



FLORIDA NEEDS YOU ... VOLUNTEER!

APRIL IS FLORIDA VOLUNTEER MONTH

Editorial Board Visit Request Letter

Date

Name

Title

Publication

Address

City, State, Zip

Dear **(Name)**:

Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet have designated the month of April as Florida Volunteer Month. **(Name of your Organization)** will join with Florida Volunteer Month's sponsoring organization, the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida), in a month-long effort to raise awareness about the benefits of volunteering and to engage more citizens in volunteer service.

Now is the time for Florida residents to step up to the plate; volunteerism has never been more important to our communities than it is today as together we experience a national economic downturn. Florida's volunteers meet a host of community needs: providing training in personal finance, mentoring and tutoring low-performing students; providing respite care for seniors; contributing to environmental causes; responding to disasters; supporting the arts; repairing homes in impoverished neighborhoods; and feeding the hungry, just to name a few.

(Name of your Organization) engages approximately **(number)** of volunteers in our mission to **(say what your organization does)**. Through their service to others, our volunteers have gained confidence and self-esteem, developed a variety of new skills, and made new friends. Most important, our volunteers have improved the lives of others and improved the community around them. Engaging more volunteers would enable us to do more to **(say what you'd like to have happen in the future)**.

Here are few facts about volunteers:

- In 2008, **61.8 million** Americans volunteered, contributing more than **8 billion** hours at a value of **\$162 billion** in service to America
- The dollar value of a volunteer is **\$20.25** per hour.
- **30.1%** of women and **23.3%** of men nationwide volunteered in 2009.

We have much to talk about and celebrate during the month of April. We at **(name of organization)** would love the opportunity to share the details of Florida Volunteer Month and volunteering in general with the Editorial Board of the **(Name of Paper)**. We will follow up with a call to arrange a time for a small group of our inspirational volunteers to meet with you for the purpose of generating news and human interest stories during Florida Volunteer Month.

Meanwhile, please look over the enclosed materials. We look forward to your support of our efforts to cultivate a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility in our community.

Sincerely,

**(Name
Title
Organization)**