

Brighten Your World 
VOLUNTEER!
APRIL IS FLORIDA VOLUNTEER MONTH!

**Florida Volunteer Month
Sample Letter to the Editor**

Now is the time to volunteer; make a difference in tough times

Dear Editor,

These days, with all the worries of modern life, it seems like everyone is looking for something to be happy about. For those seeking a way to brighten their worlds, make new friends, promote their careers, and positively contribute to their communities during these difficult times, I have one simple suggestion: turn off the television, and get out and volunteer! Volunteering has never been more important than it is today as our nation experiences great needs and economic difficulties.

Volunteers have the ability to change the lives of those around them. Whether they are improving the environment, coaching youth sports, providing respite care for the elderly, mentoring students, or assisting with disaster response and recovery, volunteers strengthen entire communities while improving the quality of life for everyone.

I can personally tell you from the (##) years I have spent volunteering with (organization name) that volunteering also provides a multitude of benefits to the volunteer. Volunteers gain as much as those they are helping, meeting new people who share common interests; gaining skills that can be transferred to the work environment; and experiencing improved health, happiness and self-esteem.

Governor Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet have declared April 2009 to be Florida Volunteer Month. In April, Floridians have a special reason to contact a local school, community or faith-based organization, environmental cause, volunteer center, or charity to offer their time as a volunteer. For those looking for a place to start, Volunteer Florida's Web site (volunteerflorida.org) has a list of links to volunteer resources and opportunities.

Please – give the gift of your time and talents to help change lives and strengthen our community! You won't be sorry you did.

(Your Name
Title
Organization)

