



# MEDIA ADVISORY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## VOLUNTEER FLORIDA'S DISABILITIES INCLUSION COUNCIL SEEKS BEST PRACTICES IN SECOND ANNUAL SURVEY

*The "Better Communities Include Everyone" survey deadline has been extended to Feb. 26. Two \$500 grants will be awarded. The survey is designed to identify organizations with exemplary inclusion practices for people with disabilities in volunteer and national service programs ...*

- WHO:** Volunteer Florida's Disabilities Inclusion Council.
- WHAT:** Annual "Better Communities Include Everyone" survey invitation.
- WHEN:** Surveys now being accepted. Surveys due Feb. 26, 2010 at 5 p.m. Eastern.
- WHY:** To celebrate and share the successes of non-profit agencies that include volunteers living with disabilities in their operations.

The Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, Volunteer Florida, invites nonprofit agencies that include volunteers living with disabilities in their operations to share their best practices in the second annual "Better Communities Include Everyone" survey. Two surveys are available: one for nonprofit agencies whose primary mission is to serve people living with disabilities, and another for those agencies that do not have a specific emphasis on serving people living with disabilities. In both categories, agencies will be evaluated for their overall contribution to an inclusive environment. **Two \$500 grants will be awarded: one for non-disability organizations and one for organizations with a primary mission of serving people with disabilities.**

Organizations judged exemplary will be recognized at Volunteer Florida's April Commission meeting, to be held in Tallahassee. Agency practices also will be published in a best practices guide to be shared statewide and nationally with nonprofit organizations and governmental entities, as well as colleagues in the national service and volunteer service field.

The BCIE survey was developed and is administered by the Volunteer Florida Inclusion Council's Traditional Volunteer Strategies Committee. For more information and to download the application, go to [www.volunteerflorida.org](http://www.volunteerflorida.org) or <http://www.volunteerflorida.org/disability/bcie.html>.

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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