



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2009

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CENTRAL FLORIDA AMERICORPS REGIONAL LAUNCH KICKS OFF A YEAR OF INTENSIVE PUBLIC SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

More than 140 Central Florida's AmeriCorps members to be sworn in at special ceremony. ...

WHO: The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida).

WHAT: Central Florida AmeriCorps Regional Launch.

WHEN: Friday, October 23, 2009. The program begins at 3 p.m. **The Honorable John K. Stargel, Judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit, will conduct the Swearing-in Ceremony at approximately 3:15 p.m.**

WHERE: The Lakeland Center, 701 West Lime Street, Lakeland

WHY: To celebrate the commencement of a year of intensive service for Central Florida's new and returning AmeriCorps members.

Please join Volunteer Florida for the Central Florida AmeriCorps launch ceremony, hosted by the Clearwater Police Department and the Polk Education Foundation. This event includes a swearing-in Ceremony, to be conducted by The Honorable John K. Stargel, Judge of the 10th Judicial Circuit.

AmeriCorps, sometimes called the "Domestic Peace Corps," is a national service program providing opportunities for members to dedicate a year or two of their lives to intensive public service to meet critical needs in their communities. AmeriCorps member activities include:

- Tutoring and mentoring disadvantaged youth
- Fighting illiteracy
- Building affordable housing
- Teaching computer skills
- Cleaning parks and streams
- Managing or operating after-school programs
- Helping communities respond to disasters
- Building organizational capacity

(more)



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More than more than **140** new and returning AmeriCorps members will attend the Central Florida Swearing-in Ceremony, representing the following programs:

- AmeriCorps Clearwater
- AmeriCorps Community Resource Navigators (Osceola)
- AmeriCorps Community Stepping Stones
- AmeriCorps Great Explorations
- AmeriCorps Hillsborough Reads
- AmeriCorps Mentor Solutions
- AmeriCorps Polk Reads
- AmeriCorps Red Cross of Lee County
- Notre Dame AmeriCorps

“Governor Crist is a great supporter of volunteerism and service to others, and there’s an excellent reason for that,” said Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer. “Because of the yearlong commitment to serve, every AmeriCorps member is making a great sacrifice to help improve Florida’s communities.”

The Central Florida regional launch event is sponsored by Bright House Networks, Huntington Learning Centers, MIDFLORIDA Schools Credit Union, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Polk County Schools, and TECO Energy.

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; and supports the Governor’s priorities through the creation of innovative volunteer programs.

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