

# FOIA MARKER

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**Folder Title:**  
[Green Thumb, Inc.] [loose]

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| <b>Stack:</b> | <b>Row:</b> | <b>Section:</b> | <b>Shelf:</b> | <b>Position:</b> |
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Company that has older Americans  
work on beautification projects

Must be 55 or older

Wants meeting w/Eli to discuss  
project

National Service Correspondence Index Sheet

Coder: JK  
Date: 4-16

I. Purpose of Letter:

- ☐ Wants to Participate
  - ☐ Summer of Service
  - ☐ National Initiative
- ☐ General Commentary
  - ☐ Pro
  - ☐ Con
  - ☐ Suggestions for Programs
- ☐ Requesting General Information
  - ☐ Summer of Service
  - ☐ General Program
- ☐ Offering their Services
  - ☐ Volunteer
  - ☐ Internships
    - ☐ White House
    - ☐ National Service (Jim)
  - ☐ Employment

II. Writer Information:

- A. Age (Circle One):  
Under 17   17-25   Over 25   Unspecified
- B. Education Level (Circle One):
  - 1. Student:
    - ☐ Elementary
    - ☐ Secondary
    - ☐ College
    - ☐ Graduate
  - 2. Non-Student (Level Completed):
    - ☐ Secondary
    - ☐ College
    - ☐ Graduate

III. Re-route to Other Departments

- ☐ Commission
- ☐ (Personal, service organizations,  
or business proposals)
- ☒ Scheduling/Gloria MEETING REQUEST
- ☐ Other

IV. Certified Mail

GREEN THUMB, INC.  
*employment and training*

National Office: 2000 North 14th Street • Suite 800 • Arlington, VA 22201  
(703) 522-7272 • FAX: (703) 522-0141

March 18, 1993

Eli Segal, Director of National Service  
Office of National Community Service  
#145 Old Executive Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Segal:

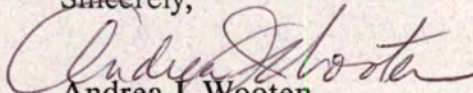
As President of Green Thumb, Inc., our nation's oldest and largest nonprofit provider of community service employment and training opportunities for low-income older Americans, I am heartened by President Clinton's commitment to national service. I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss how Green Thumb's 27 years of community service expertise could be applied on a broader scale to achieve the President's national service goals.

As you may know, Green Thumb is one of nine national aging organizations that operates the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act and administered by the Department of Labor. Founded in 1965 by the National Farmers Union, the original purpose of Green Thumb was to use the experience and skills of older, retired farmers to build parks and improve roadways in accordance with Lady Bird Johnson's beautification program. Green Thumb's original efforts were expanded through the years to become the SCSEP, which is now widely considered to be our country's most successful older worker community service, employment, and training program.

Enclosed is a Green Thumb Fact Sheet and our 1993 Calendar/Handbook, which serves as a basic guide to our SCSEP operations in 44 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Also enclosed is an article describing one of Green Thumb's projects with the California Conservation Corps -- a project that provides an excellent model for both national service and intergenerational employment and training programs. This article was published in the Fall 1992 issue of Newsline, a publication of Generations United, which is a coalition of 100 national organizations working together to respond to human needs across the generations.

I am excited about President Clinton's new vision for our country, which includes a commitment to national service and lifelong learning, and would like to help make this vision become a reality. Please contact me at your earliest convenience to establish a time for us to meet and discuss ways in which Green Thumb and I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Andrea J. Wooten  
President

Encl



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## **GREEN THUMB, INC.**

### **A FACT SHEET**

**WHO WE ARE:** Green Thumb, Inc., is a nonprofit corporation that operates in 44 states and Puerto Rico as a job training and employment program for older Americans. Most of the participants in the Green Thumb program are economically disadvantaged and live in rural or suburban areas. Green Thumb is sponsored by the National Farmers Union, a national farm organization dedicated to preserving the family farm.

Beginning in 1965, with only 280 participants in four states, Green Thumb was then a program that put into service the "green thumb" of older, rural Americans to beautify the nation's parks and highways. Today, Green Thumb's 18,000 participants are increasingly being trained for technical, clerical and para-professional positions at more than 10,000 local government and nonprofit agencies.

**WHAT WE DO:** Green Thumb's primary goals are: (1) to improve the social and economic condition of older Americans by promoting employment and training opportunities for older workers that will ultimately lead to their employment off the program, and (2) to place people in community service jobs that are necessary for rural communities but that often go unfilled because of budget or personnel shortages.

**HOW WE DO IT:** The Green Thumb program is a SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP) funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The SCSEP is authorized under Title V of the OLDER AMERICANS ACT and is commonly called "TITLE V". Green Thumb is one of ten national organizations that, along with the Governors of each state, sponsor SCSEPs.

**HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF GREEN THUMB:** You can be part of the Green Thumb program as either a GREEN THUMB ENROLLEE or a GREEN THUMB HOST AGENCY. A GREEN THUMB ENROLLEE is an older American, 55 years of age or older, who is enrolled in the Green Thumb program and works for a GREEN THUMB HOST AGENCY. Host agencies are generally government or nonprofit agencies that would not be able to offer many essential community services without Green Thumb enrollees. While enrollees work for host agencies, their salaries and fringe benefits are paid by Green Thumb.

Enrollees get on-the-job training matched to their interests and experiences while they are part of the Green Thumb program, as well as individual counseling on finding and keeping jobs. Green Thumb also works with other agencies to assist enrollees with housing, nutrition, health care and other social services.

Green Thumb enrollees operate computers, translate for Spanish-speaking hospital patients, tutor students, care for children, teach skilled trades and crafts, give basic health care to homebound people, repair machines, landscape public grounds, maintain roads, provide government information to the public, answer phones, file, do bookkeeping -- and these are just a few examples of the more than 19 million hours of service to Green Thumb enrollees provided last year alone.

**Green Thumb is proud to contribute to the dignity, well-being and independence of its enrollees, the older workers of America, and the people and communities they serve.**

## Service and Conservation Corps and Green Thumb, Inc.

Seniors enrolled with Green Thumb, Inc., a national, nonprofit organization that provides employment and training opportunities, perform a wide variety of community service jobs that often include intergenerational assignments. The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC) is a membership organization comprising youth and conservation corps around the country. The California Conservation Corps is a member of NASCC.

*See Programs, p. 13*

## Programs...

*continued from p. 9*

An outstanding intergenerational Green Thumb work assignment was established at the California Conservation Corps (CCC) facility in the northwest town of Hayfork. The CCC pays minimum wage to young people who are high school graduates or who want to complete their GED while working with the Corps. Many of these young people are considered at risk. If they have a high school diploma or GED, CCC members are offered the chance to attend a local community college for three hours a week. Statewide, CCC members work to protect and improve parks, wildlife areas, forests, and waterways. Carol Norris, Education Coordinator at the Humboldt Satellite Southfork Facility, says Corps members are taught job skills,

the work ethic, and cooperative skills. The Humboldt Satellite Southfork Facility intergenerational program teams Corps members and Green Thumb seniors, working together to restore local creeks damaged by logging.

"This is a great intergenerational worksite," says Green Thumb California State Director Regina Siciliano-Kutchins, "because it offers the opportunity for development of meaningful relationships among the senior enrollees and youth. At the same time, we have accomplished another major Green Thumb goal: helping enrollees find jobs off the program."

Al Stoddard and Tom Finch, two former Green Thumb enrollees, were recently hired as CCC staff members. The close relationships that have developed among Al, Tom, and the Corps members illustrate the value of intergenerational projects.

Stoddard gets his message

across by "rapping." He explains, "I like to call it communicating. Lots of young people aren't prepared to be out on their own. I try to teach them about the small and the important things in life." One of the things he likes to discuss with the young people is finances. "The weekend comes and they're broke. I'm helping them save money and to understand the value of a dollar."

Norris says that Stoddard and Finch make themselves available around the clock. When a Corps member can't sleep at night, "they play cards and talk and provide companionship. It's a real opportunity for Corps members to talk to someone from another generation. Society is age segregated, and young people especially are segregated from older people."

All Corps staff members are trained in counseling. Skills

*Continued*



fall 1992

learned include how to be a good listener, communicate well, recognize potential suicides, and recognize drug and substance abuse problems.

"If you can help one person out, that's what life is about," Stoddard says.

Green Thumb's California program serves approximately 600 to 700 older workers annually in 34 northern rural counties. The California Conservation Corps employs and trains 2,200 young persons each year. Approximately 30 youths participate in the Southfork program. Green Thumb, Inc. is the largest of ten Senior Community Service Employment Programs and is funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Labor.

For further information, contact Helen Ericson, Green Thumb, Inc. National Office 2000 North 14th Street, Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22201, 703/522-7272; Curtis Minoletti, California Conserva-

tion Corps, Humboldt Satellite Southfork Facility, PO Box 1730, Hayfork, CA 96041, 916/628-5494; or The National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, 666 11th Street NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC, 202/737-6272.

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## **Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker**

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# THE 1993 GREEN THUMB PROGRAM CALENDAR/HANDBOOK



GREEN  THUMB, INC.  
*employment and training*