



**WHAT'S YOUR PASSION?  
PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT ... VOLUNTEER!**

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FLORIDA VOLUNTEER MONTH 2008

### Talking Points: Florida Volunteer Month

- The inaugural Florida Volunteer Month occurred in April 2005 and has been held each year since.
- Florida Volunteer Month celebrates and promotes the spirit of volunteerism throughout Florida, and raises awareness about how volunteering **changes lives** and **strengthens communities**.
- Some of the ways Volunteers strengthen communities include:
  - Environmental volunteerism
  - Coaching youth sports
  - Mentoring and tutoring
  - Disaster preparedness and response.
  - Respite care for seniors
  - Home repairs to impoverished neighborhoods
  - Public safety
  - Working in homeless shelters
  - Making public spaces accessible
  - Removing graffiti/neighborhood clean-up
  - Building a playground
  - Bringing meals to homebound seniors
  - Organizing a neighborhood watch
- In Florida, approximately 219,000 adults are mentoring school children, providing needed guidance and role modeling for children who might otherwise not succeed in school or in life.
- Florida has **82,000 National Service** who serve in critical areas such as education and literacy, the environment, homeland security and safety, elder care, disaster response and recovery, and much more.
- Volunteerism is personally and professionally rewarding, and offers benefits such as enhanced self-esteem and confidence; new friends and associates; new skills and abilities; and enhanced employability.
- According to the Points of Light Foundation, **volunteerism is good for business**. Philanthropic companies attract higher quality employees and experience lower turnover rates. In addition, employee volunteers are more innovative, and show improved morale and a greater sense of team spirit.