



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Scott VanDeman

Director of Communications

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism
and Community Service, Volunteer Florida

Phone: (850) 251-2834

E-mail: scott@volunteerflorida.org

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

More than 245 South Florida's AmeriCorps members to be sworn in at special ceremony. ...

- WHO:** The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida).
- WHAT:** South Florida AmeriCorps Regional Launch.
- WHEN:** Thursday, October 22, 2009. The program begins at 11:30 a.m. **The Honorable André Williams Esq., City Councilman, Miami Gardens, will conduct the Swearing-in Ceremony at approximately 12:30 p.m.**
- WHERE:** Trinity Church & Peacemakers Family Service Center, 17801 NW 2nd Avenue, Miami.
- WHY:** To celebrate the commencement of a year of intensive service for South Florida's new and returning AmeriCorps members.

Please join Volunteer Florida for the South Florida AmeriCorps launch ceremony, hosted by Trinity Church and Peacemakers Family Service Center. The Honorable André Williams, City Councilman, Miami Gardens, will deliver the keynote speech and conduct the Swearing-in Ceremony.

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 operate after-school programs
- Helping communities respond to disasters
- Building organizational capacity

(more)



401 South Monroe Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32301 • (850) 921-5172 voice/tty • (850) 921-5146 fax

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More than **245** new and returning AmeriCorps members will attend the South Florida Swearing-in Ceremony, representing the following programs:

- AmeriCorps South Florida Urban Ministries
- AmeriCorps Miami Reads
- AmeriCorps Trinity Church
- City Year Miami
- Greater Miami Service Corps
- Public Allies Miami

“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 South Florida regional launch event is sponsored by Fit Kids, Holy Cross School, Hosanna Community Church, The Link Café, Miami Dade College MEED, Peacemakers Family Service Center, and Trinity Church.

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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