



Volunteer Headline



Your Source for Volunteer News and Events in Florida

April, 2007



Florida Volunteer Month Celebrating Florida's Superheroes - Volunteers!



On April 3, **Governor Charlie Crist** and the **Florida Cabinet** designated April to be Florida Volunteer Month! The message: Volunteerism is valuable to both communities and to individuals who choose to volunteer! In celebration of Florida Volunteer Month 2007, volunteer organizations and individuals statewide will be holding events throughout the month of April to recognize and celebrate those who are dedicating their time to improving lives and strengthening communities.

This year's theme, "Florida's Superheroes: Volunteers," recognizes that volunteers have the super power to enhance the lives of others simply by offering their time!

For more information, an electronic PR toolkit, and a FREE poster offer, please visit the [Florida Volunteer Month Web site](#). (Posters are available while supplies last).

>>> Governor Charlie Crist, along with Volunteer Florida Commissioners and Staff, celebrate the Florida Cabinet's Resolution designating April as Florida Volunteer Month.





Lt. Governor Kottkamp Kicks Off Florida Volunteer Month at Volunteer Recognition Events

To start Florida Volunteer Month off with a bang, **Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp** and **Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer** both spoke at two volunteer recognition events held April 3 in Polk County. Approximately 250 of Lakeland's Guardians Ad Litem sat in awe as Lt. Governor Kottkamp thanked them on behalf of Governor Crist for their efforts to improve the lives of Florida's most vulnerable children.

In Winter Haven, nearly 500 of the 950 Polk County Sheriff's Citizens Assisted Patrol (C.A.P.s) volunteers were in attendance to hear the Lt. Governor and Wendy Spencer speak. Each of the 950 C.A.P.s volunteers will receive a [President's Volunteer Service Award](#) for their efforts to make Polk County a safer place to live.

Visit [Volunteer Florida's](#) Web site for more.



Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp (second from right) and Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer (right) present the President's Volunteer Service Award Certificate to representatives of the Polk County Sheriff's Office Citizen Assisted Patrol (C.A.P.s) volunteers. Inset: Nearly 500 volunteers attended the Polk County Sheriff's Office volunteer recognition event.



We are Family

Experts have estimated that 750,000 households remain displaced by the 2005 hurricanes. In response, Volunteer Florida and the [Florida Association of Volunteer Centers](#) (FAVC) have formed a partnership with the Points of Light Foundation on the "We Are Family" campaign to benefit disaster relief and family strengthening efforts across America.

The "We Are Family" campaign consists of a CD with an all-star remake of "We Are Family" with artists such as **Patti LaBelle**, **Ciara**, **Chris Brown**, and **Lyfe Jennings**; nine additional tracks contributed by **Martha Munizzi**, **BeBe Winans**, and other artists; and a poster designed by **Thomas Kinkade**. Included in the package is a "behind the scenes" DVD with exclusive artist interviews and cameos by **Serena Williams** and **Alfre Woodard**.



The CD and DVD are available for purchase on the ["We Are Family"](#) Web site. All proceeds from sales at this Web site will support volunteer programs in Florida, and disaster preparedness and relief efforts nationally.

<http://www.wearefamily.tv/vf>



AmeriCorps Week Coming in May!

In honor of the hard work of AmeriCorps members, May 13 - 20 will be [National AmeriCorps Week](#). This weeklong event, which coincides with the induction of the 500,000th AmeriCorps member, is dedicated to bringing more Americans into service, saluting AmeriCorps members and alumni for their powerful impact, and thanking community partners who make AmeriCorps possible.



Stay tuned to the [Volunteer Florida](#) Web site for further information as it becomes available!



First Ever Pan Flu Summit: Volunteer Organizations Unite

On March 29 - 30, more than 130 participants gathered from across Florida for the Pandemic Flu Summit at the Grosvenor Resort in Lake Buena Vista. This summit was co-sponsored by the [Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service \(Volunteer Florida\)](#) and the [Florida Department of Health](#).

"This is the first summit in Florida with a focus on the role of non-governmental organizations and their role on volunteers responding to a Pandemic Flu event," said **Alex Amparo**, Volunteer Florida Director of Emergency Services. A cross-representation of primarily non-governmental organizations included: faith-based and community-based organizations; county and state volunteers and donations coordinating agencies; 211 and referral services; volunteer centers; and corporate and private-sector representatives.

The summit provided non-governmental organizations with pandemic flu threat information and guidance for future planning, and provided documents prepared by the ESF 15 Pan Flu Task Force. Steps were identified on how non-governmental agencies can integrate volunteers in pandemic flu preparedness activities. Pan flu workgroups also provided new ideas to promote volunteer involvement.

Key speakers included **Craig Fugate**, Florida Director of Emergency Management; **Dr. Bill Tynan**, Medical Director of Office of Public Health Preparedness, Florida Department of Health; **Chris Floyd**, American Red Cross; **Alex Amparo**, Volunteer Florida Director of Emergency Services; **Larry Gispert**, Hillsborough County Emergency Management; and **Mickie Valente**, Florida Council of 100 Communications and Progress Director.

In the future, the Pan Flu Task Force plans to reconvene, build upon the ideas, plans and information collected from the summit, and create a portal where information can be distributed to organizations statewide.



It's just a matter of time before a pandemic flu outbreak. Florida Director of Emergency Management Criag Fugate was a keynote speaker at Volunteer Florida's Pan Flu Summit for Non-governmental organizations.



Hands on Miami Receives \$100,000 Youth Service Grant!

Hands On Miami is one of 45 organizations selected to receive one of the first State Farm Youth Advisory Board grants! This **\$100,000** grant will enable Hands On Miami to develop further its youth disaster preparedness program, which gives students the opportunity to interact with disaster response experts. Upon completion of the program, students will create service-learning projects to benefit the community.



Hands On Miami works in collaboration with the [United Way of Miami-Dade](#) and the [Miami-Dade Office of Emergency Management](#) to train and engage volunteers in disaster response and recovery.

Congratulations, Hands On Miami!

Volunteer Florida Welcomes New CFO

Volunteer Florida Welcomes **Chief Financial Officer Phil Fleming!** Phil has more than 30 years experience, and has served as Administrative Services Director and/or the Director of Finance and Accounting for Governors Martinez, Chiles and Bush. Phil helped establish the initial financial system for Florida's very first AmeriCorps grant in 1994. Phil also is a dedicated volunteer. He recently was named Mentor of the Year at Sabal Palm Elementary School in Tallahassee! Welcome Phil!



Volunteer Florida Chief Financial Officer Phil Fleming.

Want to Volunteer?

Visit the [Florida Association of Volunteer Centers](#) to find volunteer opportunities in your area



Florida's Volunteers Respond (Written after the Ground Hog Day Tornadoes - February '07)

Ready and Alert
Florida's Volunteers Respond
To Meet Someone's Need
As They Mobilize and Bond

One by One They Arrive
From Coast to Coast
Together They'll Make a Difference
To Those Who Need Them Most

So When You See the Needs
Being Met by your Volunteers
Let Them Know by Giving
And Show You too care!

Your gift can last Forever
Reaching One by One
And know these Volunteers will not Stop
Until their Mission is Done!

—Doug Ott
Volunteer Florida Emergency Management Consultant