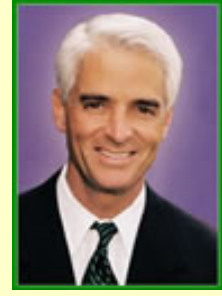




Happy New Year Volunteer Florida Friends!

As we welcome a new and exciting year for the **Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service**, We want to provide you highlights of 2006 accomplishments and initiatives for your reflection. We have each of you to thank for making it possible to support National Service and to encourage citizens to volunteer.



"Many serve through churches or civic organizations. Some serve heroically by putting on a uniform as a law enforcement officer, firefighter, or member of our nation's military. Some serve by working for the public, including those incredible individuals known as teachers. Others serve by **volunteering** wherever and whenever their help is needed."

— Governor Charlie Crist

Inaugural Address, January 2, 2007



AmeriCorps and National Service

Total Funds administered by Volunteer Florida: \$13,395,000

- **\$6,785,000** in federal grant funding awarded to **41 program sites** in **27 counties**
- More than **\$3.9 million** in local matching funds
- Volunteer Florida's AmeriCorps members were eligible to earn **\$2.6 million** in college scholarships, and childcare assistance totaling **\$50,400**.
- **879** AmeriCorps members served **609,952 hours** of service and recruited **5,799** volunteers who served an additional **101,248 hours**. Of Volunteer Florida's AmeriCorps members, **67%** (or **591 individuals**) provided mentoring and/or tutoring to **5,239** students in Florida's public schools. The remaining members worked in areas of public safety, human needs, environment, or homeland security.
- **Hosted the 2nd Florida AmeriCorps and National Service Conference**, held in Orlando, where **more than 900** AmeriCorps and other National Service members participated in a high-energy and



Of Volunteer Florida's AmeriCorps members 67% (or 591 individuals)

information-packed conference featuring dynamic national speakers. More than 50 trainings were provided in volunteer management, grant writing, career exploration, working with the disabled community, maximizing college scholarships, résumé writing, improving networking skills, and much more.

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• **New AmeriCorps funding for four disaster-focused AmeriCorps programs:** AmeriCorps Red Cross Miami-Dade County; City of Miami AmeriCorps Community Emergency Support (ACES); AmeriCorps Okaloosa Walton College Disaster Corps; and AmeriCorps Polk Rebuilds.



The 2nd Florida AmeriCorps and National Service Conference brought supporters of volunteerism from all over the country including national recording artists "Sister Sledge."

Florida 's Volunteer Centers

- Created the **Volunteer Center State Strategy**, a collaborative effort among the [Points of Light Foundation](#), Hands on Network and the [Florida Association of Volunteer Centers](#) (FAVC). This partnership contributes more than **\$170,000** in additional funding and support to strengthen existing Volunteers Centers and to proactively engage communities that may be interested in starting a Volunteer Center.
- **New volunteer centers** opened in Santa Rosa, Brevard, Okaloosa, Walton, Lake, Putnam, and Charlotte counties.
- Assisted **Volunteer Centers in the planning stages**, including Polk County and one for the tri-county area of Suwannee, Hamilton, and Columbia Counties.



Outreach to Persons with Disabilities

- Provided numerous trainings and exhibits to **AmeriCorps Program staff, local networking groups, disability organizations, state conferences, and Southeast and multi-state regional meetings.**
- Volunteer Florida's **Inclusion Council** continued its great work, recruiting people with disabilities for National Service programs.
- **6 Days 6 Ramps** welcomed a new site for Gainesville and celebrated its fifth successful year of building wheelchair ramps for people in need.



Project Impact is just one of Volunteer Florida's many programs that introduce people with disabilities to volunteerism and service in their community.

Programs Promoting Volunteerism:

- A highly successful **Opinion Editorial** on volunteerism and hurricane preparedness was placed in 12 major Florida daily newspapers, one Florida magazine, and on a national volunteerism Web site for a total of 14 placements.
- The second annual **Florida Volunteer Month** Public Awareness campaign launched in April 2006, enhanced by National Volunteer Week, also during April.
- Sponsored **Volunteer Recognition**, including nominations for the Presidential Greeter Program, and the **President's Volunteer Service Award**, which encourages organizations that use volunteers to become certifying organizations for the President's Call to Service Award. Please visit the President's Volunteer Service Award Web site for information about how your business, faith or community-based organization can become a Certifying Organization.



Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer (center), presents Chuck Smith (left) and Jeremiah Fisher (right) with Presidential Volunteer Service Awards for their outstanding service!

Emergency Management for Volunteers:

- The Corporation for National and Community Service awarded Volunteer Florida federal grants totaling **\$265,000**, which were provided to **11 organizations for Volunteer Florida's Emergency Prevention and Readiness Outreach (EPRO) Initiative**. EPRO which provides hurricane preparedness education and assistance to people with cultural or language barriers.
- Worked with the Florida Department of Health on an ongoing project to develop plans to respond to a potential **Avian Flu Pandemic**. Volunteer Florida secured funding from the Department of Health to establish a **Pandemic Flu Task Force** and host a **Non Governmental Organization Pandemic Flu Summit** in early 2007.



COOP and Unaffiliated Volunteer Management Training provided to National Service leaders at the 2006 Multi-State Cross-stream Conference in Atlanta; and

• To date, more than **\$1.5 million** has been approved for reimbursement in a first-time federal/state program called the **Katrina Private Non-Profit Reimbursement Program** through Volunteer Florida. So far, **42** organizations, charities, and faith groups have received FEMA reimbursements for housing and caring for Katrina evacuees. An additional **\$304,355** in requested funds are currently being reviewed for approval.

conferences in Seattle, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Sacramento, Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa, and Pinellas County, Fla.

As you can tell, it has been a busy and exciting year! I encourage you to look at our [Web site](#) to see the dynamic team of Commissioners and the dedicated staff we have at Volunteer Florida who make all of the above initiatives possible. We are all energized and ready for a big 2007. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Wendy Spencer
Chief Executive Officer



Dave Ramsay
Commission Chairman