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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 21, 1991

EXECUTIVE ORDER

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AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 12594

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to amend Executive Order No. 12594, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Section 1 of Executive Order No. 12594 is amended to read as follows: "Awards shall be given for the purpose of recognizing outstanding voluntary contributions by individuals and organizations toward helping others in our society, and for the purpose of demonstrating to all Americans what can be accomplished through voluntary action. Awards shall be named, designed, and presented as determined by the President upon the recommendation of the White House Office of National Service."

Sec. 2. Section 2 of Executive Order No. 12594 is amended to read as follows: "The awards may be presented by the President to recipients in categories to be determined by the President or the Director of the White House Office of National Service. The selection process shall be administered by the White House Office of National Service in coordination with the ACTION agency and other appropriate entities. The President may select for the awards any person recommended to the President or any person selected by the President upon his own initiative."

GEORGE BUSH

THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 21, 1991.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 17, 1991

The President today recognized the volunteers of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Mobile Unit NINE, Navy Diver/Hearing Impaired Student Tutoring Program of Alameda, California, as the 643rd Daily Point of Light for the Nation. This successful partnership between the Navy and Farragut Elementary School began in April of 1989 as a tutoring program for hearing impaired students.

Sixteen Navy divers spend an average of 10 hours a week with students, tutoring them in math, reading, writing, and science. In conjunction with the classwork support and tutoring, the divers work one-to-one with each of the students to help them improve verbal skills and integrate more fully into a "hearing" society. Nearly all of the children in the hearing impaired class have had trouble fitting in with the other children at school, but with the Navy divers coaching them on speech and social skills, their self-esteem and confidence have improved.

Once the tutoring was underway, the divers and students found an unexpected advantage to the program. Since Navy divers are used to dangerous, underwater situations where it is imperative that they communicate with one another, through their relationships with the students, some of them have learned sign language which they have used during these underwater missions. Since March of 1990, the students have taken it upon themselves to teach all of their Navy buddies sign language.

The President salutes the Navy divers and their student partners for exemplifying his belief that, "From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tracey Taylor or Miah Homstad
(202) 456-6266

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 13, 1990

FACT SHEET

VOLUNTEER LIABILITY PROTECTION INITIATIVES

Today the President announced three new initiatives to protect volunteers from unwarranted exposure to legal liability and to make insurance to protect against such liability more affordable and easily available.

Volunteers

The term "volunteer" covers people engaged in a wide range of activities. It includes direct service providers, directors and officers of volunteer organizations and certain state and local governmental officials. Volunteers engage in such activities as mentoring troubled young people, tutoring those who are illiterate, feeding the hungry, coaching Little League teams, fighting fires and serving as town councilpersons.

Liability Insurance and Related Costs are a Constant Drain on the Resources of Many Volunteer Organizations and a Nagging Concern for Volunteers

There are two principal effects of the liability crisis on volunteer activities and organizations: (1) the reluctance of individuals to participate in volunteer activities due to the perceived threat of liability; and (2) the curtailment of programs and activities by volunteer organizations due to the limited availability and high cost of insurance. (Some anecdotes illustrating these problems are listed in Appendix A.)

a. Insurance Practices

Private purchase of insurance, the customary means of addressing tort liability concerns, does not provide a satisfactory solution for volunteer organizations. Because the insurance industry appears to treat volunteer organizations in the same manner as for-profit organizations, increased litigation in the for-profit sector has meant that insurance rates for both sectors have dramatically increased. As a result, volunteer organizations' liability costs, notably insurance premiums, have had a seriously inhibiting effect on these organizations.

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PHOTOCOPY - BUSH LIBRARY

HOUSE

b. Effects of Increased Insurance Costs

Unlike for-profits, volunteer organizations generally cannot pass on increased insurance costs to the beneficiaries of their services. As a result, funds that would otherwise go to offering programs are diverted to paying premiums. Coverage is simply unavailable for many programs, including the transport of persons, athletic programs and domestic violence shelters. State immunity laws and the adoption of risk management programs have generally not resulted in lower insurance rates.

Fear of Tort Liability has Resulted in Cutbacks in Programs and Volunteer Activities

a. Cutbacks in Programs

Fear of potential liability is a leading cause of the cutbacks in volunteer activities. The specter of lawsuits and the high cost of insurance have led a number of schools to reduce extra-curricular activities relying on volunteer help, including the elimination of sports activities and field trips. (Appendix A includes a list of public reports illustrating the types of lawsuits involved.)

b. Recruitment Difficulties

It appears that people are increasingly reluctant to serve as volunteers. The ripple effect of just one suit on the willingness of people to serve as volunteers is great. Although volunteers may seldom actually pay judgments, the fear of lawsuits, which place an individual's bank account and home at risk, has increasingly deterred volunteer activity.

PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

Volunteer Risk Management Center

The President calls for the support of a privately funded, non-government controlled center to address the concerns of volunteer organizations about tort law liability. The Center could perform numerous functions, including the following:

- (1) Act as a national clearinghouse for liability-related information;
- (2) Analyze and propose means of addressing insurance needs;
- (3) Assist nonprofits in reducing their exposure to legal liability;
- (4) Act as an advocate for nonprofits in negotiating with the insurance industry and educating Congress and state legislatures about the need for reform; and
- (5) Establish insurance programs and risk retention or purchasing groups to reduce costs and increase insurance availability.

Various violators mentioned

Model State Statute

While a number of states have adopted some form of legislation protecting volunteers and/or volunteer organizations, the statutes vary widely in scope and effect. The adoption of a model state statute would provide a degree of rationality and uniformity to the nationwide tort law regime.

The model state statute proposed by the President would bring nationwide protection to volunteers working with 501(c) organizations and governmental entities that use volunteers in carrying out their official functions.

This statute would continue to permit recovery against volunteer organizations and governmental entities, to the extent permitted by present state law. Such a statute would strike a balance between the need to protect those performing voluntary community service from personal liability and the need to provide a source of recovery for those who are genuinely harmed by such activities.

Amendments to the Risk Retention Act

The President will send to the Congress much needed amendments to the Federal Risk Retention Act. That statute was intended to enable organizations to form purchasing groups that would help them obtain liability insurance at affordable rates. But actions by some states have inhibited such efforts.

These amendments would:

- (1) Assure that risk retention groups and purchasing groups are controlled by their members;
- (2) Specifically regulate the provision of insurance to purchasing groups; and
- (3) Strengthen notice and reporting requirements for risk retention groups, purchasing groups and purchasing group insurers.

These three initiatives will ensure that those who engage in voluntary service activities can do so without fear of legal liability and the burden of costly insurance.

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PHOTOCOPY - BUSH LIBRARY

Referred to as the Bush Library

APPENDIX A SELECTED REPORTS OF THE VOLUNTEER DILEMMA

1. " [A] part-time Big Ten Basketball official . . . [d]uring a crucial 1982 Iowa-Purdue game . . . called a last-second foul that gave Purdue both the victory and a post-season tournament berth. An Iowa souvenir company faced with a suddenly devalued inventory challenged his call with a \$175,000 negligence suit in state district court, claiming he had wrongly harmed its ability to sell the souvenirs. . . . [W]on, but only after a two-year court battle that went all the way to the Iowa Supreme Court."

(The Wall Street Journal, Friday, August 11, 1989, page B1)

2. "A New Jersey umpire was sued by a catcher who was hit in the eye by a softball while playing without a mask; he complained that the umpire should have lent him his. The catcher walked away with a \$24,000 settlement."

(The Wall Street Journal, Friday, August 11, 1989, page B3)

3. "Hofstra University's athletic director . . . was sued in 1985 after he officiated a college basketball game during which a St. Bonaventure University player punched and broke the jaw of an opponent from George Washington University. The victim sued the officials for unspecified damages in District of Columbia superior court, claiming they hadn't been in control of the game. [The athletic director] won, but not before he spent two years taking weeks off work and traveling from his . . . home . . . to testify and give depositions."

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4. "In Little League Baseball, the liability rate has increased from \$75.00 to \$795.00 in just five years. Many leagues cannot pay \$795.00, so operate bare or discontinue their Little League programs. In leagues which cannot obtain or afford liability insurance, it is highly improbable that adults will want to volunteer if there is no coverage.

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It was in 1982 that the big scare occurred when a coach in Runnemede, New Jersey was sued because he re-positioned his Little League shortstop to the outfield where he misjudged a fly ball sustaining an eye injury. The allegation was that the 10-year-old youngster was a born shortstop and the coach was negligent in placing him in the outfield.

The repercussions of the suit were immediate, dramatic and nationwide. Other adult volunteers were fearful that they could

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

be exposed to similar legal action. Local leagues considered discontinuing their Little League programs."

(Prepared Statement of Dr. Crayton Hale, Little League Baseball, Inc. to the Working Group on Tort Reform, November 7, 1989)

5. "Many of our member Associations have had to eliminate grass roots development gymnastic programs and other competitive sports programs. This has had the effect of denying the low-income child the opportunity of receiving basic skills development in our gymnastic programs and aspiring to become an athlete."

(Prepared Statement of Dr. Alpha Alexander, Health Promotion Specialist, YWCA, to the Working Group on Tort Reform, October 26, 1989)

6. "In . . . Evanston, Illinois . . . the Junior League last year faced a classic Catch-22 in an effort to establish a shelter for battered women. Following an exhaustive search, the group found only one insurer willing to offer liability coverage. But the company required at least a three-year track record of operating receipts before it would issue a policy--in other words, the shelter would have to "go bare" for three years in order to obtain insurance. Of course, no one was willing to serve on the board of directors without liability protection, and plans for the shelter went up in smoke."

(Article by Representative John E. Porter [R-IL], Volunteers: The Fight for Survival, Leadership, 1988, page 12)

7. "The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted yesterday to provide liability insurance to the county's volunteer workers to end a sharp decline in their participation. . . . The decision to provide insurance for about 13,000 volunteers, at a yearly cost of about \$72,000, is meant to halt a 20-month decline in volunteer participation in such programs as those for the elderly and the handicapped.

According to county officials and documents presented to the board yesterday, most insurance companies canceled their coverage of the county in July 1985, concluding that Fairfax, like many other local governments, was too high a risk. . . . Many volunteers, fearful of possible lawsuits in which they could be held personally liable, dropped out of their programs.

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[The] [D]irector of the county Department of Recreation and Community Service, said in a recent interview that between the summer of 1984 and the summer of 1985, volunteer participation in

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programs for the handicapped was the equivalent of having 78 full-time workers. This winter, he said, the number fell to the equivalent of two full-time employees, primarily because volunteers were concerned that they were not covered by insurance."

(The Washington Post, Final Edition, Tuesday, April 28, 1987, page B1)

8. "A preliminary statewide survey conducted by United Way of California revealed that increases in premiums of up to, and in some instances in excess of, 400% and cancellations of policies were yielding major disruptions in all areas of critically needed health and human services, including: cutbacks in staff; reductions in service; curtailment of programs; incurring of budget deficits; deferred program equipment purchases; increases in program service fees; deferred hiring; and depletion of operational reserves."

(The Insurance Initiative for Nonprofits: The California Model presented by Herbert J. Paine, Executive Director, United Way of California, to the Nonprofit Sector Risk and Insurance Forum, Chicago, November 11, 1988)

9. " 'Over the past few years -- and the 1989-90 school year will be no exception -- students have returned to school in September only to find that some of their favorite activities have been cancelled or modified because educators fear such activities might lead to costly lawsuits,'

The surveys were conducted with school principals who are members of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and with attorneys representing school boards that are members of the National School Boards Association (NSBA).

'The results of the surveys illustrate just how much America's litigiousness and risk aversion has diminished the quality of life'

Ivan B. Gluckman, staff counsel to the NASSP, said that while only 16 curricular programs in the survey were reportedly cancelled, the principals indicated that about half of more than 240 programs were modified because of the institution or threat of a lawsuit.

'Of those responding (almost 200 out of 654), 58 percent said that they had noted a difference in the kinds of school programs being offered in schools because of such liability concerns as the threat of lawsuits and high insurance costs,' said Gluckman.

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'As might be expected,' Gluckman continued, 'the curricular programs most affected were class trips, shop classes and physical education, but effects were felt by laboratory science programs and use of school playgrounds. Among co-curricular activities, athletic activities were mentioned most often as being affected, particularly gymnastics, football and cheerleading.'

Gluckman said use of non-faculty volunteers was also affected. Typically parent volunteers assist schools with math and reading labs, science programs and social activities."

(American Tort Reform Association News Release, Tuesday, August 29, 1989: Surveys Find Fear of Lawsuits Causes Educators to Eliminate or Modify School Programs)

10. "Most voluntary organizations report the cost of liability insurance has increased. In fact, the average reported increase in the past three years is 155%, and one in eight organizations report an increase of over 300%, roughly the equivalent of a 100% increase over 1984 rates per year.

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About half of the active board members report a decline in volunteers in the past few years. In fact, 16% of the board members report they have withheld their services to an organization out of fear of liability."

(The Liability Crisis and the Use of Volunteers by Non-Profit Associations, A Survey Conducted for: The Foundation of the American Society of Association Executives. Prepared by: The Gallup Organization, Inc., Princeton, New Jersey, December, 1987)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 13, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE POINTS OF LIGHT FOUNDATION

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

11:55 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much. Good to see you all. A warm welcome to the White House. Merry Christmas. Happy Holidays. We're beginning to get the spirit around here. And may I salute the Attorney General and thank him for his leadership and for his keen interest in the subject that you've been discussing, that I'm about to discuss. Because I am really delighted to be here to help introduce the Points of Light Foundation to this impressive group of nonprofit organizations and state leaders and to announce three initiatives designed to reduce barriers hindering voluntary service efforts.

Since our founding, America has been distinguished among nations for the extraordinary degree to which our people have voluntarily banded together to help those among us in need. And today we're faced with perhaps more pressing needs than at any time in our history. Needs that many of your organizations, the organizations represented here today, strive to meet year in and year out.

The needs of our nation are so great that the Points of Light Foundation seeks to make direct and consequential service aimed at serious social problems central to the life and work of every American. To achieve this goal, most institutions will need to adopt a new way of thinking. They must come to see social problem solving -- solving these social problems as not just the responsibility of government and nonprofit organizations. Institutions will have to refine their missions to include the engagement of all of their members in community problem-solving.

Of course, service to others is and has been the mission of much of the nonprofit community. But your challenge is to find a way to engage all of your members in service. To help engage all of your members in service, the Foundation is urging every institution to appoint Points of Light representatives. And to ensure that every community has multiply places to which individuals and institutions can turn for counsel about how to serve others and where to obtain service, the Foundation is calling on a wide variety of institutions to become what we call Points of Light centers.

As part of my commitment to advance the Points of Light movement, I'm determined to help remove barriers to service. No obstacle -- no obstacle is more chilling than the fear of personal liability and the high cost of insurance to protect against liability. Often programs are curtailed or those contemplated are

today, who are eager to support the effort of volunteers. And I call on you and other state legislators here across America to pass this legislation during the next session.

In addition to these two important initiatives, I will send to the Congress amendments to the Federal Risk Retention Act that will make it easier for organizations to form purchasing groups to obtain liability insurance at affordable rates.

With these three initiatives I am confident that voluntary community service can be encouraged, increased and strengthened. I've often said that from now on in America any definition of a successful life must include serving others. By working together, we can, I really believe that we can achieve our goal of making community service central to the life and work of every individual and institution. And in the process redefine the meaning of success in America.

I really popped in here to thank you for coming by today; to thank you and your organizations for what you're doing; to encourage the state legislators to take that extra step to guarantee to do their part, as I will try to do mine, to free up the volunteer from needless fear on a personal liability account. And we've got to do it. We've got to be successful. And I'm confident we will.

Thank you all. And I hope you have a wonderful Christmas. Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

END

12:03 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
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For Immediate Release

December 13, 1990

FACT SHEET

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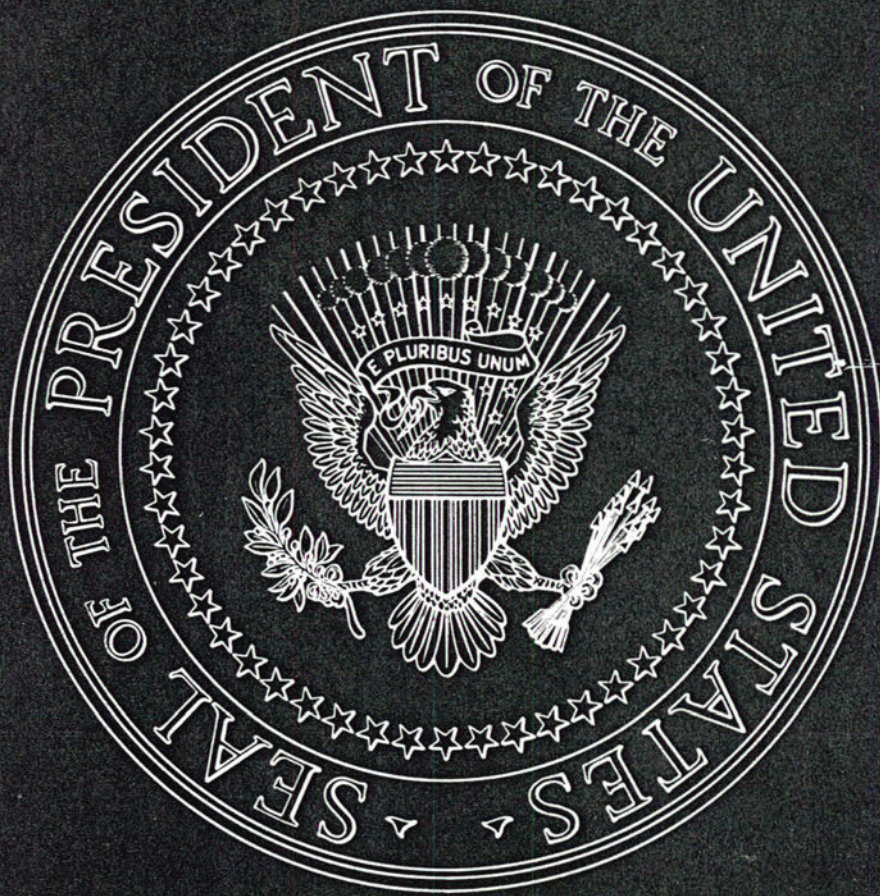
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The White House Office of Public Affairs

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 22, 1989

MEMORANDUM TO AGENCY PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTORS

FROM: CHRISS WINSTON *CW*
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL SERVICE PACKAGE

Enclosed you will find a fact sheet and the President's address to the New York Partnership, announcing his "Points of Light" national service initiative. A copy of the President's address to a youth rally kicking off the "YES" -- Youths Engaged in Service -- initiative is also enclosed.

We hope you will find this information helpful.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 22, 1989

FACT SHEET

POINTS OF LIGHT INITIATIVE

"From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others."

CHALLENGE

Though America is at peace and more Americans are enjoying a greater degree of prosperity than ever before in our history, we still have work to do. As long as millions of Americans are illiterates, drop-outs, drug abusers, pregnant teens, delinquent or suicidal young people, AIDS victims and among the homeless and hungry, America has not yet fulfilled its promise. Our challenge is to overcome the disintegration of communities, large and small. While the government's role is critical, government cannot overcome this challenge alone.

MISSION

The President believes in the readiness and ability of every individual and every institution in America to initiate action as a "point of light." Meaningful one-to-one engagement in the lives of others is now required to overcome our most serious national problems. The growth and magnification of "points of light" must now become an American mission.

STRATEGY

- I. CLAIM PROBLEMS AS YOUR OWN
- II. IDENTIFY, ENLARGE AND REPLICATE WHAT IS WORKING
- III. DISCOVER AND ENCOURAGE NEW LEADERS

I. CLAIM PROBLEMS AS YOUR OWN

A. The President's Call for Action

The President calls on **all Americans and all American institutions**, large and small, to make service of central value in our daily life and work.

The President calls on the **heads of businesses and professional firms** to include community service among the factors considered in making hiring, compensation and promotion decisions.

The President calls on **newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations, cable systems and other media institutions** to identify service opportunities, spotlight successful service initiatives and profile outstanding community leaders regularly.

The President calls on **state and local education boards** to uphold the value of service and to encourage students, faculty and personnel to serve others.

The President calls on **college and university presidents** to recognize the value of community service in considering applicants, to uphold the value of community service and to encourage students, faculty and personnel to serve others.

The President calls on **not-for-profit service organizations** to build the capacity to absorb increasing numbers of volunteers in purposeful roles.

The President challenges **all young people** to lead the nation in this movement of community service through the **"YES (Youth Engaged in Service) to America"** initiative. The President will call all young people to help overcome society's challenges by serving others through existing organizations or new initiatives.

He will also challenge:

- o Leaders from **all institutions** to engage their organizations in the development of young people;
- o Community leaders and students to reach out to **alienated young people** and develop community service opportunities which redirect their lives in a positive way;
- o **Community service organizations** to build the capacity to absorb large numbers of young people in purposeful community service.

Through the foundation, the President will:

- o **Select the President's National Service Youth Representatives** who will lead other young people in community service in their regions, suggest ways that other young people can engage in community service and assist in developing and implementing local programs;
- o **Initiate the President's National Service Youth Leadership Forums;** and
- o **Present the President's National Service Youth Leadership Awards** to honor outstanding youth community leaders.

YES to America is not a federal government program, but a nationwide service movement. It is:

- o A movement that is **grass-roots and community-based** rather than devised in and imposed from Washington;
- o A movement that does not compensate people with federal dollars for what should be an **obligation of citizenship;**
- o A movement that integrates service into young people's normal life and career pattern, developing in them a **lifelong commitment to service** rather than a temporary, one or two year involvement.

B. One-to-One Problem Solving

Every individual should "connect" with his or her institution - businesses, professional firms, the media, labor, education, religion, civic groups, associations of all kinds and not-for-profit service organizations - and engage in the lives of others in need on a one-to-one basis. Examples of the kinds of engagement the President calls for include:

- o starting a **literacy program** to teach every employee or member who wants to learn to read;
- o "adopting" a **school, class or single student**, providing tutoring, computers and other learning aids, food, clothing or shelter for each student who needs them;
- o "adopting" a **nursing home**, offering comfort and cheer;

- o starting a one-to-one mentoring program for **needy young people**;
- o forming a consortium to make decent, affordable housing available to the **homeless**;
- o contributing and distributing surplus food to soup kitchens each day to feed the **hungry**.

Individuals wishing to help another in any of the above ways independently of an institution are encouraged to establish a **one-to-one relationship** with an individual in need.

II. IDENTIFY, ENLARGE AND REPLICATE WHAT IS WORKING

The President will serve as Honorary Chairman of a foundation called the **"Points of Light Initiative."**

The President will convene an **advisory committee** to make recommendations (**within 45 days of its first meeting**) on the structure and composition of the foundation and the legislation most appropriate to accomplish the purposes of the President's national service initiative.

The President will seek a **Congressional appropriation** of \$25 million annually for the foundation, which will, in turn, seek to match that amount from **private sector contributions**.

The President will challenge each **Governor** to replicate this initiative in each state and encourage **state and local leaders** to develop **"Points of Light Working Groups"** composed of community leaders. These groups will marshal resources within their communities and deploy them to overcome local problems.

The President believes that **virtually every problem in America is being solved somewhere**. There are already countless service initiatives working successfully throughout America. However, these successful initiatives are too often isolated and unknown to others. **These initiatives must be replicated over and over again by individuals and teams until everyone is connected to someone, one-to-one.**

A. Peer-to-Peer Working Groups

Through a foundation initiative to be called the **"ServNet Project"**, corporations, professional firms, unions, schools, religious groups, civic groups and not-for-profit service organizations will be **asked to donate the services of some of their most talented and promising people for a period of time**.

These extraordinary individuals will **form and lead peer-to-peer working groups**, e.g., lawyers going to fellow lawyers, teachers to fellow teachers, union members to fellow union members, bringing examples of successful initiatives and providing training, technical assistance and other support to enable other institutions to devise similar initiatives.

B. Linking Servers to Needs

One of the foundation's objectives is to help to improve existing **methods of matching** would-be volunteers with purposeful service opportunities.

Over time, through an initiative called the **"ServLink Project"** the foundation will stimulate the development through private sector resources of **"technology links"** between those who wish to serve and those who need service (e.g., telephone calls, interactive computers, etc.).

Volunteer centers should be easily accessible to all Americans in their neighborhoods, **matching people with service opportunities**. Such contact points may be in a place of worship, union hall, library, fire station, business building, service group headquarters or neighborhood home.

In addition, every bank, credit card issuer, telephone and utility company will be asked to **include in billing and statement envelopes** printed information about how people and their institutions can become engaged in serving others.

C. Recognition and Awards

In order to encourage others to engage in service, every newspaper, magazine, radio and television station will be asked to **identify service opportunities, spotlight successful service initiatives and profile outstanding community leaders regularly**.

The **"President's Build A Community Awards"** will honor those people and institutions who have worked together to rebuild families or to revitalize communities.

Through the foundation, the President will **recognize and present awards and other forms of commendation** to talented community leaders and successful initiatives that are solving the nation's most critical social problems.

III. DISCOVER AND ENCOURAGE NEW LEADERS

America's community service movement must have the **strongest, most creative leadership** nationally and locally. Such leadership must be constantly recruited.

The foundation, with the help of existing organizations, will **identify the most promising new leaders** in all walks of life, who are not now engaged in community service, and **encourage them** to devote part of their talent and energy to community service.

The foundation will give special attention to **young people** and to **those who have not had the opportunity** to fulfill their leadership potential.

IV. CONCLUSION

The President's national service initiative focuses on the most critical domestic challenges facing the nation today. These problems were long in coming and cannot be solved overnight. But if each American citizen and each American institution responds to the President's call to engage "one-to-one" in the life of another person in need, this initiative will be the most comprehensive and inclusive movement of our time. This movement can dramatically reverse negative trends on many fronts and ensure the fulfillment of America's promise.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York City, New York)

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
UNTIL 1:25 P.M. EDT
THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1989

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE NEW YORK PARTNERSHIP

New York Hilton Hotel
Grand Ballroom
New York City, New York

June 22, 1989

It is indeed an honor to address the members and guests of the New York Partnership and the Association for a Better New York. For already, you have enriched fields from business and labor to education and the media. We meet today to go still further: --To join hands, and link hearts, to light the American sky.

I begin with a single, simple statement: There is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere. Think of that.

Today, millions of Americans, the quiet Americans, the selfless Americans, are giving of their time and of themselves. They work at day-care centers, inner-city schools, homes for the elderly. Anywhere there is a need. Anytime they are needed -- making a difference in the lives of those for whom the American Dream seems an Impossible Dream.

Already, this involvement -- what we term national, or community, service -- has helped countless Americans find self-respect and dignity.

But the job is far from complete. Too many Americans still endure a living nightmare of want and isolation. That must stop. Ladies and gentlemen: We must bring back those who feel unwelcome. We must reawaken their hope for the future.

We know that government can't rebuild a family, or reclaim a sense of neighborhood. We know that during the past two decades we have spent more money, on more social programs, than at any time in our history. And some problems aren't better. In fact, they're worse.

Most Americans understand that the key to constructive change is building relationships, not bureaucracies. And they know that those who say, "It's government's problem," are really part of the problem themselves.

All my life I've believed that government could not substitute for "do unto others." Barbara and I, like all of you here, have tried to do our small part. In Midland, with the YMCA and United Way. Coaching Little League, helping to build a theater. And dating back to my days at Yale, raising funds for the United Negro College Fund.

We've all done these things, and as we participated we fulfilled ourselves. Learning that we are not what we drive, or where we live, or what kind of clothes we wear. Rather, learning that America's greatness rests on the goodness of her people.

These beliefs are beyond any individual, for they are timeless. Today, more than ever, we need community service to help drop-outs, pregnant teens, and drug abusers. The homeless and AIDS victims. The hungry and illiterate. Often they are disadvantaged, and as their communities disintegrate around them, they become disconnected from society.

Our challenge, then, is to raise their spirits and their expectations by engaging each citizen, school and business, church and synagogue, service organization and civic group. For this is what I mean when I talk of "a thousand points of light" -- that vast galaxy of people and institutions working together to solve problems in their own back yard.

I am here today to ask that both sectors, private and public -- and all branches and all levels of government -- join this great movement to extend national service into every corner of America. For it is a movement -- bold, and unprecedented. Not a program. Not another bureaucracy.

Let me tell you the strategy of this movement. First, to issue a call to action, and to claim problems as your own. Second, to identify, enlarge, and recreate what is working. And third, to discover and encourage new leaders.

First, our call to action. It is individual, and collective. And it begins this afternoon, with you.

So today, I ask all Americans and all American institutions, large and small, to make service central to your life and work. I urge all business leaders to consider community service in hiring, compensation, and promotion decisions. I call upon non-profit and service groups to open your doors to all those who want to help, irrespective of age, background, or level of experience. And leaders of high schools and colleges, I urge you to uphold the values of community service and to encourage students, faculty, and personnel to serve others.

To every corporation, large and small, I say: Begin a literacy program that teaches each employee how to read. And to every member of a body of higher learning: Start a Big Brother or Big Sister program for kids in your neighborhood. Of every church and synagogue, I ask: Become an around-the-clock community center. And of every restaurant and grocery store: Distribute surplus food to soup kitchens and local shelters.

And to the youth of America, I issue a special appeal.

Yesterday, on the South Lawn of the White House, we held a kickoff rally for a key element of our strategy: the YES Initiative -- or "Youth Engaged In Service" to America. It was attended by thousands of kids -- some of those points of light I like to talk about. I challenged every young American to fight against self-absorption. And to emulate those leaders who have shown that there is no problem in America that is not being solved somewhere.

Their presence reminded me of the saying, "Life is not a state of time -- life is a state of mind." So is our call to community service. It summons the young, and the old. I believe American will listen to that call. The poet Emerson once said, "The greatest gift is a portion of thyself." Well, today, across our 50 States, groups and individuals are giving of, not to, themselves.

Americans like these are missionaries, and they are heroes. Our mission is to achieve, nationally, what they are doing, locally. To complete it will require a catalyst. This brings me to the second part of our strategy. And I am proud to announce it now: A new effort to identify service programs that work -- and carry them to America.

We call this catalyst the "Points of Light Initiative" -- a Foundation, of which I will serve as honorary chairman, and that will help make our movement a reality.

I will soon ask Congress for \$25 million annually to support this Initiative, which, in turn, will seek matching funds from the private sector. But I will also name an advisory committee to report to me within 45 days of its first meeting on the structure, composition, and legislation needed to achieve the Foundation's goals. And I am proud to announce today that Governor Tom Kean of New Jersey, one of this nation's most dedicated and caring public servants, has agreed to head this committee.

But, a Federal effort alone cannot succeed. Therefore, today we invite each governor -- and, through them, the mayors of all municipalities -- to join our movement by forming State and Local Points of Light working groups composed of outstanding leaders.

These individuals will become a vehicle to solve problems locally. And to help solve problems nationally, the "Points of Light Initiative" will be a magnet for the best ideas, and brightest programs, in community service. For while countless service initiatives are already working successfully, they are too often isolated and unknown to others. Our Foundation will change all that: By bringing success stories to other communities, we will repeat them across the Nation.

We will repeat them through a Foundation initiative to be called the "ServNet Project." Professional firms, corporations, unions, schools, religious, civic, and not-for-profit groups will be asked to donate the services of some of their most talented and promising people for a period of time.

These extraordinary individuals will form and lead peer-to-peer working groups. For example: Lawyers going to fellow lawyers, teachers to fellow teachers, union members to fellow union members. ServNet will provide training and technical assistance -- showing what works, and what doesn't.

But we also have to improve current methods of matching people with meaningful service opportunities.

"Volunteer centers" should be directly accessible to all Americans in their neighborhoods. Such contact points may be in a place of worship, union hall, library, fire station, business building, service group headquarters, or neighborhood home.

Over time, through an initiative called the "ServLink Project," the Foundation will stimulate the development through private sector resources of "technology links" between those who wish to serve and those needing service in the inquirer's own community. And in addition, we will ask banks, credit card issuers, telephone and utility companies to include in statement envelopes information about how people and their institutions can become engaged in serving others.

Like the Foundation itself, these efforts can help individuals -- and institutions -- provide new hope to America. And so can the third part of our movement's strategy: Our initiative to discover and encourage new leaders of every age in every town and city. And to inspire them to devote their talents and energies to national service. And then, to honor those who excel.

Through the Foundation, the YES Initiative will annually select two college-aged youth from each State as "President's National Service Youth Representatives." They will spend one year traveling their regions as service ambassadors -- urging other young Americans to get involved. And "Points of Light" will convene youth and regional "Presidential Leadership Forums," uniting young people, educators, and community activists.

From such action will come achievement. And such achievement should be rewarded. We will ask media from small-town weeklies to network television to profile the brightest stars of community service. And our Foundation will also recognize successful community initiatives and outstanding leaders through two new Presidential Awards. The "National Service Youth Leadership Awards" -- given each year to individuals. And the "Build A Community Awards" -- honoring "partnerships" which work together to strengthen families and decaying neighborhoods in America.

All of this will fulfill us as Americans. By asking us to combat problems like loneliness and poverty, drug abuse and homelessness, we cannot afford to fail, and we won't. For as Americans, we know what is at stake.

We know that volunteerism can help those free-falling through society. We know that as citizens, and institutions, we can use "one-to-one" caring to truly "love thy neighbor."

We know, finally, that from now on, any definition of a successful life must include serving others. And we must resolve to carry this belief to every person in the land.

Two centuries ago last year, Alexander Hamilton sent a letter urging General Washington to seek the Presidency. He wrote him: "The point of light in which you stand. . . will make an infinite difference . . ."

National service will succeed. It can make "an infinite difference" in the life of these United States. For "a thousand points" can light the lives of a people, and a Nation.

Remember, there is no problem that is not being solved somewhere in America. You -- you in this room -- can prove that statement a thousand times over. It's in our hands.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO
YOUTH ENGAGED IN SERVICE GROUP

The South Lawn

11:24 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: You'd better watch that guy -- he might be president someday. (Laughter and applause.)

Well, first let me thank Mike Love and Bruce -- the Beach Boys -- for being with us and providing this marvelous presence and entertainment. Robert Lamb as well. We're privileged they give themselves to help others, and I'm just delighted that they're here with us today.

I also want to thank Carissa and Dale and Michael and Ron. Thanks for sharing those stories with us -- those remarkable stories.

You know, this is a wonderful sight. The guy I was sitting next to up here said, "There's a lot of people here." And he's right. A lot of people. But your problems and possibilities are as diverse as the nation itself. But all of you share a precious inheritance because, as I see it, you are the future of America. (Applause.) But to understand the future, sometimes we need to look to the past, so think back for a moment with me to a small-town tradition that America must never forget -- a simpler time, a time when there was trouble or a neighbor needed help -- every town had way to send that message out to all the townspeople. Someone raced to the top of the town hall or the church steeple and rang a bell, and when people heard that bell, they didn't stop to ask why it was ringing, they just came -- horseback or foot, by buggy or bicycle, honking the horn of a Model T, they just came -- whatever the problem, whoever was in need of help, they were ready to help.

And I've asked you here today -- invited you to this marvelous White House lawn because I need your help -- because America needs your help. And the bells have been silent too long. So let them ring in your hearts and across the land.

And I know you're ready, whatever the problem -- whoever is in need. We need you now.

And I know that presidents have called on the young people of this country before. In time of war, our young have rushed to answer the call -- to fight and die for our freedoms, if necessary.

Today, we're fortunate. We live in a time of peace -- time of great and growing prosperity. And there's no need for that kind of call to arms.

But it is time for a call to action. It's a time of need for millions of Americans. The storm clouds of war fortunately are not on the horizon -- but you and I know that the storm clouds of a different kind are gathering. A simple fact in America today is that too many people are free-falling through society with no prospect of landing on their feet. No one, young, old, white, brown or black, should be permitted to go through life unclaimed. You must show us

MORE

how to reclaim these lives. We need you.

And so today, I call on you to commit yourselves -- listen to the bells -- make it your mission to make a difference in somebody else's life.

And I don't have to tell you that youth gets blamed its share, and more, for society's problems. Pick up the newspaper, turn on the television and there's another story about youth gone wrong.

You don't hear often enough about the good that you can do -- the good that you already are doing. And I know better, and you know better. Your commitment can convince yourselves and your nation that you're not the problem -- you are the solution. (Applause.)

Take a look at what's happening today -- what's happening to kids like you. One-third of all victims of violent crime haven't reached their 20th birthday -- one-third. The three leading causes of death for teenagers are accidents, many involving drugs or alcohol, suicide and murder. On a tragically typical day, almost 1,700 high school students drop out. Over 4,000 teenagers run away from home; 2,700 become pregnant. Over a dozen will take their own lives.

And these aren't simply cold statistics. Some of them are kids in your school, kids who live on your street. Some of them are your friends. And some of them may be about you right here today.

You heard Michael Johnson and his Big Brother Dale. You heard Carissa and Ron. You heard their message -- how much it means to know that someone cares, and how much it means to care for somebody else.

And you can carry that message across this country -- from the inner city out to farm country, and every community in between. You can let the phrase "one-to-one" symbolize all American commitment to each other. And regardless of the life that you are living there is something special about each and every one of you. And your gifts are all different. But you each have a gift that America needs and I'm asking you to give that gift now.

You know, I've talked to hundreds of kids over the years and my own kids growing up. And I've asked them, what is it you're looking for? What is it that you want to be? What is it that you want from life?

And so many times I hear the same answer. It isn't money. It's how you look -- what kind of car you drive. You've all thought about it. You know that's not what it's all about.

When it comes right down to it, what you want -- what we all want out of life -- are two things: meaning and adventure. Meaning -- a sense of purpose in life -- to be a part of something that counts, something that matters.

And adventure -- excitement -- matters, too. There are lots of ways to find adventure. Some are self-destructive. And so bring a sense of self-enrichment and satisfaction beyond belief. Your choice is up to all of you.

And I'm telling you today, you can find what you're looking for in helping others. If you walk this path with me, I can promise you a life full of meaning and adventure.

And that's why I've asked you all here. You represent millions like you, all across this country. That's why I'm asking you to be a part of an initiative that Mike mentioned, called Youth Engaged in Service to America -- YES to America. I'm not talking

MORE

about another government program. Another bureaucracy is the last thing we need. Believe me, I understand that. Youth Engaged in Service is a movement -- a way of looking at life.

And tomorrow, I'm going up to New York to announce a nationwide initiative for national service, to encourage volunteer of all ages, all backgrounds, all abilities. But today, let me tell you what YES is all about -- and what it's for, who it's for.

It's for young people of all ages -- five to 25. Even the youngest of us have gifts to give. Let me ask you today. Don't worry whether it's a lot or a little. Do what you can. Get in the habit of helping others -- and that's one habit that you'll never ever break.

And all of you have something to offer. Kids from tough neighborhoods, kids from broken homes, kids who have grown up on food stamps and hand-me-downs -- and maybe you think you've got nothing anyone wants. You're wrong. The gifts I'm talking about are more precious -- your energy and experience, your time and talents -- gifts that come right here from the heart. And if you've got the will to help -- you really have all that you need.

So first, YES is voluntary -- truly voluntary. You do need to be bribed with incentives and threatened with penalties to get engaged in community service. And that's not what the idea of service is all about anyway. Service is its own reward -- satisfaction guaranteed. Didn't you feel it when those kids were talking to us a few minutes ago?

And second, serving others shouldn't be a detour on your career path. It's not something you do when you're young, and then you outgrow when you're a little bit older. It's a way of life -- something you start when you're young and stick with it -- all life long.

And third, YES means getting involved where you know you can make a difference in your own community. I want service organizations in the cities and towns where you live to open their doors -- to make room for people your age to contribute.

And some of you may be saying -- oh, I know it, I can hear it -- Mr. President, I'm ready. I'm willing. I'm able. But what can I do -- what should I do?

The fact is, you don't have to go far to find people who need your help. They're right there in your own community.

There's an elderly man -- facing nothing but empty days and isolation. And he needs you.

There's a man who can't read, living behind a locked door of illiteracy. That person needs you.

There's a family with no home, no place to sleep. That family needs you.

There's a boy or girl less fortunate than you, without family, without a friend, without hope in the future. And they need you. I ask you, what would it be like going through life without a single friend? You can be that friend.

There's a woman in a hospital bed, battling hard against her illness. She needs you.

Millions of people -- people in the cities and towns where you live -- just like them. America needs you.

Maybe you've never been asked before. Well, I'm asking you -- say YES to America.

MORE

Make a commitment. Reach out a hand to people in need.
Build a better future for yourselves -- a better future for America

So listen to the sound of those bells -- like long ago
ringing in the hearts of Americans across this country -- ringing i
the inner city, out in farm country, and every community in between
And I ask each of you -- all young people in America -- answer the
call. From now on, make it your mission to serve others in need.

Thank you. Thank you for coming to the White House. Go
bless you, and God bless America. Thank you all very, very much.

END

11:36 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO
YOUTH ENGAGED IN SERVICE GROUP

The South Lawn

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You know, this is a wonderful sight. The guy I was sitting next to up here said, "There's a lot of people here." And he's right. A lot of people. But your problems and possibilities are as diverse as the nation itself. But all of you share a precious inheritance because, as I see it, you are the future of America. (Applause.) But to understand the future, sometimes we need to look to the past, so think back for a moment with me to a small-town tradition that America must never forget -- a simpler time, a time when there was trouble or a neighbor needed help -- every town had a way to send that message out to all the townspeople. Someone raced to the top of the town hall or the church steeple and rang a bell, and when people heard that bell, they didn't stop to ask why it was ringing, they just came -- horseback or foot, by buggy or bicycle, honking the horn of a Model T, they just came -- whatever the problem, whoever was in need of help, they were ready to help.

And I've asked you here today -- invited you to this marvelous White House lawn because I need your help -- because America needs your help. And the bells have been silent too long. So let them ring in your hearts and across the land.

And I know you're ready, whatever the problem -- whoever is in need. We need you now.

And I know that presidents have called on the young people of this country before. In time of war, our young have rushed to answer the call -- to fight and die for our freedoms, if necessary.

Today, we're fortunate. We live in a time of peace -- a time of great and growing prosperity. And there's no need for that kind of call to arms.

But it is time for a call to action. It's a time of need for millions of Americans. The storm clouds of war fortunately are not on the horizon -- but you and I know that the storm clouds of a different kind are gathering. A simple fact in America today is that too many people are free-falling through society with no prospect of landing on their feet. No one, young, old, white, brown or black, should be permitted to go through life unclaimed. You must show us

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how to reclaim these lives. We need you.

And so today, I call on you to commit yourselves -- listen to the bells -- make it your mission to make a difference in somebody else's life.

And I don't have to tell you that youth gets blamed its share, and more, for society's problems. Pick up the newspaper, turn on the television and there's another story about youth gone wrong.

You don't hear often enough about the good that you can do -- the good that you already are doing. And I know better, and you know better. Your commitment can convince yourselves and your nation that you're not the problem -- you are the solution. (Applause.)

Take a look at what's happening today -- what's happening to kids like you. One-third of all victims of violent crime haven't reached their 20th birthday -- one-third. The three leading causes of death for teenagers are accidents, many involving drugs or alcohol, suicide and murder. On a tragically typical day, almost 1,700 high school students drop out. Over 4,000 teenagers run away from home; 2,700 become pregnant. Over a dozen will take their own lives.

And these aren't simply cold statistics. Some of them are kids in your school, kids who live on your street. Some of them are your friends. And some of them may be about you right here today.

You heard Michael Johnson and his Big Brother Dale. You heard Carissa and Ron. You heard their message -- how much it means to know that someone cares, and how much it means to care for someone else.

And you can carry that message across this country -- from the inner city out to farm country, and every community in between. You can let the phrase "one-to-one" symbolize all America's commitment to each other. And regardless of the life that you are living there is something special about each and every one of you. And your gifts are all different. But you each have a gift that America needs and I'm asking you to give that gift now.

You know, I've talked to hundreds of kids over the years and my own kids growing up. And I've asked them, what is it you're looking for? What is it that you want to be? What is it that you want from life?

And so many times I hear the same answer. It isn't money. It's how you look -- what kind of car you drive. You've all thought about it. You know that's not what it's all about.

When it comes right down to it, what you want -- what all of us want out of life -- are two things: meaning and adventure. Meaning -- a sense of purpose in life -- to be a part of something that counts, something that matters.

And adventure -- excitement -- matters, too. There are lots of ways to find adventure. Some are self-destructive. And some bring a sense of self-enrichment and satisfaction beyond belief. The choice is up to all of you.

And I'm telling you today, you can find what you're looking for in helping others. If you walk this path with me, I can promise you a life full of meaning and adventure.

And that's why I've asked you all here. You represent millions like you, all across this country. That's why I'm asking you to be a part of an initiative that Mike mentioned, called Youth Engaged in Service to America -- YES to America. I'm not talking

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about another government program. Another bureaucracy is the last thing we need. Believe me, I understand that. Youth Engaged in Service is a movement -- a way of looking at life.

And tomorrow, I'm going up to New York to announce a nationwide initiative for national service, to encourage volunteers of all ages, all backgrounds, all abilities. But today, let me tell you what YES is all about -- and what it's for, who it's for.

It's for young people of all ages -- five to 25. Even the youngest of us have gifts to give. Let me ask you today. Don't worry whether it's a lot or a little. Do what you can. Get in the habit of helping others -- and that's one habit that you'll never ever break.

And all of you have something to offer. Kids from tough neighborhoods, kids from broken homes, kids who have grown up on food stamps and hand-me-downs -- and maybe you think you've got nothing anyone wants. You're wrong. The gifts I'm talking about are more precious -- your energy and experience, your time and talents -- gifts that come right here from the heart. And if you've got the will to help -- you really have all that you need.

So first, YES is voluntary -- truly voluntary. You don't need to be bribed with incentives and threatened with penalties to get engaged in community service. And that's not what the idea of service is all about anyway. Service is its own reward -- satisfaction guaranteed. Didn't you feel it when those kids were talking to us a few minutes ago?

And second, serving others shouldn't be a detour on your career path. It's not something you do when you're young, and then outgrow when you're a little bit older. It's a way of life -- something you start when you're young and stick with it -- all life long.

And third, YES means getting involved where you know you can make a difference in your own community. I want service organizations in the cities and towns where you live to open their doors -- to make room for people your age to contribute.

And some of you may be saying -- oh, I know it, I can hear it -- Mr. President, I'm ready. I'm willing. I'm able. But what can I do -- what should I do?

The fact is, you don't have to go far to find people who need your help. They're right there in your own community.

There's an elderly man -- facing nothing but empty days and isolation. And he needs you.

There's a man who can't read, living behind a locked door of illiteracy. That person needs you.

There's a family with no home, no place to sleep. That family needs you.

There's a boy or girl less fortunate than you, without family, without a friend, without hope in the future. And they need you. I ask you, what would it be like going through life without one single friend? You can be that friend.

There's a woman in a hospital bed, battling hard against her illness. She needs you.

Millions of people -- people in the cities and towns where you live -- just like them. America needs you.

Maybe you've never been asked before. Well, I'm asking you -- say YES to America.

MORE

Make a commitment. Reach out a hand to people in need.
Build a better future for yourselves -- a better future for America.

So listen to the sound of those bells -- like long ago --
ringing in the hearts of Americans across this country -- ringing in
the inner city, out in farm country, and every community in between.
And I ask each of you -- all young people in America -- answer the
call. From now on, make it your mission to serve others in need.

Thank you. Thank you for coming to the White House. God
bless you, and God bless America. Thank you all very, very much.

END

11:36 A.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 23, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN SIGNING CEREMONY FOR
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK PROCLAMATION

The Rose Garden

11:30 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: On this special day in the Rose Garden, welcome to all. And good morning to the many local Points of Light out there, today's Point of Light, G. Van Standifer and the Midnight Basketball League. I'm also pleased to see all the volunteers here from the government -- those from the agencies, as well as from the White House Community Service Committee. And I am pleased that you could join me today in proclaiming this National Volunteer Week.

It's with great pride that we salute the 80 million Americans who serve as volunteers. These individuals have moved all of us by the strength of their convictions and they've gently challenged us through their example of selflessness and concern for others. And they've shown us -- they really have -- that any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

Nearly one year ago, we announced one of the nation's chief goals -- to make service to others central to the life and work of every individual and institution in America, from our largest corporations to our smallest neighborhood group. This goal requires leadership, and leadership certainly comes by example.

The federal employees here today, hand-picked by members of the Cabinet, are some of the leaders that I'm talking about -- fighting against drug abuse, illiteracy, homelessness, and environmental destruction. Employess like Sue Walbridge, Sue Ellen Walbridge -- a policy analyst for the Office of Fossil Energy; Shirley Baber, of the International Trade Commission.

Sue Ellen is a certified foster parent who has cared for babies born addicted to drugs or tested HIV positive. And Shirley has volunteered on behalf of many causes -- cooking for the shelter for the homeless right here in Washington; raising money for the Ronald McDonald House and for the boarder babies out there at Howard University.

Through the combined force of examples like these two women, federal employees have helped lead the advance of volunteerism. The Thousand Points of Light as an ideal all across America. A sort of "Charge of the Light Brigade," if you will. And our Points of Light Initiative is a new effort, but its goals are just as old and as traditional as the values that we cherish.

All people, young or old, wealthy or poor, book-smart or street-wise, possess the traits to truly shine. Prejudices and fears must give way to the realization that everyone has value, that every life has meaning.

A pregnant unwed teenage can talk to young girls about teen pregnancy in a way that perhaps we can't. And a prisoner can speak to young men and women about crime and delinquency in a special language that we might not understand. The drug addict can talk tough to those who believe that a little marijuana can't hurt you. And the school drop-out can tell those who are tempted to skip the books that quitting school is really a dead-end street.

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It is this one-on-one relationship that the volunteers here from the Washington D.C. community exemplify. Like the children of St. Mary's School who brighten the lives of the senior citizens living in Mary's House. Or Tero Coleman, who looks after 70 and 80-year-old housebound church members. Tero, herself, is a spry 102-years-old -- truly amazing. (Applause.)

Or take Mr. Johnson, W.W. Johnson, a local police officer who turned an inner-city school basement into a community center. And he's out there every day, offering a better alternative to our young people. All of you are shining stars in a growing constellation of caring across America.

Let me announce yet another Daily Point of Light, the 124th of the administration -- the Midnight Basketball League of Hyattsville, Maryland. Founded by G. Van Standifer in response to the escalating crime and drug activities in his neighborhood, this group organizes basketball games between 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. three nights a week for the local youth tempted by the glitz and the glamour of street gangs and drugs.

And realizing that it takes more than distraction to keep kids off drugs, workshops are offered between games to educate them on the dangers of drug use and how to avoid the temptation altogether. And that's the kind of teamwork that truly makes champions.

Americans everywhere can learn a valuable lesson from the volunteers that are gathered here today. The seal hanging in front of me says, E Pluribus Unum, which means "Out of many, one." The Midnight Basketball League, and all of you here are proof of what Americans have always known, that when we ban together in service, there is no problem too big, no obstacle too stubborn to overcome.

This week, in particular, is the time for all Americans to roll up their sleeves and help one another, to tap into our national resources: time, energy and compassion, and give a helping hand to someone in need.

I'm delighted that Barbara, who has exemplified this concept for a long time, is here because she feels, as I do, that together there is nothing -- drugs, poverty, loneliness -- that we cannot overcome.

With that in mind, it is with great pleasure that, once again, I welcome all of you; pay my respects to those lined up behind me here; and now sign this document proclaiming this National Volunteer Week.

Thank you all for coming. (Applause.)

END

11:39 A.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 29, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR STARSERVE

The East Room

2:19 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Looking out on these shining faces today, Barbara and I remember a summer day on the South Lawn more than a year ago when I challenged -- called upon -- every young person in America to make service to those in need a central and enduring part of their lives.

And we are just delighted to be here to celebrate one significant result of that day, a new, exciting educational initiative called StarServe.

I want to first express my thanks to an old friend, several old friends. And I'm talking, of course, about Mike Love and the Beach Boys. Mike said that he was motivated to go out and help young people respond to this call. And he did; and he's done it; and he's given of himself and so have his wonderful colleagues. And we are very grateful to them. I want to thank the Kraft General Foods Foundation for its underpinning, its financial support. And, of course, the United Way for its expertise.

Thanks to all the young people gathered here and, of course, to the stars who support StarServe and given of themselves as well. You and other stars who have already agreed to participate in this effort show that real stars -- real stars -- use their influence to encourage those who admire them to do likewise.

As we speak, StarServe -- the materials of StarServe are being sent to more than 100,000 educators of students in grades 4 through 12 throughout the country. And of course, StarServe isn't creating youth community service. Many young people are already undertaking meaningful projects all around the country.

There's no better example of this than Dian Wurst's third grade class in Polk, Nebraska, who, as we've heard, was our 48th Daily Point of Light.

Each school day for the last seven years, each one -- you heard from one of them -- but each one of these third graders has telephoned these homebound seniors, offering words of comfort and cheer. You've heard from her, and then got another little window by Trent there, visiting their elderly friends on weekends and holidays, assuring those who are alone that someone cares.

While there are other outstanding examples of youth service, I want every young American, from 5 to 25, to be a Point of Light in his or her community. Whether it's lonely senior citizens, a troubled classmate or acquaintance, someone who's burdened by drug abuse, illiteracy, homelessness or hunger, there's a need right next door, down the hall or in your own backyard that you can meet.

StarServe is one of the first independent initiatives of the Points of Light Foundation, the new, nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation on which I'm pleased to serve as Honorary Chairman. By making service creative and educational for young Americans, StarServe will help the foundation achieve its goal of engaging all Americans in service.

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Barbara and I believe that if, at an early age, you learn to serve those in need, it will become the way you live your whole life, bringing a sense of meaning and adventure that simply can't be matched.

StarServe shows that businesses can, indeed, help young people make their service ideas a reality, that nonprofits can provide invaluable counsel to those who are new to community service, and that the worlds of entertainment and media can use their influence to make service a pervasive part of the popular culture.

I especially like the name of this project, StarServe, Students Taking Action and Responsibility in Service. Every young person wants to be a star.

Well, every young person has a gift to give to someone in need, and America needs your gifts now as never before. And so to all young Americans I say, answer the call to serve your community and be a star.

Thank you all very, very much. (Applause).

END

2:25 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 13, 1990

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE POINTS OF LIGHT FOUNDATION

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

11:55 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much. Good to see you all. A warm welcome to the White House. Merry Christmas. Happy Holidays. We're beginning to get the spirit around here. And may I salute the Attorney General and thank him for his leadership and for his keen interest in the subject that you've been discussing, that I'm about to discuss. Because I am really delighted to be here to help introduce the Points of Light Foundation to this impressive group of nonprofit organizations and state leaders and to announce three initiatives designed to reduce barriers hindering voluntary service efforts.

Since our founding, America has been distinguished among nations for the extraordinary degree to which our people have voluntarily banded together to help those among us in need. And today we're faced with perhaps more pressing needs than at any time in our history. Needs that many of your organizations, the organizations represented here today, strive to meet year in and year out.

The needs of our nation are so great that the Points of Light Foundation seeks to make direct and consequential service aimed at serious social problems central to the life and work of every American. To achieve this goal, most institutions will need to adopt a new way of thinking. They must come to see social problem solving -- solving these social problems as not just the responsibility of government and nonprofit organizations. Institutions will have to refine their missions to include the engagement of all of their members in community problem-solving.

Of course, service to others is and has been the mission of much of the nonprofit community. But your challenge is to find a way to engage all of your members in service. To help engage all of your members in service, the Foundation is urging every institution to appoint Points of Light representatives. And to ensure that every community has multiply places to which individuals and institutions can turn for counsel about how to serve others and where to obtain service, the Foundation is calling on a wide variety of institutions to become what we call Points of Light centers.

As part of my commitment to advance the Points of Light movement, I'm determined to help remove barriers to service. No obstacle -- no obstacle is more chilling than the fear of personal liability and the high cost of insurance to protect against liability. Often programs are curtailed or those contemplated are not undertaken because of the fear of personal liability -- outrageous claims often about personal liability. And I'm aware of the genuine interest that volunteer leaders in this room have expressed in limiting exposure to the risk of liability and the high cost of insurance.

And therefore, today, I am announcing three new initiatives that will bring about much-needed change. First, I call on the nonprofit community to support a private, nongovernmentally-controlled national volunteer risk management

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center, a central place to which volunteer organizations can turn for advice and for assistance. A task force has been formed to report on June 1st on the progress being made toward achieving this objective.

A second major initiative is the promulgation of a model-state statute to protect volunteers who work with 501C nonprofit organizations and volunteers who work with local and state governments. This statute encourages volunteers to contribute their services for the good of their communities. And at the same time, it provides a reasonable basis for the recovery of damages which may arise from volunteer activity.

We have several distinguished state legislators with us today, who are eager to support the effort of volunteers. And I call on you and other state legislators here across America to pass this legislation during the next session.

In addition to these two important initiatives, I will send to the Congress amendments to the Federal Risk Retention Act that will make it easier for organizations to form purchasing groups to obtain liability insurance at affordable rates.

With these three initiatives I am confident that voluntary community service can be encouraged, increased and strengthened. I've often said that from now on in America any definition of a successful life must include serving others. By working together, we can, I really believe that we can achieve our goal of making community service central to the life and work of every individual and institution. And in the process redefine the meaning of success in America.

I really popped in here to thank you for coming by today; to thank you and your organizations for what you're doing; to encourage the state legislators to take that extra step to guarantee to do their part, as I will try to do mine, to free up the volunteer from needless fear on a personal liability account. And we've got to do it. We've got to be successful. And I'm confident we will.

Thank you all. And I hope you have a wonderful Christmas. Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

END

12:03 P.M. EST

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 11, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT PRESENTATION OF 400th POINT OF LIGHT AWARD

Barcroft Elementary School
Washington, D.C.

1:57 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr. Kahan, and to everybody else -- Ms. Treadwell and Colonel Buckley, Corporal Simms, and so many others. I'm just delighted to be here with you -- with the students, all the students of Barcroft, and their Marine buddies from Henderson Hall.

You know, this is, as Dr. Kahan said, a very special day because I am naming you and these efforts -- the Marines -- the 400th Daily Point of Light. That's something that this school and all of you can be very proud of. And since this event is so special -- recognizing our 400th Point of Light -- I thought -- I want to tell you just for a minute what this recognition means.

Some of you know that on every single day of the year except Sunday, I name as a "Point of Light" a person or a group serving their community somewhere in America. Volunteers helping other people. I call them our Points of Light because their caring deeds shine like beacons of hope.

You say, why do we honor them this way? Well, first of all, I name a Point of Light each day because I want to show the whole country that all of our problems have solutions. In fact, this country is full of solutions. You kids here just have to look around you to see that this is true -- look at how the Henderson Hall Marines became your "Tuesday Tutors" to help you in school. They've shown that caring is one of the best solutions that there is.

Also, I name a Point of Light each day because I want to remind people that real success doesn't mean earning a lot of money or wearing expensive clothes. Real success means helping someone who needs you. We see that success right here. You kids here needed some friends. So eight years ago, the Henderson Hall Marines became your buddies. Buddies both in and out of the classroom. Your special friends are real successes because they're volunteering their time to help you.

In addition, by naming Points of Light, I want America -- I want our whole country to know who our nation's heroes are. Today's heroes are our neighbors and family and friends -- anyone who gives of themselves by teaching someone to read, or by visiting a lonely senior citizen, or by helping a lonely child. And by naming Points of Light, I want all Americans to discover the heroes that they can be. As President, I want to do everything that I can to call on each person in America to find a way to serve someone in need.

And so that's why I came over here today, to show the whole country this very special relationship between the Marines and the students of Barcroft. And this relationship shows that there are all kinds of heroes. We all know that the front line for some Marines was in the desert of the Middle East liberating Kuwait. Well, I'm here today to say that there are other Marines on another

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front line -- this one right here, right here in our own backyard. And these Henderson Hall Marine buddies are serving our country in another kind of fight -- the one to help our children be successful, happy students.

To the Marine buddies, I say thank you for the important work that you're doing here and for the inspiring example of strength you're showing the nation. And to the kids -- to the students, I say I hope you'll follow the example of these outstanding Marine buddies of yours by helping people who need you throughout your whole life. The Marines are the heroes of today -- and I've got this wonderful, warm feeling that you'll be the heroes of tomorrow.

And so it's my great pleasure to recognize our 400th Point of Light, and to present to you, the Marine buddies and to you, Dr. Kahan for Barcroft Elementary School, letters of appreciation for the wonderful example that you have set for our entire country.

Thank you all very, very much. (Applause.)

END

2:03 P.M. EST

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 19, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO POINTS OF LIGHT FOUNDATION

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

3:54 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: I know you've had a full day, but let me, belatedly, give you a very warm welcome to the White House and say that it's a pleasure to come over here to join this briefing of the Points of Light Foundation. I'm pleased to serve as honorary chairman. And, of course, the directors, many here today -- and I am indebted to each and every one of you who are taking these leadership roles.

Let me just begin by a few words of thanks and praise. Those gathered here today and the many other media executives all across the country whom you represent have done so much for so many years to shine the bright floodlight of recognition on those in our communities reaching out to help those in need. And if, as they say, a nation is what it honors, in many places in America you've helped make us understand that our nation is one that admires those who serve the needs of others.

By recognizing and honoring these otherwise unsung heroes and heroines who each day in a quiet and selfless way confront drug abuse and illiteracy, hunger and homelessness, and do what they can to defeat them, you are showing all of America that every social problem is being solved somewhere and that every one of us can play a role in solving the problems. Everyone can be a Point of Light.

The Points of Light that I understand you have heard from today are part of real and gripping stories in America that really are making life better. They're taking on difficult problems and conquering them. And I'm even more convinced today than I have ever been that Points of Light are a critical answer to America's social problems. This approach isn't a dodge for responsibility of any level of government. It's something much, much, more fundamental, it seems to me, than any level of government.

With the new surge of patriotism and the resurgence of national pride that has just captivated America, and then our age-old "can do" spirit, it seems to me that the country is ready as never before in recent memory to rise to the challenge of meeting the needs of those around us here at home. And this is where you all come in. Now, is the time to carry this Points of Light message into every home in America and to persuade every American that any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

Far more than any one speech or brochure, the media can educate and persuade and inspire. And your antidrug campaign, for example, is changing a whole generation's attitudes about drugs. We've got a long way to go, but the change is there. And I think it's exciting, and I hope it's contagious.

The Saatchi and Saatchi PSAs that you've seen, that Barbara and I looked at last night, I'm convinced begin to move the whole nation to find in serving others the meaning and fulfillment in life that all of us are seeking. I want to thank the Saatchi team that I met with earlier, thank the advertising council for many long hours of dedication and devotion to producing some of the finest ads

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and some of the most moving ads that I believe I've ever seen.

By changing attitudes about the appeal of service and showing examples of small ways in which each of us can make a big difference, these ads can help. They can help achieve our shared mission for the nation: to make direct and consequential community service directed at serious social problems central to the life and work of every American.

And so I'm asking you to find ways to give these messages the prominence they deserve. And, in addition, because you are each a vital link to and among the citizens within your communities, I hope you'll redouble your efforts to find and celebrate the Points of Light where you are. With your help, every American can be called to do something good and feel something real.

Thank you for coming to the White House, for all the good you've already done, and for the good work I know you'll do in the days ahead. I am totally committed to this concept and I want to assure Ray Chambers, Dick Munro, everybody -- Gregg -- that I will do my level best to help in every way possible.

Thank you all very, very much for being with us today.
Thank you. (Applause.)

END

3:58 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 12, 1991

POINTS OF LIGHT NATIONAL CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Marked by a sense of hope and renewal, Spring is a fitting time to honor the millions of Americans who engage in voluntary service to others. Across the United States, people of every age, race, and walk of life are taking direct and consequential action to help solve serious social problems such as drug abuse, illiteracy, and homelessness. These Americans are planting the seeds of positive change in their communities and sowing a rich crop for the future.

Voluntary service in America takes a variety of forms. Countless Americans give of their time individually. In addition, millions of Americans now volunteer through innovative corporate programs and special school-based projects. And there are those generous individuals who work on behalf of major nonprofit organizations and local charities. During this National Celebration of Community Service, we salute all of these caring citizens.

This nationwide observance underscores the fact that everyone has a gift to give -- that every act of kindness counts. For example, in Polk, Nebraska, a group of third grade students telephones homebound senior citizens each day, offering a bright source of companionship and cheer. The founders of the "Midnight Basketball" program in Hyattsville, Maryland, contribute to the struggle against crime and delinquency by offering late-night sports activities and tutorial sessions for disadvantaged youngsters. Through the "Let's Help" program in Topeka, Kansas, volunteers provide needy families with literacy training, job counseling, and advice on parenting, as well as food and financial support. All of these volunteers and others, the brilliant "Points of Light" that reflect our national conscience and illuminate our country's social landscape, are making a profound difference.

Every American has something to contribute, and none should be content until we have found a way to serve. To be of service is not only to meet someone else's needs, it is not only to fulfill one of our primary responsibilities as citizens and neighbors -- it is to find the joy and meaning in life that come only from selflessness and giving.

Today more and more Americans have come to see that any definition of a successful life must include serving others. So many of our citizens are beginning to recognize the talents,

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(OVER)

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resources, and interests they have to share. Let us salute all those Americans who carry on the time-honored tradition of voluntary service, and let us strengthen our own commitment to enriching the lives of others -- and our own -- through service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim the period of April 15 through April 26, 1991, as Points of Light National Celebration of Community Service. This special tribute to the spirit of service in America and to the millions of Americans who embody that spirit encompasses traditional National Volunteer Week events and numerous other activities in which all Americans -- young and old alike -- are encouraged to engage. I ask all Americans to join in saluting and thanking our Nation's volunteers, as well as the organizations -- religious, governmental, business, and private nonprofit -- that support and participate in community service. I also encourage every American to observe this week with appropriate events and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 26, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

The South Lawn

12:01 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated. Thank you all. I don't know how you begin to thank all these people that have contributed to this very special day. Tony Danza, an old friend -- I think he was as moved as I was by that reading we had just a minute ago. Randy Travis, so generous with his time and his creativity. Patti Lapone. I don't know what to say about the Eagles there, but it's just beautiful. And Andrea and Saundra, and Larnelle, and the Ellington Singers, and, of course, Peter Max. Just thank you so much for helping us honor this constellation of points of light across America -- our community service volunteers. A handful of them were here today, and we salute them. There are many, many more -- thank God -- like them all across our great country.

I was very pleased to hear from sitting off on the -- outside the Oval Office, our great Secretary of HUD, Jack Kemp -- not only is he pressing, giving hope in the area of housing, but he is out helping with this whole concept of points of light. Jack, thank you so much for being with us. (Applause.)

I want to pay special thanks to the Points of Light Foundation which, with the help of the United Way and many other organizations, has spent the past 12 days illuminating and celebrating community service initiatives all across our great country.

And special thanks to Jane Kenny, the Director of ACTION; and, of course, to Governor George Romney; and the National Center and Local Volunteer Centers for all they've done to make this Celebration of Service such a success.

I'm proud to see this crowd of people of all ages who display the power of community service. This celebration honors you, those Randy Travis calls "the dedicated army of quiet volunteers" -- the heroes and heroines who battle selflessly against drug abuse, homelessness, and hunger, and other plagues that ruin lives and shatter dreams.

You lead a great movement that's begun to race across this country. The Points of Light movement promises us renewed, strong America because it builds upon our natural yearnings to help one another. You already have been moved by the mighty spirit of voluntary service. Your labors have earned you something very special, something very precious -- fulfillment. You do something good, you feel something real. Barbara and I proudly salute each and every one of you for these wonderful efforts.

Our nation faces a wide variety of challenges, but the solution to each problem that confronts us begins with an individual who steps forward and who says: I can help. Government can only do so much and should only attempt so much, but no limits can hold back people determined to make a difference.

Indeed, our domestic policies try to unleash the American capacity for good deeds. Our America 2000 strategy for reinventing the American school depends not just on the government here in Washington, but upon the support of communities -- parents, families,

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businesses, unions, schools, other groups and associations of determined individuals.

Consider Eve Dubrow, a Point of Light here in Washington. Eve started project Northstar, a program in which she and other busy professionals tutor homeless children in reading and writing.

David Evans of Cambridge, Mass., provides another example. David, a computer buff, designed and then donated to others a software program that makes learning fun -- for children and for adults.

We need cities filled with policemen like Al Lewis in Philadelphia. He and other officers create libraries in public housing projects and invite kids into the precinct house to learn reading and writing.

Eve and David and Al, you've shown the rest of the country that individuals working together do matter; that points of light really can brighten the lives and remake communities.

Or consider issues of crime: While we work with Congress to pass comprehensive crime package legislation, many of you've begun to defeat the scourges of drugs and violence and crime.

America needs more individuals like Van Stadifer who formed this local group just across the line here, a "Midnight Basketball League," -- a program that offers kids late night basketball and tutoring as an alternative to life on the streets.

We need more people like Mr. W. W. Johnson, who transformed a school basement into a thriving community center where young people learn to respect and cherish hard work and thrift and compassion and family.

Consider issues of economic opportunity: Secretary Kemp and I have proposed the HOPE program to encourage home ownership, enterprise zones and capital gains reductions to stimulate more small businesses, more jobs. But others on their own are making a difference.

For instance, the Alpha Project. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds -- young college students to retired carpenters -- are training homeless men and women for jobs in the construction industry. Alpha also gives trainees free food, clothing and shelter until they earn enough money to live independently. America needs more Alpha Projects.

And here's the wonderful, truly remarkable thing. I could go on and on. There is no problem that is not being solved by someone somewhere in America. Together in every community we will renew the spirit of shared purpose that gave birth to this nation. We will embark upon the next century stronger and more unified than ever before.

This is not and never will be a miracle of government. It is a miracle of our people. Americans care. We gladly give of our time and our sweat and our souls.

As Marlene Wilson, the President of the Volunteer Management Association in Boulder, Colorado, points out, "Caring must strengthen into commitment -- and commitment into action." Someday soon all Americans will come to understand that America's most important resource is its community. The idea is simple: Just as a sailor can find his way via one shining star, a life can be changed by one dedicated, shining point of light. You see, that light burns within us, within all of us; we need only to share it.

God bless you, and so many thanks for the wonderful work you are doing. Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

END

12:10 P.M. EDT

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 16, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN AMERICAN BUSINESS PRESS POINTS OF LIGHT AWARD CEREMONY

Room 450
Old Executive Office Building

11:22 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for being here. And I know that I'm joining this program in progress, but it is my pleasure to officially welcome all of you to the White House. And let me salute Gerry Hobbs, the Chairman of the American Business Press, your President, John Emery; and Cathy Black, President of the Association -- of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, and a member, I might proudly say, of our Points of Light Foundation.

Let me -- I don't know where he is, he was at the door a minute ago -- here's Gregg. Gregg Petersmeyer, you can't miss him. (Laughter.) But I do want to single out Gregg, salute him for the inspirational job he's doing as our key person here involved in this whole Points of Light concept.

And finally, I want to thank the American Business Press for encouraging their member publications to spill ink on behalf of such a good cause. We all know the value of competition in the business world. And this awards program shines the spotlight on companies that transform their communities through volunteer service.

As I've said before, America's corporations are not just profit-making monoliths. American businesses and America's business press aren't just stocked with human resources, so many infinitesimal fractions of the GNP. They're filled with real people -- men and women -- neighbors, members of our communities -- parents with kids to raise, people with something to give, gifts to give. And one glance into the pages of your publications shows business at its best -- people producing goods and services we need; people devoting tens of thousands of hours to worthy causes.

Take this year's grand award winner, Wegmans Food Markets, a family-run supermarket chain based in Rochester, New York, profiled in Supermarket Business. Supermarkets often draw on school-age workers to fill their part-time work force -- and we all know the difficulties of holding down a job and keeping up in school. Four years ago, Wegmans initiated the Work-Scholarship Connection, a program to help kids succeed at work and in the classroom. And their target: fourteen- and fifteen-year-olds, especially those faltering at school -- the kind of kids in danger of becoming tomorrow's dropouts.

Wegmans gives these kids a part-time job and assigns each one a mentor at the supermarket: an adult coworker, possibly a supervisor, who lends a hand with homework during work breaks -- or maybe just lends a sympathetic ear to some teenager too used to adults who just don't seem to care. Each mentor works with a school sponsor to track their child's progress. And Wegmans is tough: You've got to do the job in school. And if the kids don't do well, Wegmans hears about it and cuts the kid's work hours.

But there's a real payoff for the kids who graduate. Each one gets a scholarship of up to \$5000 to the college of their

MORE

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choice -- and yes, if they go to a college near home, they keep their job at Wegmans. (Laughter.)

No, but that Work-Scholarship program of theirs shows how ordinary people can do extraordinary things.

The mentors who make Wegmans' program work aren't paralyzed because they can't single-handedly save the world. They're too busy saving the future -- the child who lives right down the street. That same spirit motivates the runners-up that we honor today: Bell Atlantic, for its family literacy project, profiled in the School Library Journal; Eaton Corporation, for its literacy work in Atlanta as reported in Business Atlanta Magazine; Neon Enterprises, for its work with at-risk youth and others in need, as publicized in Restaurant Business; Red Lobster Restaurants, recognized by Training: The Human Side of Business for their 20-year policy of hiring the disabled; and finally, Jose Paulino, whose story was told in the pages of Pharmaceutical Representative.

You won't find Jose's name on the Fortune 500, maybe, but when he's not busy making sales, you can find him at New York's P.S. 136, where he's adopted a seventh grade class.

In the article, Jose says about adopting a class -- and I quote: "It doesn't cost anything, it doesn't take that much." Well, whatever it takes -- he's got his share and more.

Every one of the American Business Press's points of light proves you never know who's ready to help until you ask. And when Wegmans started their program, it lined up 30 junior high students who needed help, and put out a call for 15 employees to become mentors, to step into the program to help. Fifty-nine volunteers stepped forward and the program's taken off from there.

So this is a wonderful example. These are wonderful examples for our entire country. And, you know, when we first started this, there were some who started emphasizing this concept that de Tocqueville found so fascinating about America, the propensity of one American to help another. Some suggested that we were trying to avoid the government's responsibility, but that's not the way it works. This whole concept that you all represent and believe in is really the best and most fundamental way we can of helping others and helping our own communities in strengthening the family in this country or doing better for education.

But we're going to try to do our part here at the federal level, but I must say that I just feel overcome, because I see the effectiveness of this whole spirit of Points of Light concept, one American helping another. And it is inspirational and I really wanted to just come over and thank the business press for opening the pages of its very influential publications, opening eyes in so many industries to the shining story of so many Points of Light.

So, once again, my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you, and God bless you all for the contributions you make. And now, I'm told that I get to say hello to some, at least, of those that you're honoring here today.

Thank you very, very much. (Applause.)

END

11:30 A.M. EDT

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