



Volunteer Headline



Your Source for Volunteer News and Events in Florida

May 5, 2006



Florida Volunteer Month

Florida Volunteer Month began April 1st! This year, Volunteer Florida's integrated marketing campaign included Volunteer Month posters, radio and television public service announcements, media appearances and more!

Volunteer Florida extends a hearty thanks to all the individuals and organizations who worked so hard to make this year's Florida Volunteer Month a great success!

Visit the Volunteer Florida Web site for further information, and check out the FREE gift we have for our Web visitors. The gift is available while supplies last, so don't miss out!



Volunteer Florida Provides Spontaneous Volunteer Management Training to Scores of Organizations

A Spontaneous Volunteer Management Training and Planning Meeting, presented by Volunteer Florida on March 16 for the National Capital Region Coalition of Volunteer Centers, attracted a large, very diverse group of participants at the Gannett/USA Today Conference Center in McLean, Va.

More than 100 organizations from the Washington, D.C. area and beyond included Volunteer Centers and Hands On Network affiliates; state and county emergency management officials; state volunteer commissions; the American Red Cross; the Points of Light Foundation; national service programs; fire and police departments; Citizen Corps; Medical Reserve Corps; faith-based organizations; the Humane Society of the U.S.; county health and social service departments; the Department of Homeland Security's Lessons Learned Information Sharing; and the Washington Post.

Volunteer Florida provided an opportunity for Washington Metro Coalition of Volunteer Centers to demonstrate their disaster volunteer management capacity, and to plan and learn together with the broadest set of regional stakeholders ever assembled on this important topic. The meeting included a Volunteer Reception Center exercise, training on Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP), and a new module on public messaging in disasters, and coordination of Web site and hotline messaging with volunteer managers and state/local



Volunteer Florida's Merrilee White and Sheree Fugate present for a Washington-area Spontaneous Volunteer Management Training Session.

emergency management officials.



Presidential Freedom Scholarships Now Available!

The Presidential Freedom Scholarships promote student service and civic engagement. These scholarships, funded in part by the Corporation for National and Community Service, recognize high school students for outstanding leadership in service to their community and neighbors.



Visit the [Presidential Freedom Scholarships](#) Web page for complete eligibility requirements and certification forms. The deadline for submitting scholarship certification forms is Friday, May 12, 2006. All certification forms must be complete and signed.



Volunteer Jacksonville Honors First Coast Volunteers

First Coast volunteers who tirelessly work to improve the Jacksonville community were honored by [Volunteer Jacksonville](#) at their **Celebration of Service** gala, held Thursday, April 6, 2006. This year's theme, "Volunteers Make the First Coast Shine," reflected the power volunteers have to inspire the people they help and to inspire others to serve!

"The volunteers that we honored at our annual Celebration of Service have chosen to give the most valuable thing any of us has: our time and energy," said **Dr. Judith A. M. Smith**, president and chief executive officer of Volunteer Jacksonville.

Volunteer Jacksonville honored many of the area's most outstanding volunteers, including **Former Mayor Hanz Tanzler** for his lifetime of service to the city of Jacksonville, and **Linda King**, wife of **State Senator Jim King**, for her work with Hurricane Katrina evacuees.



Bob Franskousky, Chairman of the Board of Volunteer Jacksonville, presents Linda King, wife of State Senator Jim King, with an award for her work with Hurricane Katrina evacuees.



Volunteer Florida, The Able Trust and High School/High Tech Launch Project Impact

Volunteer Florida is known for providing leadership in a number of important areas, including our initiative to enroll persons with disabilities in AmeriCorps programs.

Project Impact, an exciting new initiative established through Volunteer Florida's partnership with [The Able Trust](#) and the [High School/High Tech](#) Program (HSHT), will pair **AmeriCorps** members with local HSHT programs to increase participation in volunteer and national service opportunities among Florida's high school students with disabilities.

HSHT is a transition program designed to reduce the dropout rate of youths 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.

For more information about Project Impact, contact [Paul Martell](#) at 850-921-5172



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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.



Two Florida Students Receive Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Two Florida students, **Rebecca Farber**, 18, of Miami and **Savannah Walters**, 13, of Odessa, have received **Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** for their volunteer work! Farber received her award for initiating a statewide hurricane relief effort through her school's PTA. Walters received her award for a nationwide environmental education program designed to conserve fuel through encouraging drivers to inflate their tires properly.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honor young people in middle level and high school grades for outstanding volunteer service to their communities. Created in 1995 by [Prudential Financial](#) in partnership with the [National Association of Secondary School Principals](#) (NASSP), the awards constitute the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteering.

Volunteer Florida extends its heartiest congratulations to



Rebecca Farber

Rebecca and Savannah! Visit the [Volunteer Florida](#) Web site for complete stories!



Savannah Walters

Florida Volunteer Centers Win Awards from Points of Light Foundation!

Congratulations to **Hands on Miami**, **Volunteer Jacksonville** and the **ManaTEENS** for being recognized by the Points of Light Foundation during their 2006 Volunteer Center Regional Meeting!

The Points of Light Foundation Award for Best Newsletter: Hands On Miami, **Patrick Morris**.

The Points of Light Foundation Award for Best Donor Communications: Volunteer Jacksonville, **Dr. Judith A. M. Smith** for their Annual Report.

The Points of Light Foundation Award for Best Fundraising Concept: ManaTEEN/Volunteer Services of Manatee County, **Adraine LaRoza** for their concept of raising money so that fire departments would have equipment on hand to provide oxygen to animals after being rescued from fires.



POINTS
OF LIGHT
FOUNDATION
&
VOLUNTEER CENTER
NATIONAL NETWORK



Florida Association of Volunteer Centers

Service-Learning Linked to Positive Civic Attitudes and Behaviors among Youth, New Study Finds

Students who participate in school-based service that includes elements associated with high-quality service-learning are almost three times as likely as students who participate in school-based service without those elements to believe that they can make a great deal of difference in their community, a new study has found.

The youth are also more than twice as likely to report that their experience has a very positive impact on them; 40% are more likely to say that they will probably volunteer in the upcoming year; and are significantly more likely to take an interest in current events and to talk about politics with friends and parents.

The findings are contained in "Educating for Active Citizenship:



Service-Learning, School-Based Service, and Civic Engagement," a new report by the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) that was released at the 17 th Annual National Service-Learning Conference in Philadelphia. The [study](#) and a [fact sheet](#) can be found at [nationalservice.gov](#).

