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[Literacy Volunteers of America National Capital Area, Inc.] [loose]

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**Literacy Volunteers of America
National Capital Area, Inc.**

February 1, 1993

Mr. Eli Segal, Director
Office of National Service
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Segal:

We applaud President Clinton's promise to expand opportunities for national service for young people. As part of this new impetus for community service, we urge increased support for VISTA, the long-successful program of ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency. For over 25 years VISTAs have multiplied the efforts of non-profit groups working to empower poor people.

One of those groups is Literacy Volunteers of America--National Capital Area (LVA-NCA) of which I am executive director. LVA-NCA is an organization of volunteers whose purpose is to empower people to achieve their personal goals through literacy. We train volunteer tutors who work one-to-one with functionally illiterate adults. We follow up and support both tutors and students with regular phone calls, support groups, inservice workshops, and a quarterly newsletter. All services are free.

As a low-budget, non-profit organization, we have been tremendously helped by the full-time services of VISTA Volunteers who are assigned to us and paid by ACTION. The three VISTAs who have served with us for the past year have made it possible to give one-to-one instruction to 307 adults and youth, improve our support system for both tutors and students, expand our financial base, increase our income, and better utilize the many individuals who want to volunteer their services. Beyond that, VISTAs bring new energy, ideas, and ways of looking at problems.

So, in the planning for expanded community service opportunities, we hope that VISTA will not be overlooked. VISTA is a program that works. It needs some improvements, increased funding, and better top leadership. It is a model that should not be lost. For example, VISTA has no upper age limit; it provides opportunities for full-time service for Americans of all ages, thus providing community agencies with highly skilled volunteers. Even with a very low living allowance, it attracts bright, energetic college graduates with skills, experience, and commitment that agencies like LVA desperately need. Please help keep VISTA alive and growing.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hall Goodwin
Sarah Hall Goodwin

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WHAT ARE
WE DOING
W/
VISTA.