



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAB YOUR TOOLS!

BUILD 6 RAMPS IN 6 DAYS FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!

Help people with disabilities remain independent and active in their communities ...

TALLAHASSEE – Community members in Tallahassee will join together during October and November to build wheelchair ramps as a part of the **6 Days 6 Ramps** project. On Oct. 27 - 29 and Nov. 17 - 19, volunteers will gather to complete six wheelchair ramps in six days for community members with disabilities who otherwise would not be able to afford a ramp.

“A wheelchair ramp for many individuals with disabilities often is the difference between an independent life and life in a nursing home,” said Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer of The Governor’s Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, **Volunteer Florida**.

Four years ago, **Volunteer Florida** began the **6 Days 6 Ramps** service project to help build the capacity of **Ability1st’s** volunteer ramp-building project in Tallahassee. Throughout the year, **Ability1st**, the Center for Independent Living of North Florida, supplies materials and recruits volunteers to build wheelchair ramps for community members with disabilities who have been pre-selected based upon need. This year, the **6 Days 6 Ramps** project has expanded to sites in Gainesville and Pensacola. **Albertsons** stores will support the volunteers at all three sites, providing food and T-shirts to community volunteers. **Albertsons** also will raise funds for materials and tools and, in 2004, raised funds to purchase a tool trailer to support future ramp building projects with the **Ability1st** Adopt-a-Ramp Program.

(more)



AmeriCorps, VolunteerLEON, the Volunteer Florida Foundation, the Florida Alliance for Student Service (FASS), and Romac Lumber, also have partnered in Tallahassee to support **6 Days 6 Ramps**, which is coordinated locally by **Volunteer Florida**.

Beginning Oct. 17, volunteers can register online for half-day shifts in Tallahassee at 6days6ramps.volunteerflorida.org.

Among the goals of **6 Days 6 Ramps** is to expand the participation of people with disabilities in national service, **AmeriCorps** and other volunteer activities. Project volunteers will be able to sign up to lend a hand in supporting the mission of **Ability1st** and **Volunteer Florida**, and their future ramp-building efforts. The local High School/High Tech program, which introduces high school students with disabilities to high technology fields, will build a ramp on Oct. 29.

Individuals who need a ramp in Leon, Wakulla, Gadsden, Jefferson, Madison or Taylor counties should contact Pat Day at **Ability1st** at (850) 575-9621, extension 234. For further information on the upcoming **6 Days 6 Ramps** community project, please contact Paul Martell at (850) 414-0093 or e-mail paul@volunteerflorida.org.

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, **Volunteer Florida**, was established in 1994 by the Florida Legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Commission grants funds to Florida AmeriCorps and National Service programs; encourages volunteerism for everyone from youths to seniors to people with disabilities; promotes volunteerism in emergency management and preparedness; and helps to strengthen and expand Volunteer Centers in Florida.

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