



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IN CELEBRATION OF THE MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY OF SERVICE:
6 DAYS, 6 RAMPS, BRINGS INDEPENDENCE
TO LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Help build wheelchair access ramps to give community members with disabilities the opportunity to retain or maintain their independence...

GAINESVILLE – Local community volunteers will be joining together to build six wheelchair ramps in six days for those with a financial need as part of the 6 Days 6 Ramps project. The event, which will occur January 15, 20, 26-27 and February 2-3, 2007, and will span Putnam, Suwannee, Alachua, Columbia, and Levy counties, allows volunteers the opportunity to construct a wheelchair ramp for a pre-selected individual who otherwise would not be able to afford one.

Since this event corresponds with Martin Luther King's ideas of tolerance, inclusion, peace, equality and service, 6 Days 6 Ramps will be kicked off on the Martin Luther King Day of Service, making the holiday "A day ON, not a day OFF." Those interested in volunteering with 6 Days 6 Ramps can register by contacting Mary Lee Tanca at 800-265-5724 or by e-mailing her at ramps@cilncf.org. Teams of volunteers are encouraged to participate.

"A wheelchair ramp allows many people with disabilities to keep their independence. For some, leaving their house without the ramps is an impossibility," said Wendy Spencer, Chief Executive Officer of The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, commonly called Volunteer Florida.

Originally a joint project between Volunteer Florida and AmeriCorps Florida State Parks, 6 Days 6 Ramps was created to expand the numbers of ramp-building volunteers for Ability 1st in Tallahassee. In the four years since its commencement, 6 Days 6 Ramps has expanded to include both Pensacola and Gainesville, and has provided 46 individuals and families with wheelchair access ramps.

(more)



Beyond assembling wheelchair ramps for community members, 6 Days 6 Ramps seeks to expand the role of persons with disabilities in the community by increasing participation in National Service projects and community service events. This year, volunteers from the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida will be participating in 6 Days 6 Ramps.

6 Days 6 Ramps is being supported by Volunteer Florida, the Corporation for National and Community Service, Albertsons, AmeriCorps Florida, the Volunteer Florida Foundation, the AmeriCorps Dignity Project, and the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida.

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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