thank Congressman Moakley, Congressman Delahunt and Congressman Meehan, Congressman Markey and Congressman Tierney, along with Congressman Kennedy.

We're also glad to be joined tonight by Congressman Earl Blumenauer who is from Oregon. He's a long way from home, and we're glad he's here. Thank you very much. (Applause.) And our wonderful Democratic whip, Dave Bonior, who took me to his district in Michigan today to meet with the Albanian Americans and to hear their stories, along with Congressman Gephardt.

I, too, want to say how profoundly grateful I am for what Senator Kerry said, how much it means and for what he does for you, and for Senator Kennedy. And as others have said, we could not have better leaders in the United States Congress than Senator Daschle and Congressman Gephardt.

I could give you 1,000 examples. But suffice it to say that I do not believe that we would be here tonight in the position we're in with the country in the position it is in had it not been for their leadership and their support for me, and their always willingness to come in and have these fascinating discussions and, even when they think I'm wrong, to tell me they think I'm wrong. And we try to work it out, work together and go forward together. And it's been a remarkable partnership.

I also would say, to echo something Dick Gephardt said -- and I want all of you to know -- you know, most of you have been to enough of these political fundraisers that you're used to politicians getting up and blowing smoke over one another, you know, and saying that they think this one is the greatest person since the Redwoods began to grow in California and all of that -- (laughter) -- the other one was born in a log cabin he built himself -- all of those. (Laughter.) You're used to hearing all that sort of stuff, I know that. And you think that we all leave, we go back to telling bad stories on one another and cutting each other down.

I'm telling you, the team of leaders we have now and the people that represent you in Massachusetts, there is a profound mutual respect borne of shared goals and shared dreams for the American people. I told all my folks when I became President -- I said, I didn't work in Washington before and I'm going to make my fair share of mistakes. But one of the great advantages that I have is that I lived in a little state where I was expected to show up for work every day, and where I didn't have to spend half my time worrying about what was in the newspaper that day and who was up and who was down and who was leaking and who was not.

And my theory is if we stay together and work together and we're loyal to each other and we air our differences honestly, and we show up for work every day, eventually something good will happen for the American people.

Now, I think the evidence is that that happened. But what you need to know is that's the sort of leadership we have in our party. Dick and David and Tom and the rest of our crowd, they're like what you expect from the Massachusetts delegation -- they show up for work every day. They do not get paralyzed by this story or that story, or spending all their time trying to manipulate who's up and who's down in Washington today. They have an agenda, rooted in their concerns for you and our children's future and they show up.

And it's just like any other job. I know we'd like for you to believe that you've got to be just one step short of Albert Einstein to do all these jobs we do. But a lot of it is deciding what the right thing to do is, clearly laying it out and going at it day and day out, year in and year out.

So I want to thank you for investing in the future of the democratic majority in the Congress because they have proved for six long years that they have good ideas, good values and great work habits, and they will deliver for the United States of America, thanks to your help. And I thank you very much. (Applause.)

I also want to say, Alan, thank you very much for collecting the money for the relief effort in Kosovo. Let me just briefly say the camps in Albania are teeming tiny Macedonia with its own ethnic difficulties to deal with, trying to preserve its democracy. It's deeply strained. We need all the help we can get. And, frankly, the relief agencies are very, very good; they are very efficient; they don't waste the money and cash is better than in-kind contributions because the needs shift daily. And anything you can do to help that, I hope you will.

Now, I'm not going to put you through another speech of any length, but I want to take five minutes and ask you to think about why you should want these people in the majority in 2000. And when it happens, I'm going to miss it. (Laughter.) But I just want to tell you for five minutes, I want you to think about this.

Yes, our economy is going well and I'm grateful for it. And welfare

rolls are about half what they were, and I'm grateful for it. And the crime rate is at a 30-year low, and I'm grateful for it. America is working again. And we've been a force for peace from Northern Ireland to the Middle East and to Bosnia, and I'm grateful for it. We've asked the world to join with us in fighting the more modern threats of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction and global warming. And we've got a direction that we're on that's good, and I'm grateful for it.

But I want to ask you to just take a couple of minutes and think about why you should want these people in the majority. Because in the year 2000, when the voters are asked to vote, there will be those who come forward and say, well, things are rocking along and I'll tell you what you want to hear and I'll give you what you want to get, and let's just go back to business as usual.

The worst thing we could do is to forget what got us here over the last six years. What got us here was taking on the hard problems and working like crazy, day in and day out, week in and week out, and challenging the American people and challenging the elite leaders of all the major sectors of our society to think about unmet problems and unseized opportunities. And as I look ahead to the 21st century I am grateful America is working again. I'm grateful that the economy is benefitting ordinary people, more than ever before. We have the lowest unemployment rate we've ever recorded among minorities in this country, since we started keeping separate statistics, almost 30 years ago. I'm grateful for that.

But we have some big unmet challenges, and I won't go through our whole agenda, but we've got an agenda to deal with every one. The aging of America is a huge challenge. And if we don't deal with Social Security and Medicare and long-term care, and do it in a responsible way, then when all of us baby boomers retire, we will put an unconscionable burden on our children and their ability to raise our grandchildren. We have a strategy that will deal with it.

We have more and more families who work and raise children at the same time, both single parent and two-parent households. We have not done enough in the United States to help people balance work and family. We are better than any other major country at creating jobs. We have many strengths that other countries would give anything to have. But we have not done as well as we should and as well as we can without in any way hurting economic growth, and helping our families to balance their child-rearing responsibilities and their work responsibilities. We have to do more in health care, more in child care, more in providing leave time from work without losing jobs. We must do it. There is no more important work than raising our children, and we can do better. (Applause.)

The third thing we have to do is to make sure -- we're Democrats, this is our job -- we have to make sure everybody gets a chance to be a part of the new economy. As low as unemployment is, there are still places where it's high. There are places where there has been no new investment.

We have a strategy to keep the economy growing and to spread the benefits of it. For one thing, if our plan prevails over the Republican plan, we're going to pay the debt of this country down to its lowest point since before World War I over the next 15 years. That means low interest rates, high investment and more jobs everywhere. And we're going to give the same incentives for people to invest in poor parts of America we give them today to invest in poor countries in the rest of the world. I think that is nothing but right.

Don't take it away from the rest of the world; just give the poor parts of America a chance to get their piece of the American Dream as

well. And I think that is terribly important, and Democrats ought to be for that. (Applause.)

We have to keep working to prove we can clean up the environment and grow the economy, and we have an agenda to do that. The most important thing I want to say to you tonight is that we have a job to do at home that mirrors the job we are trying to do in Kosovo today.

Isn't it ironic that, on the verge of a new century and a new millennium, where most of us -- most of the people in this room have this great dream of a 21st century world that is more peaceful, more prosperous and more free than any time in all of human history; where people work together across national lines to lift each other up and solve problems together, whether they're the spread of disease or climate change or the threat of terrorism or narco trafficking or weapons of mass destruction. We're working together to make good things happen and to press bad things down.

And this whole vision with this explosion of modern technology and science is threatened by the prospect that we will marry modern technology with the most ancient hatreds known to human society, rooted in the fear of people who are different from us.

Now, we are in Kosovo -- I think Dick referred to this -- to the e-mails we were reading coming out of Albania. We're in Kosovo, first of all, because innocent people are being driven from their homes, having their villages burned down, having their family records destroyed with their children being raped and people being murdered because we think we can help to stop it, and because we have learned the hard way in the 20th century if something like that's going on and you think you can help to stop it and you don't, and that part of the world is just going to get worse. So it's a humanitarian thing.

But it's also a part of what we want the 21st century to be like. Doesn't it seem bizarre to you that on the one hand, we talk about the Internet being the fastest-growing human communication system in all of human history, we talk about having our kids study halfway around the world, we relish in the ethnic and racial and religious diversity of Boston. Detroit -- we used to think of Detroit as being diverse because -- and I can say this because I'm from the South -- because Southern blacks and Southern whites couldn't make a living in the South after the second world war, so they went to Detroit to get a job in the auto plant. That was our definition of diversity.

Wayne County now has people from 150 different national ethnic groups. Not Chicago, not New York, not Los Angeles -- Detroit. And we're sitting here worried about people who still want to kill each other over 600-year-old grievances. They want to fight over smaller and smaller and smaller pieces of land instead of thinking bigger and bigger and bigger about how, if they all got together, what a future they could make for their children.

And so I tell you that we're there for humanitarian reasons. We're there for strategic reasons. And we're there because we do not want our children to live in a 21st century world where very smart people filled with very narrow hatreds can access technology, weaponry, missile technology, and torment the world because they're growing smaller in spirit, when they should be growing larger in vision -- especially in the heart of Europe, which is so critical to our security.

And we have to keep working against it here, which is why the Democrats are for stronger hate crimes legislation and for the Employment and Nondiscrimination Act and why we have supported national service. Alan Kash (phonetic) is here; he founded City Year. I'm the biggest flak he's got. I go all over the world talking about City Year.

I knew when I ran for President in 1991 and 1992 that one of the things that we needed to do was to build a stronger sense of community in America, across racial and cultural and religious and economic lines. And I had this vision that we could get young people involved in service and help them go to college.

And I went to City Year in Boston and I knew what it was I wanted America to do. I'm very proud of the fact that in its first four years the national service program, AmeriCorps, has had as many volunteers as the Peace Corps did in its first 20 years. And you owe that to them. (Applause.)

Now, I want to close with this thought. One of my favorite lines that President Kennedy ever spoke was the speech he made about Germany and the Cold War in Berlin. Most people remember, "Ich bin ein Berliner" and all that. But he said this -- I want you to think about this in terms of Kosovo -- in the middle of the Cold War, John Kennedy said, "Freedom has many difficulties, and our democracy is far from perfect, but we never had to put up a wall to keep our people in."

Now, the Berlin Wall is down. The barriers of communism have fallen. But all over the world today there are places where people are building walls in their hearts because they feel that they only count if they can look down on somebody who is different from them. And those walls are every bit as powerful as the Berlin Wall was, and in a profound way, harder to tear down.

America must both do good and be good on this issue of community and our common humanity. It is our great challenge and perhaps the most compelling reason that the Democratic Party should be America's majority party in the 21st century.

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

END

10:32 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT AMERICORPS CALL TO SERVICE EVENT

Richie Coliseum
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

2:34 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, when I was listening to Stephen and Leslie and Justin and Pepe talk, I was reminded of why I wanted to be President -- so that I could give young people like them the chance to make America a better place. (Applause.)

I want to thank all those who are here today who have supported our efforts. I thank Harris Wofford for his outstanding leadership of the Corporation of National Service. (Applause.) Deb Jospin and John Gomperts of AmeriCorps. I thank Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for making Maryland America's leading state for citizen service. They have really done -- (applause.) I thank my good friend, Prince George's County Executive Wayne Curry; Senator Mike Miller, my longtime friend; and Mayor Jacobs, thank you for making us welcome. Carson Dailey, thank you for the work MTV did on those wonderful spots, the PSAs.

I would like to thank also the mother of the Lt. Governor, my good friend, Ethel Kennedy, for being here today. (Applause.) And I thank Mark Gearan, our Peace Corps Director, and I'll say a little more about the Peace Corps in a minute and its relationship to AmeriCorps.

I'd like to thank one person who is not here today, but who was on the front lines of creating AmeriCorps, Senator Barbara Mikulski, your United States Senator from Maryland. I thank her. (Applause.) I want to thank the President of the University of Maryland, on my right; and the President of the Student Government of the University of Maryland, on my left -- (applause) -- for making me welcome. Avery and Dr. Mote, thank you. (Applause.)

You have already heard from Dr. Mote and others that six years ago I came here to celebrate the end of the Summer of Service, which was our dry run for this national service program. We wanted to work out the kinks and see whether we could make this idea go. There were three people who are here who were instrumental on that day; I would like to thank them: Georgia Sorensen, Marilyn Smith and my former White House staffer, whom I miss very much, Bill Galstone. Thank you all very much for what you have done. (Applause.)

And I thank the University of Maryland for the College Park Scholars, the Team Maryland Athletes -- (applause) -- the work-study students that are tutoring, and the others from the students and faculty who demonstrate the power of citizen service.

Let me say to all of you, when I ran for President in 1992 I wanted to get America working again and moving again, but I also wanted to bring America together again. It seemed to me that we had two great problems. One is that our economy was not functioning very well and we seemed to be getting weaker, but also that we seemed to be letting our divisions overcome what we have in common.

Martin Luther King once said that the old law of an eye for an eye sooner or later leaves everyone blind. I always believed that America's differences could be the source of our strength if we respected and we celebrated our differences, but we understood that, underneath it all, there was something that bound us together that was more important.

So, as I look back on the last six years, I think we can all take a great deal of pride in what our country has achieved together -- economically, the longest peacetime expansion in history; the lowest peacetime unemployment rate since 1957, 42 years ago -- (applause) -- welfare rolls cut nearly in half; the lowest crime rate in over a quarter-century. I think those are great things.

But I think we can also celebrate the evidence that we are coming together -- over 90 percent of our children across all racial and ethnic lines immunized against serious childhood diseases for the first time in history; the doors of college literally open to all with the HOPE scholarship, the lifetime learning tax credit, the more generous Pell grant, more affordable student loans, more work-study slots. Those things matter.

But maybe most of all, those of you here in Americorps, and those in citizen service -- whether in the Peace Corps, serving our country in the military, or serving in some other way -- embody the determination of America to draw closer together as we grow more diverse. And that, I think, is terribly important.

When you saw the four Americorps volunteers up here speaking, and each of you identifying with them in turn -- if they worked in your project or you knew them -- you know they were a picture of America, of the changing face of America, and the best of America that never changes.

If you look around the world today, at many of the challenges that I face as your President and that the United States faces -- the sad trip that the First Lady and I recently took to Jordan for the funeral of our friend, the King of Jordan, who survived decades of assassination attempts -- literally decades of assassination attempts, probably 50 in all -- to stand as a symbol of peace among people in a very tough neighborhood, who use religion as a reason to find their differences more important than their common humanity. All over the world today you see that. If the United States wants to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity in a new century in a new millennium, it is actually quite an advantage for us to have within our borders people from all races, all religions, all ethnic groups, all cultural backgrounds doing all kinds of different things.

But we cannot do good around the world unless we are good at home. And, therefore, we have to find this magical balance, being honest about our differences of opinion on matters from the serious to the mundane -- and I'll leave it to you to decide whether it was serious or mundane when the President asked

me take sides in the basketball game. (Laughter.) You've got a great team here, though, I'll tell you that, I've watched it. (Applause.) We have to find a way to do that, to say, this is what I believe, this is where I stand, this is what I'm for -- and also to say how lucky we are to stand on the verge of a new millennium in a totally global society, where people are being brought closer together than ever before, and we are finding ways to relish, to celebrate, to honor our differences in a way to bring us closer together, instead of driving us apart.

AmeriCorps is the living, breathing symbol of the answer to that. Where we do not ask people to check their differences at the door, but we do ask them to reaffirm our common humanity. We do not ask for a handout, but we do ask for a hand up for everyone who needs it, and we say we are going forward together. That is what you represent. That is my fondest hope for America. And I thank you for your service. (Applause.)

You know, all during the 20th century, the tradition of citizen service grew stronger in America. In the great Depression I remember my parents telling me about the chance President Roosevelt gave able-bodied, unemployed people to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps -- the CCC. They cleared trails, they fought fires, they planted trees. They built whole state parks -- the Appalachian Trail, Skyline Drive in Virginia; parks in my home state that Hillary and I have stayed in, with rather interesting names like Petit Jean, and Devil's Den. I have in the back office of the White House an old CCC cap -- a cap that one of the volunteers wore in the '30s, that I found wedged in between a chimney and a wall, in a cabin in a state park in the mountains of north Arkansas. And I have kept it with me all these long years, to remember the unifying power of citizen service in one of the most difficult moments of the 20th century for the United States.

President Kennedy in the 1960s asked young people to serve in the Peace Corps -- to teach English, to provide health care, to bring running water and electricity to some of the most remote villages in Africa, Asia and South America. My brother-in-law served in the Peace Corps in Colombia. And the other night, he was getting together with some of the people who served there with him. When we were getting ready to come out here today, and Senator Wofford came in with Mark Gearan, the present Peace Corps Director, we were celebrating the fact that, if our new budget passes, we will have more people serving in the Peace Corps in the next two years than have ever served in any given year. We'll be back at an all-time high.

And we were lamenting the fact that we just had to withdraw our Peace Corps volunteers from Eritrea and Ethiopia, two countries that I have felt particularly close to in the last couple of years, because of the trouble the two countries are having -- the threat to go to war. And the Peace Corps volunteers, going all the way back for decades, have volunteered to try to come in and solve the conflict and deal with the disputed area of land. I don't know if they will accept it, but think of that. All these years later, people that were there years and years and years ago remember what it was like -- not to give a handout, but to give a hand up, and to ask people to understand that their differences are not as important as what they have in common.

So I thank our Peace Corps volunteers, I thank Mark Gearan, and I thank all of you in AmeriCorps, because you are in

the rich tradition of America's citizen service, from the CCC to the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps.

Now, six summers after I first came here, AmeriCorps is thriving. There now have been over 100,000 people serve in AmeriCorps in just four years of the full-time program. Everywhere I go around the country I see you -- I see you in all kinds of different contexts. I was in San Jose right before the election and there were a lot of -- the Peace Corps volunteers had just come to start their mission, and so I saw them standing on the street as I pulled into the hotel. And I asked them all to come see me and we took a little picture -- and they were from everywhere.

And then when I went home to Arkansas after the terrible tornadoes a couple of weeks ago, in both the communities I visited there were AmeriCorps volunteers there and there were people there who, believe me, would never have come to Arkansas in their lives if they hadn't been in AmeriCorps. (Laughter.) I know it was good for the people they were helping and I think it was pretty good for them.

This has been an astonishing encounter for tens of thousands of people. Now, all of you know what it's like -- I love talking to people who have been in AmeriCorps because I always hear two things -- number one, they're proud of what they did to help people -- teaching a child to read, or immunizing a child, or having a playground that's safe in an area that used to be dominated by gangs, or cleaning up some polluted site, or doing something to preserve the environment. I love that.

The second thing I always hear is, "I like the people with whom I serve;" "I met people I never would have met;" "I got to know people I never would have gotten to know;" "we were all so different and, yet, when we worked together, we grew together, and it made my life different and better." That is what AmeriCorps needs to do -- and that is what America needs to do.

America needs to think of itself as sort of a giant AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps at home, getting things done together. Getting things done together. (Applause.) If our budget passes this fall, we can boost the number of AmeriCorps volunteers by one quarter, to 50,000 members. In our new budget we want to keep expanding AmeriCorps every year so that by the year 2003, and there forward, every year 100,000 young people will be serving in AmeriCorps. (Applause.)

But I want to challenge the young people of this country -- and the not so young who are willing to do it -- to sign up for AmeriCorps, to see for yourselves what you can do to solve America's problems and reap America's promise. I want to challenge high school students, as well. Maryland has done a wonderful job as the Governor and the Lt. Governor said, being the only state in the country to actually require community service as a part of a public education. In our balanced budget we propose to allow high schoolers for the very first time to join AmeriCorps by serving part-time during the school year and full-time in the summers.

And I want to challenge, again, the young people beyond this room, to dedicate a year or two of your lives to a cause larger than yourselves. It may be your best chance to change the lives of others for the better, and to enrich your own life in the process.

Today, so many young people have the time and freedom

and energy they will never have in the future, to tackle the kind of challenge Americorps represents -- to pack a bag at a moment's notice, to fight a forest fire, or move into our most remote towns or Native American reservations to teach children, or work with churches in some of our toughest neighborhoods. At the end of your service, as all of you know, Americorps will provide help to pay for college or pay off student loans. So I ask you all to help me reach others -- to take advantage of this opportunity, to use this moment to prove that this generation of young people, far from being a generation of cynics and slackers, is instead a generation of doers and patriots. (Applause.)

Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend quoted something her father said. I would like to close with a quotation from Senator Robert Kennedy, in a speech he gave to college students in South Africa when I was a young man. It resonated around the world, and every person my age, which was then your age now -- every young person I knew, without regard to their party or their opinions or anything else, was riveted by the notion that a United States Senator could go to South Africa and talk to the young people about building a different future, a long time before, for the first time in over 300 years, all South Africans had a chance to choose their future.

This is what he said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

That is still true today. For those in AmeriCorps, I thank you for sending forth those ripples of hope. I thank you for bringing out the best in yourselves and others.

For those who could still yet serve, I ask you to join the rest of your fellow citizens in building that bridge to the 21st century that all can walk across, arm-in-arm, to the best days of America.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

2:54 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 16, 1999

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

10:06 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. On Monday, America will celebrate the birth of one of our greatest heroes, Dr. Martin Luther King. This morning I'd like to talk to you about how we can honor his legacy on that day and all throughout the year by rising to the call of citizen service.

This morning I'm joined by Harris Wofford, the CEO of our Corporation for National Service, a former United States senator and, long before that, a close friend and advisor to Dr. King. Five years ago, then Senator Wofford and Congressman John Lewis of Georgia cosponsored a bill to encourage Americans to devote Martin Luther King Day to serving in their communities. And I was proud to sign it into law. We believe that this national holiday should be a day on, not a day off, for as Dr. King once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you going to do for others."

On Monday, more than 100,000 Americans, including students, soldiers, ministers, seniors, and members of the AmeriCorps national service program will fan out all across their communities to paint schools, clean neighborhoods, read to children. There's still time for you to sign up. You can do so at www.AmeriCorps.org.

Now, in 1993, we created AmeriCorps to give young people a chance to serve in their communities and, in the process, to earn some money for college. We gave them a chance to serve not just for a day, but all year round. And since then, 100,000 young people have taken the AmeriCorps pledge. They've done remarkable things. Since Dr. King's last birthday, they've rehabilitated thousands of homes, immunized tens of thousands of children, tutored hundreds of thousands of students, performed millions of hours of service.

Just as important, our diverse AmeriCorps members are learning lessons that will last a lifetime. In the words of one member, "It's unity, people working together. You don't see color. You see people who have come together with just one purpose." For all these reasons I will ask Congress to increase its support for AmeriCorps this year.

There are many other ways citizens can honor Dr. King. For one thing, you can give the gift of life by donating blood. America's blood supplies are now critically low because severe winter weather has hindered blood drives in several regions. I urge every American to find out where you can donate blood by calling 1-800-Give Life.

We can also honor Dr. King by working in our own neighborhoods to promote racial reconciliation. Today I am proud to release a report growing out of our Presidential Initiative on Race. It's called, Pathways To One America in the 21st Century,

and it's a guide to some of our communities' best ways of building that illusive one America -- one neighborhood, one school system, one workplace at a time.

For example, thanks to a creative initiative in Greater Philadelphia, students from different parts of town have formed teams to design and then conduct projects such as food drives or after-school programs for younger kids. In the beginning, suburban students and city students tended to stick to themselves. By gradually the students discovered the things they had in common, and by the end, the barriers had broken down. It has been a stunning success.

To learn more about this promising practice, and more than 100 others, please visit the White House website. We want every community in America to get involved in projects such as these.

Until all children of all backgrounds have the chance to live up to their God-given potential, free from want, in a world at peace, Dr. King's work, and our work, will not be complete. To honor what would have been Dr. King's 70th birthday, I urge all Americans to rise to the highest calling in our land -- the calling of active citizenship. For if we work together as true neighbors, we can realize Dr. King's most enduring dream.

Thanks for listening.

END

10:11 A.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 26, 1997

RADIO ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NATION

The Oval Office

10:06 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. Tomorrow I will be in Philadelphia at the Summit For America's Future. Together with Presidents Bush, Carter, and Ford, and General Colin Powell, I will issue a call to citizen service to all Americans. For three days we'll explore how we can all play a role in helping America's young people build a better future, and just as important, how all our young people can help to build a better America.

This is the right time to enlist in America. We're on the verge of a new century filled with promise and challenge. But to make the most of it, we must ensure that all our people, and especially all our children, have the opportunity to reach their highest potential. And we must understand that we can do that only if we all join hands, reaching across the lines that divide us, to build one America together. That's an enormous job, but it's a job we'll have to do if we really want to prepare our country for the 21st century.

Citizen service is neighbor helping neighbor. It's part-time volunteers and full-time community service workers. It's communities coming together to solve common problems. And it is an essential part of what it means to be an American. We all have to promote it.

That's why I was so proud to launch our AmeriCorps program four years ago. Since then, 50,000 young people have taken a year or two to work full-time, mobilizing hundreds of thousands of other volunteers, helping the old and the young, the environment, helping communities afflicted with disaster, as I saw in North Dakota just a couple of days ago. And in the process, they also earn some money for college tuition, as they give back to their country.

But one of the most important ways our AmeriCorps volunteers have found to give back is to help our children learn to read. Their success has been remarkable. To give just one example, 25 young AmeriCorps members went to work in Simpson County, Kentucky, where 2nd-graders' reading scores were disturbingly low. With the help of AmeriCorps volunteers, 2nd-graders all across that county jumped three full reading levels in just one year. The AmeriCorps volunteers made all the difference in those students' lives, and the service changed the lives of the AmeriCorps volunteers.

We know that intensive tutoring like this works. Now we have to do for all America's children what the AmeriCorps volunteers did for the children of Simpson County. That's what our America Reads challenge is all about. It's spearheaded by our Secretary of Education, Dick Riley, and Carol Rasco, my former Domestic Policy Advisor here in the White House. The America Reads challenge marshals

the resources of entire communities -- schools and libraries, religious institutions, universities, college students and senior citizens -- all working together with teachers and parents to teach our children to read.

We need America Reads, and we need it now. Studies show that students who fail to read well by the 4th grade are more likely to drop out of school, and less likely to succeed in life. But 40 percent of our 4th-graders still can't read at a basic level. We can, and we must, do better than this.

With me today are AmeriCorps members, tutors and parents from four different organizations who are helping to make a real difference in our children's lives. First, the Home Instruction Program for Pre-School Youngsters, or HIPPY, an early-learning program involving parents and children. Second, Hands On Atlanta, from Georgia. Then, Reading One On One from Texas, and Oregon's SMART. All help to recruit volunteers and teach our children to read. Together these groups reach thousands of children every year. America Reads will help them and others to reach millions more.

This Monday I will send my America Reads legislation to the Congress so, that we can mobilize the citizen army of one million America Reads tutors I called for in my State of the Union address, to make sure that every 8-year-old child in America can pick up a book and say, "I can read this all by myself." This legislation is part of my balanced budget. It will fund 25,000 reading specialists and tutor coordinators, including 11,000 AmeriCorps members and many others. They will recruit and train our America Reads citizen army, bringing reading help to the three million children who need it the most.

It will also help parents to instill a lifelong learning of reading in children. Parents are our children's first teachers and we have to do everything we can to make their jobs easier. Community groups like HIPPY, which Hillary and I worked hard to bring to Arkansas, are doing exactly that. The plan I'm sending to Congress will expand their ability to reach more families. My balanced budget also increases Head Start funding to reach one million 3- and 4-year-olds, and expands Title I to aid teaching and learning in classrooms, and the Even Start Family Literacy Program.

But it will take more than money to make sure that all our children can read. It will take a commitment from our entire community. That's why I'm pleased to announce that as part of the Service Summit, many of our major corporations and non-profit organizations will help us to recruit tens of thousands of additional tutors for America Reads. One hundred sixty-six colleges all across America already have answered the challenge I issued in December, and pledged thousands of their students to be reading tutors. I thank them for their support.

Last summer in Wyandotte, Michigan, when I announced the America Reads program, I sat with two young children and read "The Little Engine That Could," a book that has taught countless children that they can do anything they think they can. I want every child in America to know that he or she can read. And America Reads will make sure that all those children can.

I hope some of you who are listening will consider being part of America Reads. After all, we need a million citizen servants, and we're not there yet. If you're interested, call 1-800-USA-Learn, the Department of Education's hotline, or just contact your local elementary school or library.

All of us can help. All you really need to do is roll up

your sleeves, sit with a child and open a book together. And remember, you'll be doing more than just reading. You'll be writing an exciting new chapter in America's progress.

Thanks for listening.

END

10:11 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Brighton, Massachusetts)

For Immediate Release

February 2, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND THE
COMMUNITY OF JACKSON MANN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jackson Mann Elementary School
Brighton, Massachusetts

3:45 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. First, I would like to thank all those who have joined us today. Governor, thank you for your remarks and your commitment. To Senator Kennedy and Senator Kerry, to Congressman Moakley and Congressman McGovern and the other members of the Massachusetts delegation, I couldn't ask for stronger supporters and leaders for the cause of education.

Mayor, thank you for setting an example which I hope will be followed by every mayor in the country in terms of your commitment to education. (Applause.) I want to congratulate Boston on stealing your superintendent, Tom Payzant, from the Department of Education and my administration. (Laughter and applause.) I forgive you for that. (Laughter.) You have given a lot more to me than you have taken, and it is a gift to the children of this city.

I'd like to thank Dr. Joanne Collins Russell and Gail Zimmerman and the faculty and the students, the chorus here at Jackson Mann, all of you, for making us feel so at home. Thank you so much. (Applause.) I want to thank the legislators and the local officials, the others who are here.

I'm glad to be here. I heard a lot about this school. Tom Menino told me the last time he was here that you gave him pasta. (Laughter.) So I didn't eat lunch at the last event -- (laughter) -- just waiting. That's not true, but it's a good story. He liked the pasta. (Laughter.) It is true that he got pasta; it's not true I didn't eat lunch at the last event. (Laughter.)

But I also want to say to all of you, I was terribly impressed by what everyone said, but most impressed by what your principal and what your teacher said, because it convinced me that this is a school which is going to be able to do right by the children of 21st century America. And every now and then, while I'm going through this talk and tell you what I'm going to propose to Congress, just look up there -- there they are, that's America's future. That looks pretty good to me, but it is very different than our past. (Applause.)

When I spoke at the State of the Union last month -- to tell the American people that the state of our union is strong, that our economy is perhaps the strongest it has ever been -- I asked the American people to reflect upon what our obligations are in the midst of this economic success, with the social successes we've had -- the welfare rolls cut almost in half; the lowest crime rate in a generation. What are we going to do with this?

And I asked the American people to join together to meet the great

challenges of a new century -- things like the aging of America, helping families balance work and child rearing, helping communities and states and our entire country balance the need to grow the economy with the need to preserve the quality of life and the quality of our environment -- big challenges.

There is no challenge larger than giving every child in this country a world-class education; for, every child will be not only a citizen of the United States, but a citizen of the world. If you look at these children up here, you won't be surprised to know that all over America we not only have the largest group of schoolchildren in history, it is the most racially, ethnically, religiously, culturally diverse group in history.

Now, as the world grows smaller and our contacts with people all over the world on every continent become more frequent and more profound, there is no country in the world better positioned to preserve liberty and prosperity and to be a beacon of hope than the United States. Because as we look more like the world, we will have more advantages to have a positive influence in the world -- if, but only if we prove that we really can build a successful multiracial, multiethnic, multicultural democracy where we say we cherish, we enjoy, we celebrate our diversity, but what we have in common is more important.

And the challenge of this and every school is to make sure that all of our children understand, and are proud of, what is different about them, but also understand, and are proud of, what they have in common. And understand that all children can learn and all children must learn, and that it will be more important to their generation than to any previous generation of Americans.

The results you're getting here on your test scores, and just the feeling that one gets here in listening to what your principal and your teacher said, make me know that you are on the right track. I was so impressed with Ms. Zimmerman when she got through, I said, you did a good job, you ought to run for public office. (Laughter.) And she said, well, I might. (Laughter.) I hope she'll teach a few more classes of kids with that kind of skill and understanding, first.

There are lots of schools -- over the last 20 years, Secretary Riley and I used to be governors together, and I've spent a lot of time in public schools over the last 20 years. A lot of time. A lot of time as President. And this is actually unusual for me, just to come to the meeting like this. Normally when I come to a school, I also visit a class and talk to the teachers and talk to the students, and listen and observe.

And one of the things that I want the American people who aren't here to know and understand is that every single problem in American education has been solved by someone somewhere. And that many of these problems have been solved in schools where, if you didn't know anything about education, you could hardly believe it. Sometimes they're in the toughest neighborhoods, sometimes they have the most limited financial base. But with good principles, good teachers, a good culture in the school, high values, high standards, it is astonishing what I have seen in places where you wouldn't believe it.

The great trick and difficulty in American education is, and the thing that we have not solved, we have not yet figured out how we can accelerate the pace by which all schools do what works in some schools. And I think every teacher here, everyone who has ever been across the country or across the state, or maybe even across the city and had experience from school to school would say that that is sort of the nagging challenge.

Part of it, of course, is that all schools are different, all kids are different, all classes are different, all circumstances are different. Part of it is that there are internal resistances to doing what the Mayor is now trying to do citywide and the Governor is now trying to do statewide.

That's why this year, our continuing effort to promote educational excellence will be of special importance, because this year we're going to try to do something the national government has never done before. Every five years, we have a great debate in Congress on how we should spend the federal contribution to our public schools. What are the terms under which the states and the school districts get this money. It is called a reauthorization act, and we're going to have that debate this year.

This year, I am going to ask the Congress, for the first time, to invest more money than ever before in our schools, but to invest only in what the schools and the teachers and the parents have told us works and to stop investing in what doesn't work. (Applause.) Now, I don't think we should subsidize inadequate performance, I think we should reward results. And sure enough, more people will follow the lead of schools like this one, if it happens.

Now, this may seem self-evident. You all clapped. Believe me, this will be very controversial. After all, there are some people in Congress who don't believe we have any business investing in more -- more in public education, because it is a state constitutional function, and in every state most of the money is raised either at the local level or at the state level, but only nationwide about seven percent of the money comes from the national level. But it's a lot of money. I mean, \$15 billion -- \$15 billion is not chump change, it's real money. And it can make a real difference.

There's more than ever before. Last year, we got a bipartisan agreement in Congress, after a big debate, to make a big down payment on 100,000 more teachers in the early grades to help you deal with the problem of more teachers retiring as more kids come in. And the plain evidence is that smaller classes in the early grades make a special difference.

We did not pass last year -- I hope we will this year -- my proposal to build or modernize 5,000 schools, through the use of the tax credit. Now, we actually have -- Boston is the first city with all the schools hooked up to the Internet, you heard the Mayor say that. I hate to tell you this -- we have some cities where the school buildings are in such bad shape they are not capable of being hooked up to the Internet. And I have been in school districts, from Virginia to Florida to California, where there are so many kids that the outside is littered with house trailers where they're going to school.

So this is a big challenge. There are some who don't think we should be doing that. They think that's somebody else's job. But there's an even deeper debate you will see this year, about more than money. Some people argue that even though we spend \$15 billion a year on public education, the national government has no business whatever holding the system accountable for results. They say, if we say we're going to hold districts accountable for results, that we're trying to micro-manage the schools.

Nothing could be further from the truth. If I have learned one single, solitary thing in 20 years of going into schools, it is that, if you have a good principal and a good attitude among the faculty, and a decent relationship with the parents, you're going to have a successful school. If you're doing the right things; I've learned that.

So you will not find anybody who is more reluctant to micro-manage the schools than me. But keep in mind what I said -- and you ask the teachers when I'm gone if this is not true -- every problem in American education has been solved by somebody somewhere. The problem is we are not very good at spreading what works to all the rest of the schools in a timely and efficient manner.

Therefore, what I propose to do is to write into the law what teachers and other educators have said to me are the critical elements of dealing with the challenges of this generation of young people, and the dramatic income and other differences we see from school district to school district, and say: if you want the money, you should do this -- not should, you must do this.

This will be very controversial. But I'm telling you, I have been frustrated for 20 years in trying it the other way. We had some school districts in my state that had done things that achieved national acclaim, and I put in a bill -- and I passed it -- to create a pot of money to pay the expenses of educators from other school districts in my state to go to these school districts to see what was going on, and a majority of them wouldn't do it when I offered to pay their way. We should have -- it wasn't because they weren't dedicated; it was just sort of, oh, well, you know, we do it our way, they do it their way.

And I believe that this is a very, very important debate. And I came here because I approve of what you're doing in this school and I'm proud of it. I came here because I'm proud of what the Mayor is doing. I'm proud here because of Massachusetts's historic commitment to excellence in education. I came here because your congressional delegation is as devoted to excellence in education as any in the land. That's why I'm here -- to say that every place should be like this, and that we can help. And I hope you will support that.

Can you imagine any company spending \$15 billion and saying, here, take the money; we don't care what the results are, and come back next year and I'll write you another check. (Laughter.) I don't think any child in America should be passed from grade to grade without knowing the material. I don't think we're doing children a favor. I don't think any child should be trapped in a failing school without a strategy to turn the school around or give the kid a way out. And I believe these should be national priorities, not to tell people how to do this, but to say that, you must have a strategy to do it that you implement that produces results. You decide how to do it.

From now on, I think we should say to states and to school districts, identify your worst-performing, least-improving schools, turn them around or shut them down. There's \$200 million in my budget to help school districts do that -- \$200 million. And we can do this. I'll talk more about it in a minute; I'll give you some evidence of that.

If we fail to do it, how many kids are we going to lose to low expectations? And every one of them can learn. You know it and I know it. If we succeed, our best years lie ahead. Their years will be America's best years.

I'll tell you, I've listened to this debate for two decades now, and half the time, when I hear people say we can't do something, what they're really saying is, those kids are different from my kids and I don't really believe they can learn. Well, that is not true. All of our children can learn and I intend to see that they do. (Applause.)

We're working to help every city follow Boston's lead and be hooked up to the Internet by early in the next century. We're working to expand Head Start. We're working to bring more tutors to elementary schools to help work with the teachers to help make sure our kids can read. And

it's very important when their first language is not English to give more and more help in the schools. We're working to send college students as mentors into middle schools and high schools, where hardly any kids go to college, and convince all kids they can go to college.

If you look at the scholarships, the loans, the Pell grants, the tax cuts, the work study programs that this Congress has approved in the last four years, there's no excuse for anybody not going to college because of the money; you can afford to go now. We have put the money out there. And every 11- and 12- and 13-year-old kid in America needs to know this. They need to know that they can make their own future.

I know that some of our America Reads tutors are working at Jackson Mann and several AmeriCorps City Year members are working here too, and I want to thank them. (Applause.) Boston University AmeriCorps, thank you. (Applause.) And I want to get back to the point here. Our schools are doing better all over the country. Almost all the scores are up, the math scores are up, the SAT scores are up, but we have two big challenges, and I want you to focus on them.

Number one, reading scores have hardly budged. Now, that should not surprise you because our school population every year has a higher and higher percentage of immigrant children whose first language is not English. So it's harder just to stay in place; but it's not good enough, because these children are still going to have to go out into a world where they'll either be able to read and learn and think and reason in this country's main language, or they won't. So we have to do better.

Something that bothers me even more is that these international comparative scores in math and science -- this is fascinating -- American children, a representative group, by race, by income and by reason, rank at the top of the world in the international math and science scores in the 4th grade. You know, they're always first or second or third in the last couple of years. They drop to the middle by the time they're in the 8th grade. By the time they're in the 12th grade, they rank near the bottom.

Now, you can't say that the kids can't learn, otherwise, they never would have been at the top, right? So that means that we have to do some things in our system to make sure that their fast start speeds up, not slows down. There could be no more compelling evidence that our children can learn.

So in this year's budget -- I'll say again -- I not only want to finish hiring the 100,00 teachers, take another big step there, and fix the 5,000 schools and keep hooking up to the Internet, and also give you something to find on the Internet -- we're going to set up a digital library with hundreds of thousands of books that schools can access -- (applause) -- so every school library in America -- literally, within a few years, every school library in America can have 400,000 books if the digital library works.

We also want to pass this bill that says, okay, here's the federal money. But here's what you have to do if you want to get it. First of all, you have to identify the worst-performing, least-improving schools and take responsibility for turning them around just like the Mayor is and the school people are here in Boston. Mr. Payzant is working on that. That's what you've got to do. Why is that? Because we've got to insist that the schools, no matter how difficult their circumstances, offer world-class education.

Now, under our plan, states and school districts would audit failing schools for educational weaknesses, find resources that would help, do what Ms. Zimmerman does on her own: go out and help the mentor

teachers, make sure that all the teachers have been given the best development possible, provide reading tutors if they're needed, provide other kinds of help to get more parents involved, do whatever is necessary.

Then, if after two years the student achievement still doesn't improve, states and districts would have to take stronger action, including permitting students to attend other schools if they and their parents want to do so. Or reconstituting the school, making staff changes as appropriate. Or maybe even closing the school and reopening it, completely differently constructed.

Now, this can work. Let me just give you two examples. Six years ago, Houston listed 68 of its schools as low performers. Today, after much aggressive intervention and hard work, the vast majority of those are off the list. Because they're getting different results -- not because they're trying harder, but because they changed their results.

Dade County, Florida -- that's Miami, one of the most diverse school districts in America, had 45 critical, low-performing schools. They raised their math and science scores so much -- math and reading scores so much now that within two years, all 45 were off the list -- just by focusing on it and by refusing to accept the proposition that just because these kids were having a tough time financially or they live in tough neighborhoods, that their schools couldn't function and they couldn't learn.

Now, this is what Boston is committed to doing, but this is what every place in America should do. And in our budget, we have \$200 million to help them do it. We also call for ending social promotion, but we say -- and I want to reiterate that -- it's not the students who are failing, it's the system's failing them. So you don't want to punish the students, you want to change the system.

Therefore, among other things in this budget, we call for tripling the funds available for after-school and summer school programs to help kids learn more. In three years -- listen to this -- three years ago, Congress appropriated \$1 million for the federal contribution to after-school programs. Then, the year before last, it was \$40; then last year it was \$200, and this year I hope it's going to be \$600 and we'll have one million more children in every state in this country off the streets, in the classroom, learning more and having a better future. (Applause.)

We also have to give more support for teachers, more support for teacher development, more support for teacher education, more understanding of what's involved here. You have 53 million people and you're going to have a couple of -- according to Secretary Riley, a couple of million more teachers retire in the next few years.

It should not -- let me just say something. One of the big reasons that the test scores go down in math and science is that the teacher shortage has been so profound that there are a huge number of our teachers in America today in our junior and senior high schools, our middle schools and high schools, teaching courses in which they didn't have a college major or even a minor, because there was no one else available to teach them.

And we have to do more to support the recruitment and the support and the continuing teacher development of those people. One of the things in this budget that I think is particularly important, even though it's not a big number, is that we have funds for 7,000 college scholarships for young people where we pay their way to college in return for their commitment to teach for four years in an inner-city school or some other place where there's a serious teacher shortage of trained teachers.

This is a big deal; it can make a significant difference.

I also believe that all parents should get report cards on all schools. That has worked. The Boston schools are doing it, it ought to be done everywhere. People are entitled to information. Most towns in this country, you can find out more about the local restaurants than you can about the local schools if you're a parent -- unless you just go there and hang around. It's important.

And finally, interestingly enough, do you know what the teachers' organizations and teachers at the grass-roots asked us to do to put into this bill? They said we should say that every school district should have a reasonable, comprehensive discipline code that is actually implemented -- teachers asked for that, and I think that's important. (Applause.)

So again I say, look at those kids, think about what you want America to be like in 20 years. Think about what we're going to do with this golden moment for our economy, with this first budget surplus we've had in 30 years. There a lot of things we need to do, but nothing is more important than giving our children a world-class education -- nothing. And I hope you will support it. (Applause.)

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

4:10 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 17, 1999

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

The East Room

3:00 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much, Sharon. You did a great job, and I feel better knowing that you're out at NIH, doing great work there.

I would like to thank Secretary Rubin and Commissioner Apfel and Senator Robb and Representative Baldwin. I'd like to thank Congressman Levin and Hoyer for being here, and the members of the administration; all of the young people here from your various organizations. We have young people here from City Year and AmeriCorps. We have young people here from the University of Maryland, from the James McGregor Burns Leadership program. We have young people here who are doing other things with your lives, who consented to come.

I want to talk a little today in greater specifics about the nature of the choice facing our country now. For 200 years, the test of each generation of Americans has been not simply how well they did in their own time, but whether they left our country in better shape for future generations. Because of the size of the baby boom generation, to which the First Lady and I and a few others in this room belong, we have a special responsibility to the generation represented by most of you in this room, and by Sharon in particular, as she spoke.

We have rarely had both a clearer picture of the large challenges facing our future, and more resources to meet them. And I don't just mean money, although we do have a strong position in that budget. But our country is doing well. We have a lot of confidence. We have a lot of access to information. We have a lot of tools for dealing with our challenges that many of our predecessors did not have. Since we have a pretty good idea of what the challenges are, and we have an extraordinary array of opportunities and resources to meet them, I would argue to you that we have an even greater obligation than our predecessors did to do just that.

We now have embarked on a great debate as a result of our surplus, on the one hand, and the evident financial challenges to Social Security and Medicare on the other. We have clearly two different strategies through all the complexities for moving into the future -- one offered by our administration and many members of our party and the Congress, on the one hand; and, on the other, by the leaders of the majority party in Congress. We're debating how best to seize this moment, how best to provide a better future for you.

This is a truly historic opportunity. And it is very important that as a people we choose wisely. It is a substantive debate, it is an honest debate, it is a debate worth having.

Underlying all the details and all the complexities you will hear

this year about how you do the accounting on the surplus, how we should increase the rate of return on Social Security, what exactly we should do on Medicare, how much money will be required in the future for defense, should we also be investing more in medical research and education and other things over the long run, what should be the size of the tax cut and who should get the tax cut -- all of these questions are quite complex, particularly when you try to mesh them together in one plan. But underlying all of it, there is fundamentally a very simple choice: Will our first priority be spending the budget surpluses we have worked so hard to create on a terrifically appealing tax cut in the moment, or will our first priority be investing whatever the necessary amount of the surplus is for at least the next 15 years to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, to cut taxes in a way that help people not so much today, but to save for their own retirement, and to pay down the national debt as much as we possibly can, so that we can guarantee longer-term prosperity into the 21st century.

That is really what the simple choice underlying all the details will be. What is our first priority? It's no secret what I think it should be. I think we should move forward with the economic strategy of the last six years, to put a priority on investing in our people and the future. I do not believe we should go back to a version of the policy that dominated the United States in the 12 years before this administration came to office and gave us a decade-plus of deficits and quadrupling the national debt, and under-investment in our future.

The proposed new tax policy of the majority party in Congress, I believe, would spend too much of the surplus now and invest too little of it for tomorrow. I believe it would target the lion's share of the benefits away from the middle class who need the money the most to prepare for the future of their children and their own retirement. I believe it would reward consumption over savings, when we should be doing the reverse.

Our plan would put priority on investing for the future. And I'd like to say, in defense of our plan, I think we ought to be at least entitled to the benefit of the doubt, based on the last six years.

Seven years ago, when I was running for President and going from college campus to college campus, there was a lot of anger, a lot of frustration. There were a lot of young people who felt that they had been betrayed by their parents' generation, because we had just allowed things in this country to get out of hand. The deficit was out of control, the debt had quadrupled, interest rates were high, unemployment was up, social problems were growing worse, and the division -- the sense of anxiety and division -- in the country was intensifying.

And there was really a lot of doubt about whether our country was up to meeting these challenges. I didn't doubt that very much because it seemed to me that it just simply required people in positions of responsibility to make a few clear decisions. And remember, in every complex debate, the details really matter, but they only matter after you make the big, simple decisions.

We now have the longest peacetime expansion in our history; 18 million new jobs, almost; wages are going up at nearly twice the rate of inflation. We have the highest home ownership in history; the lowest percentage of people on welfare in history; the lowest recorded rates of minority unemployment since we've been keeping those statistics, for about 27 years now; the lowest peacetime unemployment in our country since 1957. Last year, for the first time in three decades, as Senator Robb noted, the red ink turned to black with a surplus of \$70 billion. We project a slightly larger surplus this year, with more to come.

Now, of course, over the next 15 or 20 years there will be

fluctuations that we can't predict exactly from year to year. If we have a recession, there will be fewer people paying taxes and there will be more money going out to the unemployed. But the point that has to be emphasized is that the long-term projections are good because we have eliminated the permanent structural deficit. We now have a permanent, structural balanced budget and surplus.

And that is what has brought us to this moment of decision -- that and the evident financial crisis which will be imposed on Social Security when the baby boomers retire, and on Medicare even sooner, because we're living longer and there's more technology, and because the older you get, the more it costs to maintain a state of wellness.

Now, I would say again: I realize that the path we have recommended and the path that I personally, passionately, believe in, will not be the most popular one at first hearing. But I ask you to at least look at the last six years and say, maybe they ought to be given the benefit of the doubt.

I was very moved when Sharon talked about being a nurse and learning from dealing with all different kinds of people that no one can predict what will happen to you in life. My mother was a nurse, and she used to tell me those stories over and over again. By pure coincidence, less than an hour before I came over here, I got word that a young woman whose family has been close to Hillary and me over the last several years, who has two young children, just found out that she has cancer. Now, she may be fine, there's wonderful treatment available, the tests are just being done. But the point is, a week ago such a thing would have never crossed her mind -- she is the picture of health, she is a fitness fanatic, she has no conduct that would indicate a propensity to develop it. These things happen.

And the great dilemma for all of us, both in our family and our work lives and in our national life, is that we really have to always be planning for the future as if we're all going to be all right from now on -- because, as a country and as a people and in our families, most of us are, most of the time. But we also have to plan for a future in which we recognize our shared responsibility to care for one another and to give each other the chance to do well, or as well as possible when the accidents occur, when the diseases develop, when the unforeseen occurs. Or when time takes its toll, and we get older -- which looks younger every day to me. (Laughter.)

And that is the question. This is -- it's hard to imagine a more profound subject, really, with which to be dealing. Tammy was talking about her grandmother and her niece. This is something that affects us all, and as time and chance occurs, and we try to fulfill our responsibilities, we have to make it work out so that, at the end of the day, our families are stronger, and our nation is stronger, and your future is brighter.

Now, what I want you to think about today is what we should do as our first priority with this surplus. When I took office in 1993, we were spending 14 cents of every dollar you paid in taxes paying interest on the national debt -- \$200 billion -- 15 times more than we were spending on education, training and employment services, just to make the interest payments. By the year 2014, when I took office, it was projected that we'd be spending 27 cents of every dollar you pay in taxes making interest payments on the debt -- \$1.28 trillion.

Now, just by eliminating the deficit over the past six years and going into these surpluses, we now know that we'll be able to meet our Social Security obligations between now and 2032, because the trust fund will be available -- actually, it will be in about 14 years that the taxes will not cover the payments on a monthly basis, but the trust

fund, the savings account, will carry to 2032.

Now, that's a lot of progress. But we've still got some real challenges. Number one, 2032 is not that far away, and when you're dealing with money this big, the sooner you start to deal with the problem, the easier it is to deal with it; and the longer you take to deal with it, the more difficult, the more painful, the more expensive it will be and the more unpleasant our choices will be. Number two, we're still carrying a \$3.7-trillion publically-held debt on our books.

Now, I believe if we were to use the budget surpluses -- overwhelmingly, to pay down the national debt for 15 years and target that money to Social Security and Medicare, it would dramatically improve your economic future and it would be a great safety protection against the possibility of adverse economic developments beyond our borders, which could affect us here.

We can also save Social Security and Medicare. We can keep the promises that have already been made -- we can provide substantial tax relief, targeted heavily to the middle-class families to save for retirement.

You know, half the seniors in this country would be in poverty today if it weren't for Social Security. But the poverty rate among elderly women is still twice the overall poverty rate of our seniors. Women have longer life expectancies than men. They're more likely to -- I expect NIH to change that, by the way, with all the investment we put in. (Laughter.) They're more likely, therefore, to spend more years alone and more likely to be in poverty.

We need to have a tax relief package that encourages people to save for their own retirement -- you, now. And we can increase government savings and do it in a way that provides tax relief that also increases private savings for your future, which I think is very, very important. And, parenthetically, as you pay down the debt, that leads to lower interest payments for college loans, for mortgage loans, for car payments, for credit card payments. It leads to lower interest rates for business loans, which leads to higher investment and more jobs and a brighter future. So you get a two-for-one thing if you do it. But, to be fair, the choice is, you have to give up some of the tax cut that the congressional majority would offer you today -- which sounds nice.

Now, my proposal is, save 62 percent of the surplus for Social Security for the next 15 years, and invest a modest portion in the private sector so we can increase the rates of return on the Social Security trust fund. That takes us to 55 years for the soundness of the program.

Next, I want to extend the life of Social Security to 75 years, which is where we have traditionally thought it should be, so that young people living in college today -- college students today, if we do that, would be covered well into their 90s. I think we should do more to reduce poverty among elderly women. I think we should lift the limits on what people on Social Security can earn for themselves, without having to give back their benefits, in effect.

We can do this if we make some other choices and work together. They're clear, and they're not complicated, really. They'll be somewhat unpopular, but we have to do some things to get this done.

Second thing I want to do is to give another 15 percent of the surplus for 15 years to Medicare. If we do this, we can keep it safe and sound until 2020, and I hope we can go further. I think that we should, at a very minimum, cover the greatest growing need of seniors,

- which is for affordable prescription drugs. This is a big deal.
- Anybody involved in medical research will tell you we can actually keep seniors out of the hospital, and out of trouble and, therefore, lower the aggregate costs of health care over the long run, if we can work Medicare out so we can absorb the front-end investment of a prescription drug benefit.

And, by the way, by the time your parents -- those of you in your 20s -- are on Medicare, it will be more true. And by the time you are there it will be even more true. So the quicker we get to a health care program that allows people to manage their own health care and stay healthy, and use whatever modern medicine develops to do so, the better off we're going to be.

Now, the third thing I propose is that we have a tax cut of over \$500 billion to create USA accounts -- Universal Savings Accounts -- that would be targeted to middle class families to help them save for their own retirement. Social Security alone is not enough for people to maintain their standard of living. Many people in the years where they're working hard and raising their kids and worrying about sending them to college do not have the resources to save. We want to make it possible through the tax cut to have more people save for their own retirement.

So where are we with all this? The Republican leadership has said that generally it supports setting aside 62 percent of the surplus until we save Social Security. That's good and I appreciate that. So we have national unity on that issue. Then we can argue about the details about what the best way to do that is. But that's where the agreement ends. And I think it's important -- they still really haven't made a commitment to extend the life of the Social Security trust fund from 55 to 75 years, and you should demand that all of us do that. Everybody here in your 20s, you should demand that we not walk away from this session of Congress without extending the life to 75 years, and doing something about the poverty rate among elderly women, and letting our seniors get out from this earnings limitation.

Now, secondly, they do not agree that we should set aside 15 percent of the surplus to save Medicare and to pay down the national debt even further to lower future interest rates even more, to spur even more economic growth. I think this is a terrible mistake.

That does not mean that we won't have to make some tough choices to reform the Medicare program. But we're going to be better off saving more of this surplus, paying down the debt more, and saving Medicare along with Social Security.

Third, we differ on the tax relief. I believe that tax relief is appropriate. I don't think that the whole surplus should be retained by the government, even for Social Security and Medicare. But when you've got a country with a savings rate as low as ours is, and when you know right now that working families need to be saving more for their own retirement, it seems to me wrong to have a tax cut where a disproportionate amount of the benefits will go to people in very high income categories who have taken care of their retirement fine and who have made a good deal of money in the stock market over the next six years, and not target even greater tax relief to middle income families who need to do more to save for their own retirement.

So those are the basic differences. But I just want to hammer to the young people here home the following things -- you should want us to save Social Security and Medicare not only for yourselves, but for your families. You heard Tammy Baldwin talking about that. I can tell you that the baby boom generation is really worried, as I said in the State of the Union, that our retirement will cause undue burden on our

children and on our children's ability to raise our grandchildren.

So if you don't have to worry about that, that is also a direct financial benefit to you. If you don't have to worry about the medical bills of your bills because we save Medicare it could be worth a lot more to you if your parents get sick than a short-term tax cut would today -- a lot more. And if we continue this debt reduction and we go as far as Secretary Rubin said -- just think about it -- having public debt the smallest percentage of our economy that it's been since before we went into World War I.

I'll tell you what that will mean in 15 years. Just 15 years. And believe me, 15 years passes in the flash of an eye. What it means is that we will only be spending 2 cents of every dollar you pay in taxes on debt service. And 15 years from now, if the Congress wants to give more tax relief, let them do it; 15 years from now, if we're on the verge of a comprehensive cure for cancer and they want to give it to the National Institute of Health, let them do it; 15 years from now, if we have some other big crisis and we want to have a major investment in education, as we did when we got into the space race, let them do it.

We should be willing to give some of these decisions to the future, instead of taking it now, when it looks easy, but we'd be squandering a historic responsibility. I am quite willing to leave a decision like that to the future. A lot of you may be here then; I'd like for you to have the option to do what is necessary.

So, again I say, underneath all these complexities, there is a fundamentally simple choice. Should our first priority be an across-the-board tax cut now, of a size which will keep us from dedicating a lot of this surplus to Medicare and will reduce our ability to pay down the debt and keep down interest rates and keep up investments over the long run -- and tie the hands of future decision-makers? Or should our priority be to save Social Security and Medicare, and have targeted tax relief to help retirement savings be built up in middle-class families that have not been doing it, or that need more, in a way that maximizes our ability to pay down the debt?

Some people in this room have heard me tell this story too many times, but I want to say it one more time. When I was a freshman in college and I took a course in the history of civilization, in the last lecture of the year, my professor at Georgetown said that the distinguishing characteristic of Western civilization was that we had always, at critical junctures, been driven by what he called "future preference," the idea that the future can be better than the present and that each individual and society as a whole have a personal, moral responsibility to make it so.

Now, that's really what this is about. Their idea sounds simpler, sounds good, even sounds fair -- 10 percent for everybody. Our idea will give you a stronger economy, will save Social Security and Medicare, will stabilize families, will strengthen the ability of the United States to lead the world, and will make you feel a whole lot better 15 years from now when you're dealing with both the opportunities and the pain of time and chance that affects us all.

You know, I see a few of the young people here today with ashes on their foreheads. Yesterday was Mardi Gras for Christians; today is Ash Wednesday. For people all over the world this is about to be springtime and a season of renewal. This is a time for renewal. I hope we make the right decision -- mostly, for your sake. And I believe we will.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

3:25 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 12, 1999

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF
THE PRESIDENTS' SUMMIT FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE**

DATE:	May 13, 1999
LOCATION:	Oval Office
TIME:	5:30 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.
FROM:	Thurgood Marshall, Jr.

I. PURPOSE

To receive General Powell's two-year progress report on the Presidents' Summit for America's Future and take a photo.

II. BACKGROUND

In February 1997, you asked General Powell to Chair the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. General Powell is prepared to release the two-year progress report on the Summit. The report will focus on the efforts to deliver on the five goals of the Summit for young people. In addition to receiving the report, the event would present an opportunity to focus attention on the Administration's key initiatives, especially AmeriCorps, and the education and health initiatives for children.

Late April marked the second anniversary of the Presidents' Summit. At several points -- six months after the Summit, one year after the Summit, and now two years after the Summit -- General Powell has reported on the progress of his crusade for children. The events, accompanied by published reports, highlight especially outstanding public, private, and independent sector efforts to provide the conditions of success for children.

General Powell has been asked to give a lunch speech at the National Press Club to discuss the two-year progress report. Before making that speech, he would like to formally present the report to you.

III. PARTICIPANTS

YOU
General Colin Powell
Harris Wofford

**THIS HAS GONE TO
STAFF SECY - DO YOU
HAVE CHANGES?**

IV. PRESS PLAN

White House Photographer only.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

YOU welcome General Powell.

General Powell presents the report to **YOU**.

Photo is taken.

VI. REMARKS

None.

May 13, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

From: Harris Wofford



Subject: Progress of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future and
America's Promise

As you receive the Report to the Nation from General Powell and America's Promise, I want to give you my summary assessment of the campaign started at the Presidents' Summit in Philadelphia two years ago. Recent events make the need for a concerted effort to help America's children even clearer.

After an enormously successful launch in Philadelphia, America's Promise has made substantial – albeit inadequately reported – progress in communities around the country. In my travels since the Presidents' Summit I have attended more than twenty state and local Summits and I'm encouraged by what I have seen and heard. In those places where the follow-up to the Presidents' Summit has been a success, a key factor has been the investment and leadership of the national service network. The state service commissions that administer AmeriCorps have seized on the America's Promise campaign as a way to demonstrate the power of national service and to deliver needed resources to children.

In addition to the leadership of our national service network, AmeriCorps has made a special contribution to the success of America's Promise. A year ago (at the City Year convention in Cleveland) you announced the new AmeriCorps Promise Fellows program. Today we have nearly 500 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows who constitute a special leadership cadre of AmeriCorps members focused on delivering to children the five resources that the Presidents agreed to in Philadelphia. America's Promise and General Powell are extremely pleased with the AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, who are in many respects the first organized ground forces in the America's Promise campaign. Based on the early success of the AmeriCorps Promise Fellows program, we have just agreed to extend the program for a second year.



Making A Difference

AMERICA'S PROMISE—THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH

*Making A Difference With America's Promise***AMERICA NEEDS YOU**

AmeriCorps needs you because America needs you. That's the slogan for our cross-country recruiting drive to help some 600 nonprofit, educational, and civic organizations recruit 50,000 AmeriCorps members.

To General Powell, I say the same: the Corporation for National Service needs the campaign to fulfill America's Promise for children and youth because America needs that campaign.

If America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth didn't exist, we would need to invent it—and to find someone like General Powell to lead it.

We did invent it in Philadelphia. And General Powell accepted the call from President Clinton and President Bush to chair the Summit and the continuing post-Summit campaign.

The historic opportunity in our hands is to answer General Powell's call to arms.

The Corporation for National Service is doing so, heart and soul. The state service commissions and our three main programs—AmeriCorps, the Senior Corps of some 500,000 volunteers, and more than a million student volunteers in service-learning—are contributing most effectively because they are part of a larger crusade to turn the tide for America's youth. Recently, in partnership with America's Promise, we added the leadership cadre of AmeriCorps Promise Fellows.

Great goals galvanize. In World War II, our whole country pulled together to win the war. Then in the Civil Rights movement, there was an alliance of forces that finally won the right to vote and ended public segregation.

Now, what greater goal is there—morally and strategically—than at last to take all-out action to see that no young American lacks the five basic promises set forth at the Presidents' Summit in Philadelphia?

By asking not what's good for the Corporation but what's good for the country, we are gaining the strength that comes from a common strategy and focused purpose.

In giving ourselves to this larger cause, we are finding ourselves. In the Summit's goals for children and youth, we are finding our most vital roles.



Former Senator Harris Wofford (second from left) participates in an AmeriCorps service program.

Harris Wofford
CEO
The Corporation for National Service

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

Contact: Ms. Melinda Baskin Hudson
Date of Commitment: 4/27/97
Email: mhudson@cns.gov

Phone: (202) 606-5000
Fax Number: (202) 565-2794
Web Address: www.cns.gov

Commitment: Commits to help recruit 1,000,000 additional tutors; engage 100,000 students through college work study; if Congress concurs, deploy 11,000 additional AmeriCorps members for America Reads; and work to engage 2,000,000 additional young people in 100 hours or more of service each year.

Progress: The Corporation for National Service (CNS) established 550 AmeriCorps Promise Fellowships to provide full-time 'active duty citizens' who work to deliver the five basic promises. This \$9,000,000 investment supports AmeriCorps leaders who will serve through national, state, and local nonprofit organizations committed to America's Promise. Over 20,000 AmeriCorps members are tutoring children or helping to organize volunteer literacy programs with new resources provided by Congress. Since the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, an estimated 1,400,000 children have been taught, tutored or mentored through AmeriCorps. CNS has worked with the Department of Education to enlist more than 1,000 colleges and universities to pledge a portion of their Federal work-study funds to support children's literacy initiatives. The number of work-study students has increased to more than 90,000—22,000 of whom are tutoring through America Reads and serving an average of ten hours a week. CNS launched the new Goal Five initiative, the President's Student Service Challenge, to inspire and reward young people who serve. The Challenge includes an award for young people who serve

100 hours or more a year (a partnership with the American Institute for Public Service, the Points of Light Foundation, and Youth Service America), \$1,000 scholarships for up to 15,000 high-school students based on outstanding community service, and a national recognition program for Leader Schools as model service-learning institutions. State Service Commissions in 42 states took the lead in organizing statewide initiatives to deliver the five basic promises.

Forecast: CNS will expand and extend the service of AmeriCorps Promise Fellows through 2001. Building upon the model launched by IBM, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and the United Way, CNS will develop a new technology initiative with YMCA, the Case Foundation, Sun Microsystems, and America's Promise to deliver technology resources to underserved schools. CNS with partners Child Welfare League, Generations United, Volunteers of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Points of Light Foundation will increase substantially the number of Foster Grandparents, RSVP volunteers, and the new Seniors for Schools programs to help meet the goals of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

Commitment Showcase: Twenty-three thousand Foster Grandparents mentor more than 90,000 children and youth a year. Sacramento's Foster Grandparent project placed 19 volunteers with 150 juvenile offenders who helped more than 59 percent of them earn their GEDs. The First State Mentor Corps in Delaware engages teams of AmeriCorps members and RSVP volunteers for mentoring programs in 20 schools, generating more than 1,000 volunteers who have mentored more than 1,000 students. Through Learn and Serve America, Big Brothers Big Sisters has recruited more than 500 high school mentors for younger students. Governor Locke's Washington Reading Corps placed 330 AmeriCorps members in 153 schools. The AmeriCorps members have recruited 9,000 additional volunteers, including RSVP volunteers and Foster Grandparents to help tutor 20,000 children across the state.

As you know, the Corporation for National Service has a special mandate to take the lead on Goal Five of the Summit – the goal that all young people have the opportunity to give back to their communities through service. AmeriCorps is naturally a key component of that effort, but for now it is not possible for all young people to participate in AmeriCorps. We are however encouraging all young people to serve, through schools or through community organizations. We have created the “triple crown” of youth service comprised of three proposals you have made: the President’s Student Service Award, the President’s Student Service Scholarship, and the Leader School Initiative that you announced at Penn State in 1996. Taken together these programs create opportunities and rewards for young people who serve and for schools that emphasize service. By promoting these programs, perhaps even in a joint event, you and General Powell would send a powerful message to the country about the importance of youth service. Promoting youth service through AmeriCorps and through these other initiatives would be an appropriate and useful part of a many-faceted response to the tragedy in Colorado.

Anne E. McGuire

05/24/99 12:41:40 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Thurgood Marshall Jr/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Inquiry from Oversight Committee

----- Forwarded by Anne E. McGuire/WHO/EOP on 05/24/99 12:41 PM -----

Anne E. McGuire

05/24/99 12:41:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Karen Tramontano/WHO/EOP@EOP, Ann F. Lewis/WHO/EOP@EOP, Shirley S. Sagawa/WHO/EOP@EOP, Janet Murguia/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Inquiry from Oversight Committee

Heads Up.

----- Forwarded by Anne E. McGuire/WHO/EOP on 05/24/99 12:39 PM -----



"Gomperts, John" <JGompert@cns.gov>

05/24/99 12:36:29 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Anne E. McGuire/WHO/EOP

cc: "Isaac, Mark" <MIsaac@hqnt4.cns.gov>

Subject: Inquiry from Oversight Committee

I just wanted you to know that Mark Isaac, our Congressional director, has received an inquiry about tonight's City Year/AmeriCorps event from Pete Hoekstra's oversight committee. You may recall that last year the oversight committee sent a letter soon after CYZGY asking about various questions about the event such as who paid for jackets, why the President advocated legislation (and actually seemed to ask City Year members to support these efforts), and whether City Year members received service hours for attending

the President's speech.

We will tell the oversight guys when and where the event is, and we will be prepared to answer questions about it, but I thought you and your colleagues might want to know this.

Thanks. JG

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 5/11/99ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00am TomorrowSubject: VIDEO TAPING: CITY YEAR

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	RUFF	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	SOSNIK	☒	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☒	☐	STEIN	☐	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	STERN	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
JOHNSON	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
KLAIN	☒	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
LANE	☐	☐	WALDMAN	☒	☐
LEWIS	☐	☐	YELLEN	☐	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
LOCKHART	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐
MARSHALL	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Jeff Shezol

RESPONSE:

Draft 05/11/99 2:00pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS TO CITY YEAR'S
ANNUAL CONVENTION OF IDEALISM
WASHINGTON, DC
May 1999**

Carolyn Casey

I want to thank you for inviting me to join City Year for your Annual Convention of Idealism. I enjoyed meeting so many of you at last year's convention in Cleveland, and I wish I could be with you today.

First, I want to congratulate City Year on a Decade of Idealism and Service. You've come a long way in just ten years. What a couple of law school classmates started in one city has become a vast national network that will contribute more than 1.5 million hours of service this year alone.

Back in 1991, I spent a day in Boston learning about your efforts. Your faith in citizen service strengthened my faith, and heightened my hopes for what we could achieve together. When I became President, I created AmeriCorps -- and, ever since, I have looked to your example and counted on your leadership. Thanks to City Year and AmeriCorps, more and more young Americans are changing others' lives for the better, and enriching their own lives in the process. You are infusing communities across America with your energy and enthusiasm. You are solving problems at the grass roots; coming to the aid of the otherwise forgotten; and working in our most remote towns and most troubled neighborhoods to open the doors of opportunity to every child.

When I created AmeriCorps, this was my great hope: that citizen service could bind our nation together even as we grow more diverse. And here, too, you are making a difference. Linking arms and efforts across the lines that divide, you are bringing America together again, and bringing us ever closer to the more perfect union of our founders' dreams.

I wish you another successful decade of service. And on behalf of those you serve, I thank City Year for strengthening the bonds of our national community.

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 for doing a
thru job at the briefing
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!

NATIONAL SERVICE: GETTING THINGS DONE

AmeriCorps • Learn and Serve America • National Senior Service Corps



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

to BH & SBS for 1/26/98

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.

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

With best wishes for a Happy New Year,

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

Harris Wofford

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

Everybody's Children

Giving helps young people grow

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

SUMMIT DECLARATION



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

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

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

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



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

Safe places with structured activities in which to learn and grow

A healthy start and healthy future

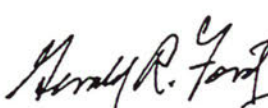
An effective education that equips them with marketable skills

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

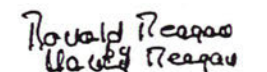


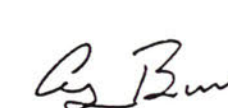
As Americans and as Presidents, we ask every caring citizen to pledge individual commitments of citizen service, voluntary action, the efforts of their organizations, or commitments to individual children in need. By doing so, this nation pledges the fulfillment of America's promise for every American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

THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA


Gerald R. Ford


James Earl Carter


Ronald W. Reagan
by Mrs. Nancy Reagan


George H.W. Bush


William Jefferson Clinton



WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT AMERICORPS...

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

— General Colin Powell

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

— James Lee Witt, Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

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

— Mayor Joseph Riley, Mayor of Charleston, South Carolina

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

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

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

**— Don Doran, Principal,
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.*

SERVICE HERO: RSVP VOLUNTEER GEORGE SYMOND

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

AMERICA READS: A*VISTA GRANTS ANNOUNCEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

National Service News is posted on the World Wide Web at <http://www.nationalservice.org> and is distributed by Internet listservs and fax. State offices, commissions, program and site directors are asked to distribute copies to citizens who serve. Please send comments and story suggestions to drodgers@cns.gov

THE PLAIN DEALER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1997

A Forum of Opinion & Ideas

15-B

THE PLAIN DEALER · THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1997

Seniors and kids team up to beat illiteracy

By Arthur J. Naparstek
and Harris Wofford

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

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

What brings this odd couple together?

A book.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Cleveland initiative has set ambitious goals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leadership: Older Americans take initiative and put their years of experience to work as volunteer coordinators, recruiters, teacher liaisons and leaders of parent workshops. They use their leadership to complement and reinforce the learning objectives set by the teacher and school administrator.

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

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



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

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

ANN LANDERS**DEAR ANN LANDERS:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Harris Wofford:

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

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

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The Administration's National Service Reauthorization Proposal

Key Principles

Expand opportunities for Americans to serve

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

Provide states additional flexibility to administer national service programs

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

Strengthen partnerships with traditional volunteer organizations

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

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

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

NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BILL

November 29, 1997

THE MISSION OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

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

PURPOSE

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

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

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

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

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

SUMMARY OF SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN THE BILL

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

Changes affecting **AmeriCorps*State and National** include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Changes affecting **AmeriCorps*VISTA** include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

of national significance is simplified.

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

Changes affecting all streams of national service programs include:

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

Administrative and technical changes include:

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

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

Authority for appropriations is provided as follows:

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



THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM overview

THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

1-888-275-5018

www.nationalservice.org

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

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

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

THIS OVERVIEW PROVIDES INFORMATION ON:

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

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?

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

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

HOW DOES THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WORK?

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

THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN ACTION.

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

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

continued on back

THE NATIONAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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

**NATIONAL SERVICE
SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS CONT.:**

- ★ Lions Club
- ★ Local businesses
- ★ Masonic Lodge
- ★ The Miss America Organization
- ★ Moose Lodge
- ★ Odd Fellows Lodge
- ★ Optimist Club
- ★ Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- ★ Pilot Club
- ★ Quota Club
- ★ Rotary Club
- ★ Ruritan Club
- ★ The 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.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 Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John

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

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

what they do.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOCUS: AMERICORPS AT RISK?



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

AmeriCorps

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

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

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

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

Learn and Serve America

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

National Senior Service Corps

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

SOURCE: Corporation for National Service

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

CHARLIE MEADS/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 under-represented 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 had improved.

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

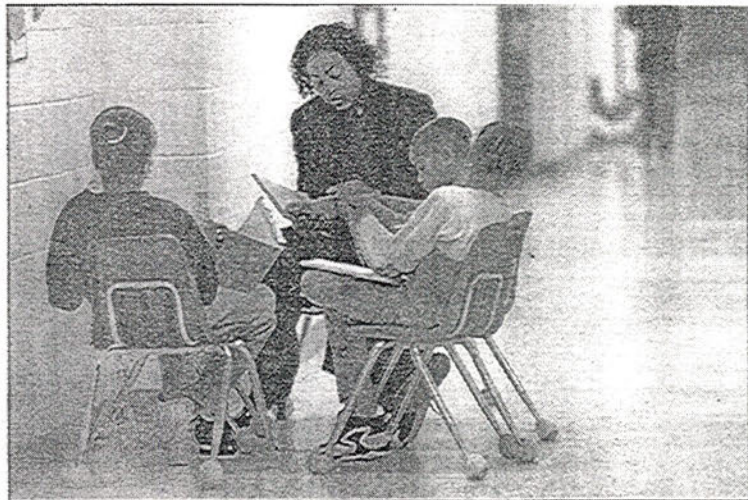
On a recent school day, she sat in the hallway of Churchland Academy surrounded by four youngsters who took turns reading aloud.

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.



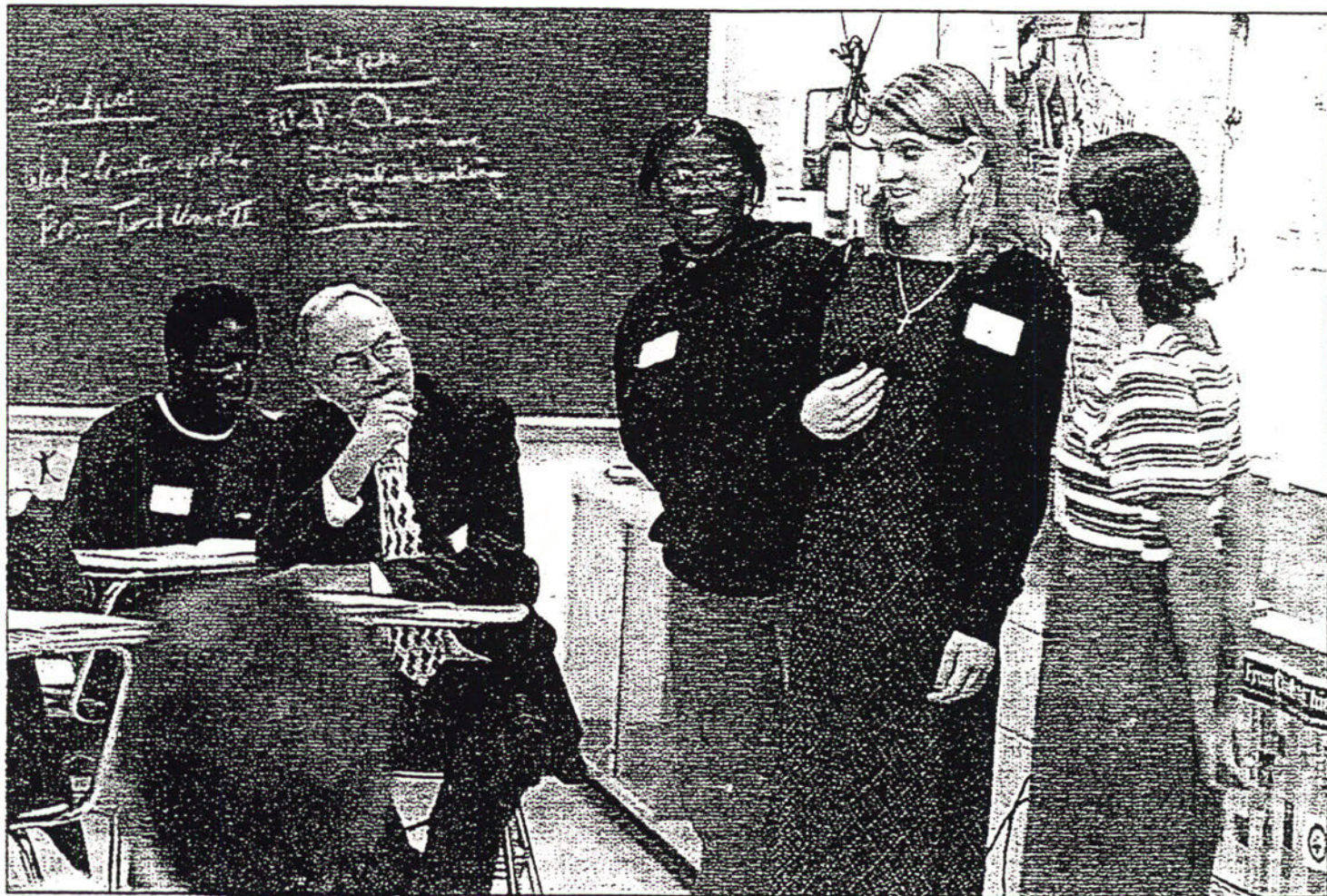
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Class moves teens to get involved



Clay Owen/News-Sentinel staff

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

By David Keim

News-Sentinel staff writer

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

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

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

Peace Corps veteran meets with students

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

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

ACTS stands for Action Counts in

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

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

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

Please see CLASS, page A3

FROM PAGE ONE

Class

Continued from page A1

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

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

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

He tells a story about a former gang member from Philadelphia

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

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

The boost in self-confidence was evident at West.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chicago Schools to Require Community Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Pence warned that it would not

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

Chicago students were not necessarily opposed to the requirement.

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

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

Daniel Ortiz, a freshman at Carl

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

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

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

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

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

DATE: November 5, 1997
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President Clinton Announces Resumption of Daily Points of Light Award



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

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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."

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Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

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.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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Commitment: Commits to engage 26,000 more Americans in voluntary environmental service, offering conservation education to half a million school children, through a 25 percent increase in the Forest Service Volunteer Program and a 40 percent increase in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Earth Team. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will also expand its efforts to distribute excess food to Americans in need, with special emphasis on engaging young people in food recovery and gleaning.

Progress: In the two years since the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, USDA increased by 26,711 the number of Americans, many of whom are youth, engaged in service to improve the environment through volunteer programs sponsored by the USDA Forest Service and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. More than 120,000 Americans each year volunteer through those agencies. In addition, through the USDA Food Recovery and Gleaning Initiative, the Department helped facilitate a 61.6 million pound increase in the amount of excess food recovered, gleaned, and distributed to Americans in need by nonprofit groups and youth service organizations. This provides additional food to literally millions of low-income children. As part of that initiative, USDA created a new grant program to help school districts donate excess food and involve students in food recovery-related community service.

Forecast: Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman recently created a new Community Food Security Initiative to help states and communities obtain the tools they need to reduce hunger and food insecurity, improve nutrition, increase hunger-related volunteerism, and enable low-income families to transition from poverty to self-sufficiency. The Initiative will focus on catalyzing new partnerships on the local, state, and federal levels to help communities reduce hunger and food insecurity, which currently afflicts millions of American children. The Department will also focus on helping communities utilize a new federal program that provides expanded resources to give snacks to children engaged in after-school activities. Furthermore, the Department will continue its ongoing efforts to involve more American youth in voluntary activities through its environmental volunteer programs and the National 4-H Program.

Commitment Showcase: The USDA Food Recovery and Gleaning Initiative has been highly successful in engaging tens of thousands of Americans of all backgrounds in voluntary service to fight hunger. Over 20,000 Americans have asked for and received a copy of the USDA handbook, a Citizens' Guide to Food Recovery, which helps connect them to local efforts. Any interested individual or organization may receive a copy of the guide by calling 1-800-GLEAN-IT. Furthermore, a USDA grant to the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness spurred new anti-hunger volunteer activities by students at dozens of college campuses across America.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Contact: Mr. John J. Phelan, III
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Commitment: Commits to double the number of partner schools and volunteers participating in its service initiatives over three years. Commerce's major service initiative involves its partnerships with Washington, DC area public schools, colleges, and universities. The partnerships primarily focus on tutoring and mentoring, but includes wiring schools to the Internet.

Progress: Currently, over 6,600 Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) schools and more than 9,300 teachers (in every state and in 80 other countries around the world) are participating in the program, and GLOBE continues to grow rapidly. In March 1999, GLOBE hosted a symposium for teachers called "Using GLOBE Data for Student Research" during the National Science Teachers' Association annual meeting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Department has participated at the National Society of Black Engineers annual conference and job fair. It also administers a post-secondary internship program in partnership with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities; American Indian Science and Engineering Society; Minority Access Incorporated; Oak Ridge Associated Universities; and the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

Forecast: On Earth Day in April 1999, GLOBE will hold a World Wide Web chat that focuses on the results of student research using data acquired by GLOBE students at their schools throughout the world. The National Weather Service (NWS) and Jackson State University (JSU) will partner to increase minority participation in meteorology and related fields. Over the next ten years, NWS and JSU will pursue a three-part strategy that will include: a pre-college initiative; an academic enrichment initiative; and a career placement initiative. The goal of the partnership is the development of a JSU Meteorology Program.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Contact: The Honorable Charles L. Cragin
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Commitment: Commits to mobilize children and youth of active duty personnel to volunteer 1.5 million hours of service annually in on-base and off-base community-service projects. The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) committed to 100 alliances between Department of Defense (DoD) youth programs and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. OSD committed to increase the enrollment number at JROTC Career Academies across the country.

Progress: OSD authorized and encouraged all defense agencies and the services to participate in Groundhog Job Shadow Day on February 2, 1999. This event opened the door for thousands of children to experience a day of work with service members around the nation and to make the connection between academic success and success in life. The DoD has raised the visibility and value of volunteerism through a series of internal news stories highlighting flexible work schedules for its civilian employees and heightening awareness of the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for military members. As part of National Volunteer Service Month, the department is also releasing a Defense Billboard Series poster on the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. This poster series will reach every military unit worldwide. Corps members of the National Guard Challenge program performed over 300,000 hours of community service alone this year in support of these activities.

Forecast: DoD continues to stress the importance of volunteerism and enhance community-service participation. The Senior Working Group on Service, a board of officers and civilian employees from all the service components, chaired by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, continues to address issues and opportunities raised by its members. DoD schools continue to require volunteer participation from its graduating seniors.

Commitment Showcase: Jim Garamone, the Armed Forces Information Services writer who wrote a Department of Defense news story about the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, was impressed that military service members could be nominated for serving in the community. His son's Boy Scout leader, who had worked with the troop for three years, is a soldier. Mr. Garamone nominated his son's Scout leader for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. "I posted the story on the regional Boy Scout Web site—and now lots of military people working with Scouts are being recognized," says Garamone.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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Commitment: Commits to expand opportunities for active duty, reserve, and retired military personnel to volunteer time as mentors and tutors in schools in their local communities; and will also expand opportunities for young people to give back to their local communities and contribute to the common good through a service-learning module in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program.

Progress: The Department of the Army has made significant progress in three areas. First, the U.S. Army Child and Youth Services developed the Promise Passport youth community-service program. Promise Passport encourages agency partnerships that aid in developing an infrastructure to promote community service. The program also facilitates youth community-service opportunities and recognizes youth and adults for their participation. All program materials, operations manual, recognition coins, certificates and passports have been distributed to U.S. Army installations worldwide and staff members have been trained in the program. Also, 13,786 Army youth, ages 6-18, have volunteered 102,917 hours, and 27 Army installations are now registered as affiliate members of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Finally, a JROTC service-learning module has been placed in the program and 850 instructors have received training through Quest International. Approximately 70,000 cadets have participated in community service while 5,000 have participated in service learning.

Forecast: U.S. Army Child and Youth Services will focus on creating a culture of community service. The Promise Passport will continue to be a focal point of programming and training, and the community service contributions of youth will be honored through the Promise Passport recognition programs. The community service will be integrated with workforce preparation and youth leadership initiatives. Army youth will participate in national community-service initiatives including National Youth Service Day and Global Youth Service Day. The Army will increase the number of Army installations with affiliate memberships in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. The IROTC program service-learning module will continue to be

integrated throughout the curriculum and instructor training; JROTC unit evaluations will give credit for participation in the service-learning module; and participation by JROTC cadets is projected to grow by 20 percent.

Commitment Showcase: In Fort Wainwright, AL, teens accepted USA Weekend challenge to Make a Difference. They partnered with a local Women in Crisis (W.I.C.) agency and created a flyer to inform the community about domestic abuse, and the work of W.I.C. Army teens also collected food, clothing, toys and furniture for the agency. USA Weekend and Newman's Own presented the Fort Wainwright teens with a check for \$2,000, in recognition of the teens' community service. During the Lessons in Patriotism module, Byrd High School Junior ROTC cadets visit patients at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Shreveport, LA. Patient John Goudeaux said, "It means someone loves and cares about me—you don't get too many people who come by and visit when you're sick." His wife Dorothy added, "It helps the cadets appreciate what the veterans have done for the country—it's wonderful for them to learn this." Cadet Chris Waller said, "My teacher said a lot of times people say that we've earned our freedom, but we really didn't earn it—the people like the veterans who fought in wars earned it for us."

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

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Commitment: Commits to increase its current involvement in programs and initiatives by at least ten percent, in terms of both the number of children served and the number of bases involved. The Air Force commits to increase its outreach by approximately 100,000 children over three years.

Progress: From a baseline of 658 students reached by STARBASE in FY '96, the Department of the Air Force increased to a total 969 students reached in FY '97, 47 percent more; then increased to a total 1,358 students reached in FY '98, 106 percent over FY '96; and in FY '99, increased to a total of 1,134 students reached, 72 percent, for a total of 3,461 students, 226 percent a increase over the FY '96 baseline. This is a total increase of 2,803 students beyond FY '96 at this point in FY '99. During the remainder of FY '99, the Air Force forecasts reaching 850 additional students for a total of 1,326 (202 percent for FY '99) raising the expected student participants to 4,311 (355 percent overall). Eight employees and 500+ adult volunteers participated this year.

Forecast: Air Force Reserve Command will launch its third STARBASE at Barksdale AFB, LA, and will begin formal operations in May 1999. New school systems supported include Caddo and Bossier Parishes. In Shreveport, LA, new partnerships are beginning with Louisiana State University in Shreveport, the Daedalians, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and One Hundred Men of Shreveport, Inc.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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Commitment: Commits to increase its efforts in tutoring and mentoring, focusing on literacy and anti-drug education. The Navy and Marine Corps, combined, will establish partnerships reaching more than 700,000 youth over three years. The Navy has targeted 400,000 youth to provide volunteer services in five promise areas. The Navy commits to reach 200,000 youth with drug partnerships. The Marine Corps commits to focus on literacy and anti-drug programs by tutoring and mentoring, reaching 100,000 youth.

Progress: Together the Navy and the Marine Corps have reached more than 600,000 youth. Approximately 383,000 young people were reached through four flagship sponsors: Personal Excellence Partnerships; Health, Safety, and Fitness; Environmental Stewardship; and Project Good Neighbor. Approximately 140,000 youth were reached through Campaign Drug Free, and 85,000 youth were reached through the Drug Education For Youth (DEFY) program. The Marine Corps has reached over 72,000 youth through United States Marine Corps Adopt-a-School programs and the Young Marines. The Marine Corps will provide logistical support to Young Marines, who planned a training session for all commanding officers in coordination with the National Interagency Counter-Drug Institute (NICI) in April 1999.

Forecast: The Navy will expand its participation in Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Campaign Drug Free plans to increase its program advertising and its budget. The program is managed by reservists, who will continue to expand and involve more active duty personnel. The Navy Personnel Command plans to establish new partnerships with at least three additional schools in Western Tennessee and present more Red Ribbon Week assemblies in October 1999. The Drug Education for Youth program will expand to eight new programs in Yuma, AZ; Miramar, Monterey, and Pt. Magu, CA; Washington, DC; Parris Island, SC; Millington, TN; and Oceana, VA. For Adopt-a-Schools, the Marine Corps will work with local education authorities for next year's Groundhog Job Shadow Day.

SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM

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Commitment: Commits to expand its information on servicing the nation to include information on community and national service opportunities that arose out of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future to the nearly 5,000 men turning 18 years old every day.

Progress: Annually, Selective Service provides each of its approximately 2,000,000 registrants with toll-free numbers and Web site links to obtain information on America's Promise, as well as service opportunities in the U.S. Armed Forces. Since the Summit, the Agency has installed young men and women as volunteer board members—about 4 percent of all new appointments.

Forecast: Selective Service is contacting its staff and thousands of volunteer board members to solicit their adoption of local schools. Additionally, the Agency plans to expand its partnerships with other Federal organizations and other groups which deal with America's youth or have messages which would be important to young people. The agency is continually modifying its World Wide Web site to better disseminate to young people information about its programs and those of others which are relevant to them.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Contact: The Honorable Mario Moreno
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Commitment: Commits to increase its Summer Reading Partner program by increasing the number of volunteer tutors from 300,000 to 450,000 and increasing the number of children reading over the summer from one million to 1.5 million. With the concurrence of the Congress, the Department of Education plans to launch 500 new after-school programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Five hundred more programs will result from the efforts of the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education (PFIE).

Progress: Volunteers make the difference in the Department of Education. More than 4,900 family and school, community, employer, and religious organizations joined the Partnership for Family Involvement in Education (PFIE) to support and encourage family involvement in schools. They share information via Web site, newsletter, and conferences. Steering groups have met in New York City, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Baltimore, MD; and Atlanta, GA to share best practices, express concerns, and shape solutions. The commitment to establish 500 21st Century Learning Centers was surpassed by 65 percent with the present total of 850 centers. READ*WRITE*NOW, formerly Summer Reading Partners, distributed over one million training packets for literacy volunteers and organizations. The America Reads Federal Work-Study Program provided trained tutors and community-service volunteers as a key part of work-study programs with more than 1,100 colleges and universities joining. These grants supported the work of 20,000 tutors and organizations providing instruction to children in need.

Forecast: PFIE will expand its focus on network building to Chicago, IL; Denver, CO; San Francisco and Los Angeles, CA; and all regions. Products, such as the Teacher Prep Involving Parents in Schools, Recipes for Success, and Preparing Teachers to Involve Fathers in Children's Learning, and satellite teleconferences will deliver expertise and examples. The Reading Excellence Program, proposed to grow to \$286 million, could support reading improvement for an additional 550,000 children. Changes in the Higher Education Act will expand America Reads to all 3,300 colleges that administer Federal Work-Study. The President's proposed \$600 million budget for 21st Century Learning Centers could triple available sites.

Commitment Showcase: Partnership efforts in New York City, Philadelphia, and Atlanta have brought together networks emphasizing best practice models for literacy, after-school programs, family involvement, and mentoring. The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reported significant increases in reading for fourth-, eighth-, and twelfth-graders. Students watched less television and read more pages daily for school and homework. Advances were recorded in African-American, Hispanic, and white populations.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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Commitment: Committed to four separate programs within the Department of Energy (DOE). These projects are: to conduct book drives at DOE sites to benefit local schools, with a goal of donating 2,000 books over three years; expand the Chicago Science Explorers Program (CSEP) to introduce more students, particularly minorities, to science as a career possibility; increase the number of adopt-a-schools in the next four years; and create a pool of employees versed in math and technology to speak at elementary, junior, and senior high schools around the country.

Progress: Under the sponsorship of the Energy Council on Community Service (ECCS), during 1998, the DOE collected over 3,000 books, including many math and science books, as well as novels at its facilities across the nation. At present, the focus of the Energy Council on Community Service is on involving high school students in the Waste-management Education and Research Consortium (WERC) environmental design contest. The DOE has developed a large number of formal and informal relationships with public schools throughout the country where it has a presence. These relationships have provided the schools with various forms of significant assistance, to include the donation of surplus desktop computers and participation in programs such as Everybody Wins, a reading mentorship program. The ECCS has developed a questionnaire to be used to solicit interest in the Speakers' Bureau and to obtain information about potential speakers. In addition, a questionnaire has been designed to be used by schools requesting Department of Energy speakers.

Forecast: The DOE Headquarters facilities in both Washington, DC and Germantown, MD will conduct another book drive to obtain additional books which can be donated to schools within the Washington, DC community for the benefit of youth. Woodrow Wilson High School, in Washington, DC, is the first school outside of the Southwestern area to enter the WERC contest. The efforts of the ECCS during the next year will be to expand both the numbers of students and schools that participate in this type of activity. In an effort to further formalize the DOE's adopt-a-school arrangements, the ECCS has developed a model agreement that will be provided to managers across the DOE complex. The DOE, through the ECCS, will continue to recruit additional personnel to be members of the Speakers Bureau and will establish a database to differentiate the pool into speakers and possible judges for school science fairs. The DOE will then advertise the existence of its Speakers Bureau and fulfill speaking engagements from schools throughout the country.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Commitment: Commits to coordinate with NIKE to establish a partnership between the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Girl Power! initiative and NIKE's P.L.A.Y.CORPS. This partnership promised to expand the P.L.A.Y.CORPS program to reach young girls and to work with HHS to develop a training guide for college students coaching girls in inner-city recreation leagues. These college students will become mentors to the girls they coach. Additionally, HHS promised \$1 million in new grants to prevent teen pregnancy.

Progress: The Girl Power! campaign has teamed up with 276 organizations and 59 national endorsers to promote the Girl Power! message of positive development, health and well-being of girls aged 9-14, as well as the prevention of teen pregnancy and the use of harmful substances. In 1998, as part of the HHS commitment to America's Promise, the first of the Girl Neighborhood Power! grants, totaling \$1 million, were awarded to four communities (Memphis, TN; Rapid City, SD; Madison, WI; and York, PA) and one national organization (Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, Inc.). In the current 1998-1999 school year, the number of HHS employees participating in Everybody Wins! totals 69. In 1997, HHS kicked off participation in the Everybody Wins! mentoring program with 57 employees participating at Bowen Elementary in Washington, DC, two participating at Walker Jones in Washington, DC, and eight participating at Highland View in Silver Spring, MD.

Forecast: In 1999, the Girl Power! campaign plans to introduce a Community Action Kit that will provide resources for local Girl Power! programs, as well as offer activity guides for girls that are being created in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of America. In addition, more Girl Neighborhood Power! grants are expected to be awarded this year. HHS also plans to expand the participation in the Everybody Wins! mentoring program. Secretary Donna Shalala is leading this commitment by personally participating in the program. She has read with a student at Bowen Elementary and plans to continue mentoring this student periodically throughout the school year. In addition, she will actively encourage HHS staff to participate in this program.

Commitment Showcase: In January 1997, Secretary Shalala announced, as part of the National Strategy to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, that a special emphasis will be placed on an abstinence education initiative through the Girl Power! campaign. This effort has yielded or helped to yield positive results: in April 1998, HHS announced that the teen birth rate fell an estimated three percent in 1997, continuing a six-year downward trend. In addition, the teen birth rate for women ages 15-19 declined substantially nationwide from 1991 to 1997. In December 1998, HHS released a first-time report showing the rate of second births for teens was down by 21 percent between 1991 and 1996.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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Commitment: Commits to the expansion of its Neighborhood Networks program to create 500 computer centers in assisted or insured housing over three years, more than doubling its current program. The United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) is also committing its resources to a partnership with the NCAA to support education camps in four empowerment zone/enterprise communities next year. Twenty-five communities will be supported in the next three years.

Progress: HUD has opened more than 470 Neighborhood Network computer centers servicing residents at 500 properties nationwide. HUD has partnered with local businesses, nonprofits, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, civic organizations, foundations, hospitals, community clinics, and federal and state government agencies nationwide to fulfill its commitment. Over 70 HUD employees at 51 HUD Field Offices volunteer their time and expertise to work with the Neighborhood Network partners in their community. HUD has also partnered with the NCAA to support educational activities nationwide. HUD awarded the NCAA a \$250,000 Drug Elimination Grant to support such activities, and it is estimated that an additional 16,000 youth nationwide have participated in these programs as a result of HUD's involvement. The United Way, YMCA, and Boys & Girls Clubs have also partnered with HUD to make this initiative a success. HUD and the NCAA have signed a memorandum of understanding to develop programs at over 40 colleges and universities nationwide.

Forecast: Neighborhood Networks are currently in the planning stages at 680 properties nationwide. HUD will also continue to work with the NCAA to expand the number of colleges and universities that participate in the partnership. Additionally, HUD is working to develop similar partnerships with professional sports organizations, such as the National Hockey League, National Football League, and the PGA's First Tee Foundation to provide opportunities to youth. HUD and the Oglala Lakota Tribe will sponsor "Shared Visions: The Pine Ridge Building Summit," a gathering of 1,500 participants and volunteers, including American Indians from other tribes, to rebuild 50 homes for Oglala Lakota families to purchase on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Commitment Showcase: A new "electronic village" will include a computer terminal in every apartment at the 884-unit Edgewood Terrace Apartments, a HUD-assisted and insured housing community in the Northeast sector of the nation's capital. Microsoft Corporation donated \$100,000 to support computer training for the Edgewood Terrace residents at their Neighborhood Networks center, the Gateway @ Edgewood Terrace. This past June, the center's first 31 welfare-to-work graduates were honored for their training achievements and their entry into the area's business community. Besides Microsoft, the nonprofit Community Preservation and Development Corporation (CPDC) that owns Edgewood Terrace 1 is also working in partnership with the Resident Association of Edgewood Terrace, Bell Atlantic, The Catholic University of America, George Washington University, ConsServe, the College Board Education and Workshop Center, and the Montgomery County Workforce Board.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Contact: Ms. Suzy Hubbell
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Commitment: Commits \$1-2 million per year to expand youth service opportunities to restore trails and facilities in the national parks. It will also launch two Internet-based initiatives dealing with the national Junior Ranger program and National Park Service Volunteer Opportunity System.

Progress: Public Land Corps (PLC) Youth Program employed 834 young Americans including six disabled youth at 89 park units in a variety of projects including rebuilding trails and preserving historic structures. One thousand Scouts participated in six "Linking the Girls to the Land" projects in cooperation with the Girl Scouts of America. Youth Conservation Corps employed 652 students at 64 locations. Projects included landscaping, exotic weed control, and campsite construction. The National Park Service Volunteer Opportunity System's Web site, (www.nps.gov/volunteer/opportunity.htm), is now fully functional, as is the Junior Ranger's Web site, (www.nps.gov/arch/junior.htm).

Forecast: The Department will continue to partner with the Student Conservation Association and other partnering associations to provide funding for PLC projects. The Department will also launch a Junior Ranger page on the Internet to link the 187 programs currently available at the park units. In cooperation with Eastern National, National Parks will benefit from one million hours of volunteer service from the Boy Scouts of America.

Commitment Showcase: In 1998, 97,000 volunteers worked 3,876,000 hours. The estimated value to the National Park Service is \$56 million. The Volunteer Opportunity Web Page (www.nps.gov/volunteer/jobs) has had over 48,000 hits to date.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Commitment: Commits to many initiatives, including the donation of \$8.6 million to 52 new Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP) sites across the country to support one-on-one mentoring; joining the Departments of the Navy and Army to expand their Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) programs from three to 30 sites; creating Youth Network, a public-private partnership to offer young people a chance to serve in programs in their communities; convening a public-private mentoring alliance to support mentoring programs across the country; and launching the "Get Involved America" (GIA) partnership to reduce youth violence. Will strive to help American Indian communities enhance or create the Volunteers for Tribal Youth (VTY) program.

Progress: In 1998, the Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) program was held at 60 sites, an increase of 32 sites over the 1997 total of 28, serving approximately 2,400 youth. (The Department originally committed to expanding from three to 30 sites.) More than \$14 million in Justice Department grants are being distributed to 73 Juvenile Mentoring Program (JUMP) sites. The Department is funding an evaluation of the program and recently released the JUMP: 1998 Report to Congress, at a White House event on mentoring. The National Youth Network has continued to grow, with new members and a new Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) publication series written by and for youth about how they can get involved in various crime-prevention activities. Through OJJDP, the Department has joined with the Department of Education and MTV to support Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence — a year-long campaign to engage young people in solutions to violence, including mentoring. (Harvard's School of Public Health Communication has contributed to the development of the mentoring component of the campaign). Federal funding is enabling the production and dissemination through the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse of one million CD-ROMS with music and an interactive tutorial on conflict resolution. In conjunction with the efforts of the Public/Private Mentoring Alliance (Alliance), the Department provided funding to Save the Children to develop a database of qualified mentoring organizations that can accommodate volunteers. This database is linked to the 1-800-55-YOUTH number noted on the PSAs of America's Promise/Save the Children and the Harvard School of Public Health Mentoring Media Working Group. The toll-free number will link potential volunteers, who call regarding mentoring, to opportunities in their area. The Department is also supporting an Ad Council public service advertising campaign which encourages young people to get involved, and adults to invest in youth programs like mentoring. The Department also funds more than 90 mentoring programs a year through OJJDP's Formula Grants program to the states.

Forecast: In 1999, the Department will expand its commitment from 60 to 65 DEFY programs serving approximately 2,600 youth. Also, the Department will hold regional training seminars and will renew its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Navy. The 1999 program will include several new cities including Phoenix and Tucson, AZ; San Francisco and Salinas, CA; New Haven and Norwalk, CT; St. Paul, MN; Charlotte, NC; Bronx County, NY, and Pittsburgh, PA. In 1999, through the OJJDP, the JUMP program will provide more than 7,500 young people in 37 states with one-on-one mentoring to help keep them in school and away from drugs and crime. The VTY national partners will work with tribal communities to identify opportunities for volunteers, including elders, to serve as mentors, tutors and positive adult role-models for Indian youth. To that end, materials will be distributed throughout Indian country that will encourage individuals and local organizations to get involved with youth in their community. Furthermore, this program intends to provide tribal communities with the financial resources, equipment, technical assistance, training, and networking assistance necessary to create and sustain community-based volunteer programs.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Contact: Ms. Michelle Dozier
Date of Commitment: 4/27/97
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Commitment: Commits to expand community outreach efforts and increase employee participation by increasing school partnerships that provide tutoring and mentoring, implementing reading programs in schools under the America Reads initiative, and offering a DC Summer Initiative.

Progress: The Department of Labor (DOL) expanded its highly successful DC Summer Initiative four-week summer enrichment program for 50 elementary and middle-school students to six weeks. DOL partnered with the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. to provide one-on-one tutoring in math and reading. Ten students from its middle-school partner made the honor roll. DOL increased the number of participating students from 40 to 70 students in the national office in the second annual Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Three of its regional cities participated in this event, hosting students from local schools in their area. Approximately 140 students were in DOL buildings on February 2, 1999, shadowing employees for the entire day. DOL's Atlanta regional office developed the "Promise Shop" for juniors and seniors to help prepare them for post-secondary education plans. Currently there are 30 students from Henry Grady High School participating in this program. America Reads and Read Across America conducted a children's book drive to donate books to its adopted school students. Reading is also emphasized as part of the DC Summer Initiative.

Forecast: DOL will conduct the six-week DC Summer Initiative again this summer for 50 students. In addition, DOL will continue to include its adopted schools in its educational and cultural events held at the Department. DOL will also continue to donate surplus computer equipment, software and other office supplies. DOL will increase participation in its adopted school partnerships in its regional cities.

OFFICE OF JOB CORPS, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Contact: Mr. Bob Sabochik
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Commitment: Commits to provide the five basic promises as part of its Community Connections national campaign, which is a long-term effort to bridge Job Corps with new national and local partners. The Job Corps commitment will center around new pledges to mentor at least 1,100 children, create new linkages with regional and national employers to help provide additional marketable skills to Job Corps students, and also to ensure that at least 34,000 Job Corps students participate in community service projects in 1999. Job Corps also promises to expand existing programs that will provide safe places by encouraging local youth to participate in planned after-school activities at Job Corps Centers, and continue to provide, and when possible increase, meals and health care support at Job Corps facilities.

Progress: Since its commitment to America's Promise in January of 1999, Job Corps has laid the groundwork for fulfilling its promise to provide all five basic promises, as part of its Community Connections Initiative. Job Corps has announced its commitment to the 68,000 students and 15,000 staff who make up the Job Corps program, and have initiated several activities to fulfill that commitment. Job Corps is providing resource information and guidelines to assist Job Corps staff in working with Communities of Promise to set up local mentoring programs for Job Corps students. Job Corps is coordinating with three national employers to arrange training and employment opportunities for students. Also, it participated in National Groundhog Job Shadow Day in 1999 with thousands of Job Corps students and staff and participated in other local community-service activities around the country. Job Corps continues to provide meals and health-care services to all of its students. The commitment is being fulfilled at 118 Job Corps centers and in its surrounding communities across the country.

Forecast: During the remainder of the year, Job Corps plans to develop linkages with the Communities of Promise wherever its centers are located and attempt to establish Communities of Promise in areas where they currently do not exist. Job Corps will reach out to communities by sending a letter of introduction from Job Corps' National Director to all America's Promise partners. Job Corps will develop agreements with at least seven additional national or regional employers. This year, again, Job Corps will participate in National Youth Service Day, Make A Difference Day, and local community-service activities around the U.S. Job Corps will enhance health care and meal provision at Job Corps centers.

Commitment Showcase: On February 2, 1999, 3,700 Job Corps students and 670 Job Corps staff participated in National Groundhog Job Shadow Day activities around the country. Perhaps the most visible shadow was Damian Thomas, a student from Potomac Job Corps Center in Washington, DC, who made his national television debut with *TODAY Show* personality Willard Scott as part of his job shadowing experience at NBC's Washington studios. During his on-air segment, Willard asked Damian about his Job Corps training, his career goals, and his experiences as a shadow. *TODAY* is seen by more than 11 million viewers daily. Damian spent the rest of the day shadowing Willard Scott's producer and other NBC staff. Damian is an 18-year-old from Portsmouth, VA, enrolled in the Transportation Communications International Union Advanced Training Program at Potomac Job Corps Center. Damian plans to work in the railroad industry when he completes his Job Corps training this spring.



SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM

Contact: Ms. Sarah Evans
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Commitment: Commits to triple the number of employees in its initiative so that approximately 600,000 companies have mentoring initiatives, bringing students and teachers into the workplace over four years. To increase participation, it has collaborated with dozens of national organizations and businesses who are giving students a window into the world of work.

Progress: The School-to-Work Program (STW) office is employing two strategies to reach the goal of involving 600,000 companies in mentoring initiatives for students and teachers. The first strategy is designed to spark the interest of businesses through Groundhog Job Shadow Day. Job Shadow Day 1999 involved more than 30,000 businesses. Each business matched employees with young people for the day. STW has encouraged long-term relationships between the workplace mentors and the students. The second strategy is a “systems-building” approach and is designed to be long-term in nature. STW offices in all 50 states work with local school systems and businesses to encourage participation. Although data quantifying the participation rates for businesses in 1998 is currently being collected, based on 1997 numbers, STW estimates that between 200,000 and 250,000 businesses engaged in these activities (this estimate includes 1999 Job Shadow Day figures.)

Forecast: STW expects 1999 data to reflect the growing trend of business and community participation in schools. Thus, the number of business participants involved in STW activities should jump significantly. In addition, STW hopes to engage 50,000+ businesses in coordination with its partners for Groundhog Job Shadow Day 2000.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Contact: Ms. Kelley Coyner
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Commitment: Commits through the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program to reach one million students over three years to educate them about careers in transportation.

Progress: The Department of Transportation's Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program has reached 600,000 students. With the help of over 100,000 Department of Transportation employees nationwide, a wide range of educational programs are provided to adopted schools. Support also comes from the Morgan Education Roundtable, which is comprised of 545 education, business and transportation organizations committed to educating one million students about careers in transportation and the skills needed for those careers. Through the support of the Roundtable, partners dedicate their energies toward providing speakers for career fairs/days, job shadowing days, and summer employment and internship opportunities. This commitment leverages the Department's resources, drawing on the service commitments of its employees, and encouraging others in the transportation community to participate.

Forecast: The Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program will build permanent partnerships with state and local schools, trade associations, and transportation businesses to provide young people with real-life work experience so that they will gain marketable skills needed for the 21st century.

Commitment Showcase: On February 2, 1999, DOT employees participated in the second National Groundhog Job Shadow Day. The Department set an ambitious goal to build on the success of last year's Groundhog Job Shadow Day. After a lot of hard work and coordination with the DOT staff across the country, the Department's goal, which was 1,000 participants, was exceeded by about 600 percent and reached approximately 6,000 students. For one high school student, who plans to become a commercial airline pilot, it gave her the opportunity to see her dream job up close. This senior was a shadow at the Boeing Corporation and learned more about the structures of the plane and equipment used by pilots. "The (shadowing) experience made me appreciate more of the workmanship that goes into airplanes. Now I can look at a wing and see the different layers and structures to produce a safe piece of equipment" she said.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY

Contact: Mr. Neal Comstock
Date of Commitment: 4/27/97

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Commitment: Commits to teach an additional 35,000 elementary and middle school students to avoid gangs and violence with the assistance of the "Gang Resistance Education and Training" (GREAT) program and 2,000 law enforcement volunteers. Also commits to assist 400,000 more taxpayers over three years through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) and increase the number of students in the GREAT program by ten percent each year. Commits to reach more Americans through the Savings Bond Program by increasing volunteers by ten percent.

Progress: In 1998, 39,240 VITA volunteers assisted 1,852,048 taxpayers at 6,083 sites across the nation. Also during 1998, VITA's companion effort, the Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program (TCE), assisted 1,679,400 taxpayers with the help of 32,425 volunteers at 10,554 sites nationwide. In FY 1998, 364,248 students received anti-gang, anti-drug training from law enforcement officers as part of the GREAT program. This represents a 16 percent increase over FY 1997, thus meeting its commitment. Overall, 3,826 officers from 1,266 communities in all 50 states have been trained. In 1998 the Savings Bond National Volunteer Committee, which recruits CEOs and government and industry leaders to help market Savings Bonds in specific geographic areas and special markets, had 53 Chairs in 25 geographic areas and 28 special markets.

Forecast: Though the IRS was not able to commit additional resources to the VITA program this year, it remains committed to expanding the number of taxpayers served, and hopes to reach 1.9 million in 1999. It plans to achieve efficiency gains by moving from paper to electronic filing and by consolidating existing sites. In FY 1999, Congress increased its appropriation for GREAT to \$16 million from \$13 million to support a national expansion of the program. Plans are being developed to create formal partnerships with the Police Athletic League and the Boy Scouts of America.

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Contact: Ms. Mary Strand
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Commitment: Commits to give the federal agencies the personnel tools needed to support federal employee participation in community service.

Progress: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) prepared a Presidential memorandum for agency heads on Strengthening our Commitment to Service which President Clinton signed on April 22, 1998. OPM provided guidance to agencies on personnel tools they could use to increase federal employee participation in community service. On October 22, 1998, OPM sent a report to the President summarizing the actions of 57 agencies to strengthen the Government's commitment to volunteer service.

Forecast: OPM will increase its employees' awareness about volunteer opportunities in the local community through a newly created Employee Services Center located in the Office of Human Resources and Equal Employment Opportunities. Additionally, the agency will ensure that employees are aware of the many family-friendly programs available, such as flexible work schedules and telecommuting, that allow them increased personal time to serve their communities. OPM continues to partner with the American Red Cross by sponsoring regular blood drives on site, and partners with schools to provide opportunities for students to explore the world of work.

Commitment Showcase: In the report summarizing Federal agencies' actions to strengthen volunteer service, agencies reported significant use of flexible scheduling to provide time to serve. Many agencies reported that they sponsor community-service programs, (e.g., partnerships with schools or "adoption" of needy families), or use formal recognition and awards programs to acknowledge and encourage community-service activities. This report to the President is posted on OPM's internet Web site at www.opm.gov.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Contact: Mr. Jim Delgado
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Phone: (202) 273-8952
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Commitment: Commits to a 50 percent increase in the number of student and youth volunteers in its facilities. This commitment will bring the number of volunteers to 15,000.

Progress: The original commitment has been attained and surpassed with the support of local program managers across the country with community organizations, i.e., United Way, American Red Cross, local school districts, Salvation Army and state and local Veteran Service Organizations. Every state has at least one Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center, and although not every facility has met its goal, the overall VA Healthcare System has reached its goal. Currently there are 17,091 students who are regularly scheduled volunteers within the VA Medical Centers across the nation. Each medical center has an office that coordinates the volunteer efforts and the staffing varies from facility to facility. Approximately 390 employees within the Department of Veterans Affairs participated in the recruitment and training of the student volunteers.

Forecast: The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to continue its work with existing organizations.

Commitment Showcase: Each year there is an outstanding student volunteer selected. The selection process is currently taking place, and the students will be selected in the spring of 1999.

UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS

Contact: Ms. Arlison Osborne

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Date of Commitment: 4/27/97

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Web Address: www.peacecorps.gov

Commitment: Commits to triple, over three years, the number of classrooms in the United States that participate in the World Wise Schools (WWS) program, which facilitates correspondence exchanges between thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers currently serving overseas and students in communities across the United States. In addition, the WWS program includes classroom presentations by returned Peace Corps Volunteers about cross-cultural understanding.

Progress: Commemorating the 38th anniversary of the Peace Corps, more than 10,000 current and returned Peace Corps volunteers took part in a global education initiative and went back to school to speak about their overseas experiences as part of Peace Corps Day '99. In just one day, Peace Corps' WWS reached thousands of teachers and principals, and hundreds of thousands of students. The Peace Corps also launched a Web site for young people as part of this year's Peace Corps Day '99 celebration. Called Kid's World, the site is designed for children in middle school, but will also have features for children in elementary school. Kid's World contains content, colors, graphics, games, and language designed to educate and entertain children about world geography and the cultures of other countries. It also allows children of all ages to send electronic postcards, read folk tales from around the world, download coloring pages, and test their geography savvy with an interactive flash game. In addition, the children's section reinforces the importance of service, and how young people can make a difference in the lives of other people through service and volunteerism. Kid's World can be found at www.peacecorps.gov.

Forecast: The Peace Corps will increase the number of WWS participants through mass mailings, asking each WWS educator to invite a colleague to join, WWS presentations at conferences, promoting the awareness of the Peace Corps' Kid's World Web site, and encouraging Peace Corps volunteers to recruit a WWS teacher with whom they can communicate during their two years of service overseas. The Peace Corps will encourage teachers and principals who participated in Peace Corps Day '99 to become active members of the Peace Corps' WWS program. Building on the success of Peace Corps Day '99, the Peace Corps will develop plans for Peace Corps Day 2000, reaching more teachers and students as part of this national event.

Commitment Showcase: The main event of Peace Corps Day took place at the new Peace Corps building with seventh-grade students from Southern Middle School in Lusby, MD. Their teacher, Crystal Gibson, signed up for Peace Corps' global education program, WWS, in August 1998 and was paired with Peace Corps Volunteer Mary Frances Muzzi, who teaches English in Russia. Over the past six months, the students have written to each other and learned about each others' lives, countries, and cultures. Ms. Gibson's recent month-long unit on Russia has come to life for her students as the Peace Corps Volunteer and her students in Russia have helped to put a face on a place. In March 1999, both sets of the students met for the first time face-to-face via a live video conference. The room was turned into a global village, with five separate villages, markets, and school rooms from around the world. Students from all over the DC metropolitan area took a tour of Peace Corps' global village and learned about challenges facing many countries, including environmental problems, access to education for girls, and preventative health care.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Contact: Mr. Dan Schecter
Date of Commitment: 4/27/97

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Fax Number: (202) 395-6744
Web Address: www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov

Commitment: Commits over three years to work with the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA), CityKids Foundation, and the Department of Defense to provide more than 200,000 young people in more than 100 cities with skills that will teach them to become community leaders, and challenge them to build local community coalitions and projects to tackle drug abuse and violence in communities. The National Youth Academy will combine CADCA's network of community coalitions and CADCA's training capacity with peer leadership training methodologies of various national organizations.

Progress: The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) is pursuing its commitment to youth leadership development through several avenues. In 1998, it awarded \$8.7 million through the Drug-Free Communities Program to 92 communities in 46 states to support a wide range of youth-oriented programs. ONDCP has pulled together over 40 national civic and service groups who have pledged 100 million volunteer hours to youth drug prevention efforts, such as mentoring, tutoring, and sponsoring activities during non-school hours. ONDCP supports comprehensive school-based programs by advocating for strengthening the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, which helps school districts and sites implement scientifically proven prevention programs. The new Middle School Drug Coordinators program provides drug-prevention experts to schools to work with parents and communities. Working with other federal agencies and a host of community organizations, ONDCP is implementing a parent and mentor program for drug prevention. The \$2 billion National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign is in its third phase and is surpassing its goal of reaching 90 percent of its teen target audience at least four times per week with anti-drug messages. ONDCP has also sponsored the first National Coalition Against Drugs Week to encourage coaches to talk to players and students about drug abuse. Approximately 100,000 Coaches' Playbook Against Drugs have been distributed.

Forecast: In FY 1999, ONDCP plans to award \$18.5 million to more than 200 community anti-drug coalitions around the country. In addition, working through the media campaign and other federal agencies, it will provide citizens with information they can use to get involved with or start community coalitions in their own communities. ONDCP is seeking funding to continue the highly successful National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, and fully implement all components of this comprehensive campaign: advertisements, initiatives with the entertainment industry, partnerships with major youth-serving organizations, an Internet component, public education, and media outreach. ONDCP will also provide additional support to parents and mentors through interactive parent trainings and teleconferences.

Commitment Showcase: The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign is encouraging families across America to discuss the dangers of using illicit drugs. Corporate matching is exceeding 100 percent, and includes the airing on network TV of ads for America's Promise. Major television networks are beginning to build their popular series episodes around drug-abuse themes (30 network episodes have already aired with substance-abuse themes). The Campaign's Web site for parents and teens has received more than three million Internet hits. Advertisements are being produced in eleven languages, with a major outreach component to minority media.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Contact: Mr. George Haddow
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Phone: (202) 646-3291
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Commitment: Commits to offer high school seniors new service opportunities through its Spring Break program.

Progress: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) partnered with 43 organizations to fulfill its commitment to America's Promise in 1998. Approximately 500 students and 11 FEMA employees participated in FEMA's Project Impact Spring Break program in Spring 1998. Spring Break programs took place in Oakland, CA; Deerfield Beach and St. Petersburg, FL; Wilmington, NC; Tucker and Randolph Counties, WV; and Pascagoula, MS.

Forecast: Project Impact will continue to encourage expansion of the Spring Break initiative to new Project Impact communities, while encouraging opportunities for private sector partners. Since Spring 1998, the number of Project Impact communities has grown from seven to 118 communities, at least two communities in each state in the nation and the District of Columbia.

Information on Spring Break 1999 and a guide to implement a Spring Break program has been mailed to the existing Project Impact communities. Each community will decide for itself what its program will be. As the number of communities and private sector partners expands, the Spring Break initiative grows. In the year 2000, Spring Break information will be sent to volunteer organizations nationwide.

Commitment Showcase: The communities take personal ownership of the Spring Break initiative and make the project more successful. Each community is unique and only that community knows what would be best for its needs. In the Deerfield Lighthouse Point Observer in April 1998, Wilibee Wright expressed the effect of being a beneficiary of a Spring Break project: "I'm very happy and proud because I know somebody cares about me," she said as she dabbed at her eyes. "I lost my husband three years ago and it's been pretty lonely since then. I fixed the place up as much as I could. But seeing all these kids out here to help and provide more safety for me, it makes me feel good."

SALLIE MAE

Contact: Mr. Christopher B. Greene
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Web Address: www.salliemae.com

Commitment: Commits to partner with colleges and universities, schools, and other local organizations in seven states and the District of Columbia to significantly increase parent and volunteer (including Sallie Mae employees) support of school and youth activities.

Progress: Through Sallie Mae's mentoring programs and its numerous school partnerships, more than 1500 employees—40 percent of the employee base—and hundreds of organizations have helped Sallie Mae support school and youth activities. Sallie Mae concentrates its involvement with schools and community organizations throughout the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area, and around satellite office locations in Texas, Kansas, Florida, and Pennsylvania. Due to the creation of the Sallie Mae Trust for Education, its Volunteer Advocacy Council and its interactive volunteer Web site, Sallie Mae has witnessed a 25 percent increase in employee volunteer support over the past 12 months.

Forecast: The Sallie Mae Volunteer Advisory Council, has created a three-year plan to develop new strategies to encourage employee participation and then provide training opportunities for employees who seek volunteer leadership roles. In addition, Sallie Mae will continue to actively support organizations dedicated to the personal and educational development of today's youth. Sallie Mae is expanding its involvement with inner-city youth in order to connect college-bound juniors and seniors with resources to exercise their right to higher education.

Commitment Showcase: With the implementation of the Volunteer Advisory Council and the Community Relations intranet site, Sallie Mae is better able to acknowledge its employees' success stories, and highlight and inform its entire corporate community of ongoing outreach initiatives.

FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION

Contact: Ms. Sharonda Bristow
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Web Address: www.fanniemaefoundation.org

Commitment: The Fannie Mae Foundation commits to engage 50,000 young people as volunteers to reduce homelessness in the Washington metro area over the next four years. The goals of this commitment, Housin' 2000, are to engage youth as volunteers in service to the homeless; increase their understanding of homelessness and their compassion toward homeless people; and instill in the young people a sense of belonging to a youth-driven movement to help the homeless. The Foundation has committed \$5 million in resources to fulfill these goals.

Progress: Housin' 2000 engaged over 35,000 young people in community volunteer efforts, such as the Help the Homeless Walkathon and national service day projects. Program staff worked to create educational projects for youth groups, school assemblies on homelessness, food and clothing drives, and hands-on volunteer opportunities. The Fannie Mae Foundation distributed over \$4 million of the \$5 million in committed resources.

Forecast: The Fannie Mae Foundation will continue to involve youth in volunteer efforts to aid the homeless in the Washington metro area. Housin' 2000 will partner with more than 150 local homeless service agencies to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for area youth.

Commitment Showcase: As a result of Housin' 2000 outreach efforts, the number of youth participants in the Fannie Mae Foundation's Help the Homeless Walkathon jumped from 4,000 youth walkers in 1998 to 20,000 youth participants in 1999. These young people raised more than \$2 million for local agencies that serve homeless men, women, and children.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Contact: Ms. Zina Pierre
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Commitment: Commits to expand significantly its Education Means Business program by working in partnership with Senior Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), and Small Businesses of the Year from each state in the country. Through participation in hundreds of school events, the Small Business Administration (SBA) will introduce students to the exciting possibilities of small business ownership. More than 12,500 volunteers will assist in the effort. SBA commits to serve as a link for America's youth to the world of entrepreneurship by providing training and business opportunities through the Office of Entrepreneurial Development's Education Means Business program. This program provides local high school and college students across the country with the basic tools necessary to start and grow a current or future business. Through hundreds of school events and local business forums, SBA district and branch, Veterans and Native American Affairs offices, SCORE chapters, SBDCs, Business Information Centers (BICs), and Women's Business Centers will continue their support to young aspiring entrepreneurs. More than 15,000 volunteers will assist in the effort.

Progress: More than 45,000 high school and college students received training, counseling, technical assistance and mentoring through SBA regional and district offices and SBA resource partners. Representatives from SBA resource partners, including SCORE, Women's Business Centers, SBDCs and BICs, visited more than 2,000 high schools and provided hands-on entrepreneurial and workforce development training. In addition, students participated in protégé programs with local business leaders.

Forecast: The U.S. Small Business Administration will focus on the development of young entrepreneurs and will plan to link students to its One Stop Capital Shops, its Small Business Development Centers, SCORE Centers, and Women Business Centers. SBA will provide further outreach to students in underserved and rural communities, Native Americans, veterans, and disabled persons to provide ongoing training opportunities for youth through collaborative efforts between federal, state, and local government programs. In addition, SBA will continue its partnerships with the local business community to assist in monitoring potential young entrepreneurs, as well as assist in preparation for financial planning and credit worthiness.

THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Contact: Ms. Michelle C. Brand
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Commitment: Commits to provide its staff and those in communities served by the Social Security Administration (SSA) with information about new service opportunities and will also hold Back-To-School drives for clothes, school supplies, and books, as well as business attire for needy men and women for interviews and first jobs.

Progress: SSA nationwide has donated 4,009 surplus computers and 521 printers to public schools while increasing its educational partnerships to 193. A national internal book drive was conducted among 1,300 SSA field offices to benefit children in grades K-3. Appropriate reading materials are now placed in each SSA field office for children to enjoy. A publicity poster was designed to inform visiting children about the joys of reading books and encouraged them to visit SSA's Web site at www.SSA.gov/kids. Numerous "Back-To-School" supply drives were conducted to support educational partnerships to benefit youth.

Forecast: SSA will: continue to donate excess surplus computers and peripheral equipment to public schools and educational organizations; target donations at 10,000 computers; target partnerships for 1999 at 225; develop community partnerships with national and local organizations that provide services to individuals seeking employment; implement a national awareness campaign to benefit community-based clients; and conduct a "business attire" clothing drive for needy men and women.

Commitment Showcase: With the rapid approach of the new millennium and the need to educate and fully equip children for the year 2000, SSA is proudest of the success of its "Computers for Kids" commitment. This program was fully implemented within all of SSA's ten regions across the country. Surplus computers have been donated not just to public schools but also to other sites such as: homework centers in low-income housing complexes, community centers for youth, and literacy programs for children in grades K-3. SSA's donation of 60 computers to Stanton Elementary School in Washington, DC, initiated many community volunteer partnerships. Stanton was not wired and ready for computers but volunteers have provided assistance by wiring the school for computers, installing connections for the Internet, serving as tutors to teach the children how to operate computers, and donating software packages to assist the students in reading and mathematics.

Making A Difference With America's Promise

AMERICA NEEDS YOU

AmeriCorps needs you because America needs you. That's the slogan for our cross-country recruiting drive to help some 600 nonprofit, educational, and civic organizations recruit 50,000 AmeriCorps members.

To General Powell, I say the same: the Corporation for National Service needs the campaign to fulfill America's Promise for children and youth because America needs that campaign.

If America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth didn't exist, we would need to invent it—and to find someone like General Powell to lead it.

We did invent it in Philadelphia. And General Powell accepted the call from President Clinton and President Bush to chair the Summit and the continuing post-Summit campaign.

The historic opportunity in our hands is to answer General Powell's call to arms.

The Corporation for National Service is doing so, heart and soul. The state service commissions and our three main programs—AmeriCorps, the Senior Corps of some 500,000 volunteers, and more than a million student volunteers in service-learning—are contributing most effectively because they are part of a larger crusade to turn the tide for America's youth. Recently, in partnership with America's Promise, we added the leadership cadre of AmeriCorps Promise Fellows.

Great goals galvanize. In World War II, our whole country pulled together to win the war. Then in the Civil Rights movement, there was an alliance of forces that finally won the right to vote and ended public segregation.

Now, what greater goal is there—morally and strategically—than at last to take all-out action to see that no young American lacks the five basic promises set forth at the Presidents' Summit in Philadelphia?

By asking not what's good for the Corporation but what's good for the country, we are gaining the strength that comes from a common strategy and focused purpose.

In giving ourselves to this larger cause, we are finding ourselves. In the Summit's goals for children and youth, we are finding our most vital roles.

Harris Wofford
CEO
The Corporation for National Service



Former Senator Harris Wofford (second from left) participates in an AmeriCorps service program.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

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Commitment: Commits to help recruit 1,000,000 additional tutors; engage 100,000 students through college work study; if Congress concurs, deploy 11,000 additional AmeriCorps members for America Reads; and work to engage 2,000,000 additional young people in 100 hours or more of service each year.

Progress: The Corporation for National Service (CNS) established 550 AmeriCorps Promise Fellowships to provide full-time 'active duty citizens' who work to deliver the five basic promises. This \$9,000,000 investment supports AmeriCorps leaders who will serve through national, state, and local nonprofit organizations committed to America's Promise. Over 20,000 AmeriCorps members are tutoring children or helping to organize volunteer literacy programs with new resources provided by Congress. Since the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, an estimated 1,400,000 children have been taught, tutored or mentored through AmeriCorps. CNS has worked with the Department of Education to enlist more than 1,000 colleges and universities to pledge a portion of their Federal work-study funds to support children's literacy initiatives. The number of work-study students has increased to more than 90,000—22,000 of whom are tutoring through America Reads and serving an average of ten hours a week. CNS launched the new Goal Five initiative, the President's Student Service Challenge, to inspire and reward young people who serve. The Challenge includes an award for young people who serve

100 hours or more a year (a partnership with the American Institute for Public Service, the Points of Light Foundation, and Youth Service America), \$1,000 scholarships for up to 15,000 high-school students based on outstanding community service, and a national recognition program for Leader Schools as model service-learning institutions. State Service Commissions in 42 states took the lead in organizing statewide initiatives to deliver the five basic promises.

Forecast: CNS will expand and extend the service of AmeriCorps Promise Fellows through 2001. Building upon the model launched by IBM, AmeriCorps*VISTA, and the United Way, CNS will develop a new technology initiative with YMCA, the Case Foundation, Sun Microsystems, and America's Promise to deliver technology resources to underserved schools. CNS with partners Child Welfare League, Generations United, Volunteers of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Points of Light Foundation will increase substantially the number of Foster Grandparents, RSVP volunteers, and the new Seniors for Schools programs to help meet the goals of the Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

Commitment Showcase: Twenty-three thousand Foster Grandparents mentor more than 90,000 children and youth a year. Sacramento's Foster Grandparent project placed 19 volunteers with 150 juvenile offenders who helped more than 59 percent of them earn their GEDs. The First State Mentor Corps in Delaware engages teams of AmeriCorps members and RSVP volunteers for mentoring programs in 20 schools, generating more than 1,000 volunteers who have mentored more than 1,000 students. Through Learn and Serve America, Big Brothers Big Sisters has recruited more than 500 high school mentors for younger students. Governor Locke's Washington Reading Corps placed 330 AmeriCorps members in 153 schools. The AmeriCorps members have recruited 9,000 additional volunteers, including RSVP volunteers and Foster Grandparents to help tutor 20,000 children across the state.

David S. Broder

Colin Powell's 'Promise'

Colin Powell would not run for president in 1996, and he is equally adamant about the election of 2000. You could argue that the retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is a little selfish, putting personal and family considerations ahead of the vast public esteem in which he is held and the opportunity he might have to improve public trust in politics and to heal some of the racial divisions in our society.

But after listening to him last week, I'm persuaded that what he's doing may be more important than running for the White House.

The general is chairman of "America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth," a two-year-old organization committed to the idea, as he said last week, that "it's time to stop building jails and get back to building up our children."

The goal of America's Promise is to mobilize communities, businesses, civic, religious and nonprofit organizations and governments to focus their efforts on helping young people get off on the right foot—and stay there.

"Most of our kids are doing fine," Powell said, "but there may be up to 15 million who are not on the right path."

Powell, whose leadership skills include a remarkable capacity to boil complex challenges down to their essentials and express them in clearly understandable language, says there are five things every youngster should be guaranteed. They are

"An ongoing relationship with a caring adult; a safe place with structured activities during nonschool hours; a healthy start; a marketable skill through effective education; and an opportunity to give back through community service."

It is an agenda that Powell has persuaded thousands of groups—many of them already working on parallel paths themselves—to endorse and support. At first, he told me, established organizations viewed his effort as a threat. "But I think I persuaded them that I wanted to be a Johnny Appleseed, raising awareness, so they could scale up their programs." Deliberately, he has kept his own operation small—50 people with an annual budget of

\$6 million from private donations.

His evangelism works. Among those who turned out for Powell's National Press Club luncheon speech were Steve Case, the chairman of America Online; Bishop Roger Schwietz, the head of the youth subcommittee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Michelle Engler, the wife of the governor of Michigan; Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton of Minneapolis; and Harris Wofford, the head of the Corporation for National Service. All are heavily involved with the program.

When I asked Wofford, a notably hard-nosed humanitarian who has worked with two generations of socially conscious reformers, if Powell's organization "really added value" to existing youth service efforts, he said, "Absolutely. Just as in the civil rights movement, you need great goals to galvanize great efforts."

Powell spoke with his usual eloquence of the importance of those five goals. How much it means to young people to have a mentor who says, over and over, "I believe in you, and I am going to demand you meet the expectations I have for someone of your talents." How important it is to have a place where youngsters can go after school, rather than being alone at home "watching Jerry Springer and learning violent solutions to your problems."

He reinforced what many others have said about the necessity of seeing that youngsters come to school well-nourished, inoculated against disease, with their hearing and vision problems remedied. And in a computer age, he stressed, "there can be no digital apartheid," or segregation of economic opportunity based on access to those electronic tools.

Finally, he said, youngsters must be given an opportunity to give back to their communities with service of their own, whether it be tutoring kids or helping in a hospice.

At the end of the lunch, reporters picked up a volume that spoke even more forcefully than Powell about this effort—a 643-page, cross-indexed directory of programs being conducted by states, cities and a welter of private organizations all across the country.

There you can read about and learn how to reach anyone from the folks running 38 "Critical Hours" after-school program sites in San Diego, to the Volunteer Action Center in Wood County, W. Va., where, director Jennifer Keup told me, the businesses and civic groups and government agencies involved have pledged to see that more than 5,000 youths receive all five of the "America's Promise" guarantees within three years.

You can plug into America's Promise and your local effort by phoning 1-888-55YOUTH.

The Washington Post

SUNDAY, MAY 23, 1999

George F. Will

An American Triumph

Doctoral dissertations will proliferate, arguing how much credit to assign to Robert Rubin, during whose tenure as Treasury secretary the American genius for wealth-creation has set new records. Already there is the whine of axes being ground.

Keepers of the flame of Reaganism say that today's cornucopia economy is the result of their man's tax-cutting and deregulating. To the extent that deregulation has spurred today's boom, Jimmy Carter gets credit for beginning the process with airline deregulation.

A study done for NASDAQ finds that the proportion of Americans owning stocks doubled in the 25 years between 1965 and 1990, then doubled again in the next eight years. James K. Glassman of the American Enterprise Institute notes that 37 million households—three of every eight families—own mutual funds, and 70 percent of those funds are owned by persons with incomes under \$75,000.

James Twitchell of the University of Florida, author of the new book "Lead Us Into Temptation: The Triumph of American Materialism," believes the pervasiveness of affluence changes the political categories: "One of the reasons terms like Yuppie, Baby Boomer, and Gen-X have elbowed aside such older designations as 'upper middle class' is that we no longer understand social class as well as we do lifestyle, or what marketing firms call 'consumption communities.'" Hence Al Gore talks more about suburban sprawl than about poverty.

But, then, poverty has peculiarities in a country this prosperous. W. Michael Cox of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and Richard Alm of the Dallas Morning News, co-authors of the new book

"Myths of Rich and Poor," report that two out of three poor families have microwave ovens, and three out of four have VCRs for their color televisions. And Twitchell reports that the average American consumes twice as many goods and services as in 1950, and today's poorest fifth of the population consumes more than the middle fifth did in 1955.

Since November 1982 the economy has been in recession just nine months, or 4.5 percent of the time. As Cox and Alm note, between 1853 and 1953, the nation was in recession, or worse, 40 percent of the time. We have learned a thing or two about managing a modern economy, such as: Do not try too much managing. Alan Greenspan understands.

He recently warned that inflation remains a danger. The news in this was that America needed reminding. Twenty years ago, when the misery index (remember: the inflation rate added to the unemployment rate) was 20.6 percent, prudent people worried that inflation was the systemic disease of democracies. That is, democracies could not resist deficit spending, and would use inflation as slow-motion repudiation of their deficits. Furthermore, democracies, with low pain thresholds, could not endure the pain involved in wringing inflation from the system.

The low pain threshold is real. The recession of the early Reagan years was considered horrendous and was the worst of the postwar era. However, it involved a contraction of less than 3 percent of GDP. In the 55 years prior to the postwar era (1890-1945), the economy contracted 5 percent three times, 10 percent twice and 15 percent twice.

One reason for Greenspan's anxiety about inflation is itself stunningly good news: an unemployment rate down to 4.3 percent. Just a generation ago, economists spoke of a "full employment" budget, which calculated what the deficit would be under full employment, understood to be 5 percent unemployment. Today 78 metropolitan areas have unemployment rates below 3 percent. Yet upward pressure on wages is mild, in part because workers do not feel the need to sprint ahead of inflation.

Employment in manufacturing declined another 400,000 last year, but that, too, is good news, considering that while the percentage of the work force in manufacturing has declined from 35 percent in 1947 to 15 percent today, manufacturing as a portion of the economy has held at 20 percent for three decades. For reasons both technological and managerial, the manufacturing work force is increasingly productive.

Successful societies, being prone to complacency, need Cassandras, and Greenspan looks the part. Although in private he has been known to smile and is rumored to laugh, he is not given to irrational exuberance in public, where his countenance is that of a basset hound with a secret sorrow. His job is to spot, or even to postulate, lead linings on even the most silver clouds.

He construes the Federal Reserve's role narrowly, to protect the currency as a store of value, rather than to fine-tune the economy to produce high employment. Which is why there is such high employment. Once again, a minimalist mission by government produces maximum results.