



NEWS RELEASE

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VOLUNTEER FLORIDA HONORS THREE WITH PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

*Prestigious National Honor for Volunteer Service to be presented at
Volunteer Florida's quarterly Commission meeting. ...*

TALLAHASSEE – The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida) today announced it will award **three** volunteers with the **PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARDS**, the highest national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service. To qualify for the **AWARD**, volunteers must have logged **4,000** hours or more of volunteer service over the course of their lifetimes.

The **AWARDS** will be presented at Volunteer Florida's quarterly Commission meeting, to be held Tuesday, Oct. 6 at the JW Marriott Hotel, located at 1109 Brickell Avenue in Miami. The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time, and the **AWARDS** will be presented at the beginning of the meeting. Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer will present the awards.

The outstanding volunteers who will receive this award are:

- **Rev. Jesse Martin, Marie Martin, and Tracey Martin.** The Martin Family has volunteered with the Easter Seals of South Florida AmeriCorps program since July 2008. This project provides in-home respite to caregivers of frail, low-income elders allowing them to continue to provide care in the home and avoid institutionalization. This father, wife and daughter team not only assists the AmeriCorps program, but also are active volunteers in the community.

“These recipients of the **PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD** are role models for all Americans,” said Volunteer Florida CEO Wendy Spencer. “Gov. Crist understands the importance of volunteers to improving the quality of life in Florida, and is a great supporter of volunteers like these. Through their extraordinary commitment, they have brought us closer together as families, as communities and as a Nation.”

(more)



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Established in 2003, the PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE AWARD is a part of the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM. AWARDS are available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. As a Leadership Organization participating in the AWARD program, **Volunteer Florida** confers the AWARDS to recognize the outstanding achievements of volunteers throughout Florida.

The PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD is an award for volunteer service that every American – from every age and every walk of life – can aspire to achieve. To be eligible to receive the AWARD, organizations nominate individuals, families and groups, and submit a record of their annual volunteer service hours to participating organizations, such as **Volunteer Florida**, that will verify the service and deliver the AWARD. AWARD eligibility for individuals and groups is based upon hour requirements varying by age.

For more information on volunteering in Florida, please visit www.volunteerflorida.org.

For more information about how to qualify for the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD, please visit www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov or call 1-866-545-5307.

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 the Governor's priority initiatives through the creation of innovating volunteer programs, and helps to strengthen and expand Volunteer Connector Organizations in Florida.

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