



Volunteer Florida CEO Appointed by President Bush

On Feb. 14, 2006, Volunteer Florida CEO **Wendy Spencer** was officially appointed to the [President's Council on Service and Civic Participation](#) in a special ceremony at the White House! Wendy was among more than 20 leaders in business, entertainment, and philanthropy who were appointed to the Council.

The Council's purpose is to promote the benefits of volunteerism on a nationwide basis, and to promote the President's Volunteer Service Award. In addition to the induction ceremony, members of the Council also spent an hour speaking with **President George W. Bush** about volunteerism. Council members were treated to special events, including a tour of the Oval Office by President Bush, **First Lady Laura Bush** greeted each of the members as they entered the White House.

The Council, which operates under the auspices of [USA Freedom Corps](#), an office of the White House and the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#), also launched a series of radio public service announcements, including one featuring Wendy Spencer. You can listen to Wendy's public service announcement on the [Council's Public Service Announcements page](#).

Council Members

- **Stephen Baldwin** – Actor
- **Jean Case** – Case Foundation, President
- **Ray Chambers** – Philanthropist
- **Jerry Colangelo** – Phoenix Suns, Owner
- **Evern Cooper Epps** – UPS Foundation, President
- **Myrka Dellanos** – News Anchor/Journalist, Univision Network
- **Hilary Duff** – Recording Artist, Actor
- **Sara Evans** – Country Recording Artist
- **Darrell Green** – NFL, Retired
- **Patrica Heaton** – Actor
- **Kasey Kahne** – NASCAR, Rookie of the Year
- **Art Linkletter** – Entertainer
- **Mary Jo Myers** – Gen. Myers' Wife/USO
- **Michelle Nunn** – Hands On Network, CEO
- **Cokie Roberts** – News Journalist
- **Michael W. Smith** – Recording Artist
- **Wendy Spencer** – Volunteer Florida, Director
- **Roxanne Spillet** – Boys & Girls Clubs, President
- **Hope Taft** – First Lady of Ohio
- **Charles Turlinski** – Limited Stores, President
- **Mark Yudof** – University of Texas, Chancellor



Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer presents President George W. Bush with a valentine created by her mentee, Shakira, at the Feb. 14 President's Council induction ceremony.



Congratulations, Wendy!

 April 2006 is the Second Annual Florida Volunteer Month!

Volunteer Florida has created a special electronic PR toolkit to help you promote Florida Volunteer Month and to help you recognize volunteers in your community! Whether you are a volunteer, a volunteer center, a business, or a community or faith-based organization, you can use these tools to raise awareness about the benefits of volunteering! We even offer a set of practical suggestions to assist you in making the best possible use of the tools we provide.

Volunteers come from all walks of life ... so WALK THE WALK! Volunteer!

Florida Volunteer Month



**Coming April 2006
to a Community Near You**



Walk the Walk ... Volunteer!

 **Joseph MacDougald, of Tampa, Receives President's Volunteer Service Award!**

Volunteer Florida is proud to announce that **Joseph MacDougald**, of the [Special Operations Warrior Foundation](#), was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award on Feb. 17 at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. Volunteer Florida nominated MacDougald for his tireless efforts on behalf of the children of Special Operations personnel who were killed in operational missions or training accidents. The Foundation provides college scholarship grants, financial aid, and educational counseling to these children.

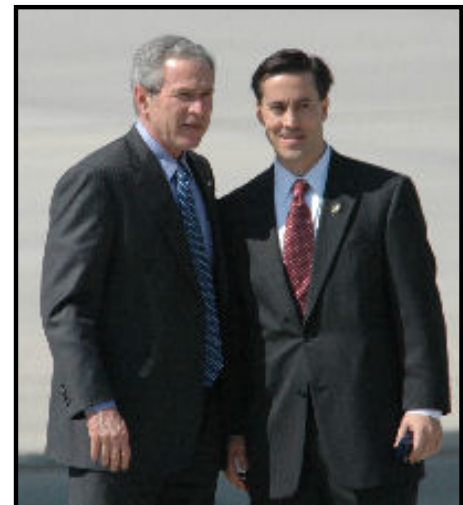
An expert in information technology, MacDougald volunteered more than **2,000 hours** reconfiguring and designing the communication systems and Web site for the Foundation.

The foundation currently has **626 children** in the program. Today, **91 children** have graduated from college with **97 children enrolled**. The Foundation expects to have **120 students in college next year!**

MacDougald has volunteered for the organization for **five years**, ensuring the Foundation has cutting-edge technology to communicate with the families of the fallen. In addition, his work has located **50 children** who are eligible for the program.

For more information, visit the [President's Volunteer Service Award](#) page.

Congratulations, Joseph!



Joseph MacDougald, a volunteer for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award Feb. 17 at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa.

 **AmeriCorps Partners with the Able Trust and High School High Tech**

Volunteer Florida is very excited to announce **Project Impact**, a new initiative established through Volunteer Florida's partnership with [The Able Trust](#) and the [High School/High Tech Program \(HSHT\)](#). Project Impact will present an opportunity to pair **AmeriCorps** members with local HSHT programs to increase participation of high school students with disabilities in volunteer and national service opportunities throughout Florida. What this means for AmeriCorps programs is an additional cadre of highly motivated and prepared members with disabilities.



The Able Trust, also known as the Florida Governor's Alliance for the Employment of Citizens with Disabilities, is a 501(c)(3) public-private partnership foundation established by the Florida Legislature in 1990. Its mission is to be the leader in providing Floridians with disabilities fair employment opportunities through fundraising, grant programs, public awareness and education.

HSHT is a transition program designed to reduce the dropout rate of youth with disabilities, increase their enrollment in college and improve participation in education/vocational/employment related activities. Florida High School/High Tech promotes technology-based careers and education for youth with disabilities between the ages of 14 and 22.

Florida Youth Forum Meets in Apopka

The Florida Youth Forum, a gathering of youth volunteers and their mentors, met at Camp Wewa in Apopka March 3 – 4. The purpose of the meeting was to network, find opportunities to collaborate on volunteerism, gain motivation, and to **have fun!**

More than 30 participants gathered for this event, which also included a variety of service projects in which members could participate. Youth volunteers built benches, painted cabin floors, landscaped, and more during the two-day event.

Response to the Forum was overwhelmingly positive.

"I think we started something good this past weekend and I would like to see it continue," said Rebecca Heimstead, City of Tampa Mayor's Youth Corps Coordinator.



More than 30 youths and their adult mentors attended the Florida Youth Forum, held at Camp Wewa in Apopka March 3 - 4.

The Forum was made possible by a grant from [America's Promise](#). Volunteer Florida would like to thank Volunteer Florida **Commissioner Katie DeFoor**, Volunteer Center of Manatee County Executive Director **Adraine LaRoza**, Florida CHESP Director **Bruce Manciangli**, who helped make this event such an inspiration to our youth volunteers.



National Youth Service Day

Millions of youth will participate in National and Global Youth Service Day, the largest service event in the world, April 21 - 23, 2006. They will tutor young children, engage in disaster relief, register new voters, educate their communities about good nutrition, distribute HIV/AIDS prevention materials and meet many more community needs through their service. National and Global Youth Service Day is designed to set youth on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement.

To enter the "For One Night" National Teen Essay Contest, to download promotional materials for this event, to apply for community service grants, or to register your youth service project to be included in the international media campaign, visit the [Youth Service America Web site](#).



National Service Events

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March 22 – 25: [17th Annual National Service Learning Conference, Philadelphia](#)

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March 30 – 31: [Annual Service Learning in the Arts Conference, Miami](#)

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April 1 – April 30: [Florida Volunteer Month](#)

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April 21 – 23: [National Youth Service Day](#)

•
April 23 – 29: [National Volunteer Week](#)

Orlando Youth Receives President's Volunteer Service Award

President George W. Bush presented the President's Volunteer Service Award to **Shauna Clark**, 18, when he arrived at the airport in Orlando, Fla., on Friday, Feb. 17, 2006. Clark is a volunteer with the Timber Creek High School Service Learning Academy.

This program extends learning beyond the classroom to help students develop civic responsibility through service projects within the school and local community. Shauna has earned more than **1,000** service learning hours working with local non-profit agencies on more than **80** community service projects addressing nonviolence and diversity, drug prevention, environmental awareness and literacy.

Congratulations, Shauna!



Shauna Clark accepts the President's Volunteer Service Award in Orlando Feb. 17.