



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2008

MEDIA CONTACT

Scott VanDeman

Director of Communications

Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and
Community Service (Volunteer Florida)

Telephone: (850) 251-2834

E-mail: scott@volunteerflorida.org

**CONGRESSMAN BILIRAKIS TO PRESENT \$361,073 TO
AMERICORPS CLEARWATER, SWEAR IN NEW AND RETURNING
MEMBERS**

~Grant award represents funding for the second two years of a three-year grant to enhance public safety in the City of Clearwater~

CLEARWATER — Monday, Jan. 7 at 11 a.m. Eastern Time, **Congressman Gus Bilirakis, Clearwater City Officials, and Governor's Commission on Volunteerism CEO Wendy Spencer** will host a grant award announcement and swearing-in ceremony for AmeriCorps Clearwater, a Corporation for National and Community Service/Volunteer Florida-funded program focused on public safety and homeland security. The ceremony will be held at Clearwater Police Headquarters, located at 645 Pierce Street.

Thanks to the Clearwater Police Department's AmeriCorps program, Clearwater is a safer place to live. AmeriCorps Members serve hand-in-hand with local police officers, providing assistance with crime prevention, school patrols, disaster relief and preparedness, and a wide range of other support services. AmeriCorps Clearwater members also serve as "downtown ambassadors" in the downtown core area of Clearwater to promote a safer and friendlier city. Ambassador Program services include providing directions, recommendations to tourists, general assistance, and crime watch services.

(more)



AmeriCorps Clearwater also acts as a feeder program for the Clearwater Police Academy, providing a yearly influx of new, service-oriented police officer candidates.

“AmeriCorps Clearwater is one of our standout programs, and has been singled out as an innovative program among all AmeriCorps programs nationwide,” said Governor’s Commission CEO Wendy Spencer.

“I’m thrilled Congressman Bilirakis can join us to present this check to AmeriCorps Clearwater and to recognize our AmeriCorps members’ service” said Spencer. “I know his presence will help inspire them to a lifetime of civic engagement.”

At the conclusion of the news conference, Congressman Bilirakis will administer the AmeriCorps oath, swearing in new and returning AmeriCorps members for 2008.

AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage 75,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, the environment, and human needs. Created in 1993, AmeriCorps is funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service through state service commissions like Volunteer Florida. AmeriCorps is commonly referred to as “The Domestic Peace Corps.”

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 youth to seniors to people with disabilities; promotes volunteerism for disaster preparedness and response; supports Governor Crist’s priorities through creating innovative volunteer programs; and helps to strengthen and expand Volunteer Centers in Florida.

###

www.volunteerflorida.org

www.cns.gov

