



**HandsOn**  
NETWORK

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HandsOn Network and The Corporation for National and Community Service  
Award \$1.21 Million in Grant Funds to Equip and Mobilize Thousands to Answer  
the Call to Service and Volunteering**

ATLANTA, GA (Feb. 12, 2009) HandsOn Network the leading business unit of the Points of Light Institute, and through their Cooperative Agreement with The Corporation for National and Community Service (The Corporation) is pleased to announce the first of several investments to build the capacity of volunteer connector organizations and statewide entities. This investment focuses on increasing the overall numbers of volunteers in service; the retention rates of volunteers; and the impact and value of volunteers through initiatives that successfully engage skilled based volunteers. Grants were awarded to volunteer connector organizations and statewide entities including State Service Commissions and State Associations of Volunteer Centers through a competitive grant process.

Michelle Nunn, CEO of Points of Light Institute and Co-Founder of HandsOn Network said, "Through a comprehensive review process, we have selected 21 organizations throughout the country to be funded with grants totaling just over \$1.2 million. Grants have been made in communities large and small, rural and urban. All told, these funds will fuel a tangible and compelling response to the call to serve and volunteer."

The impact of this investment across the country to individual organizations and statewide organizations is evident. Collectively; they will recruit, equip and mobilize over 800,000 new volunteers. They will increase retention rates of new and existing volunteers by an average of 75%. They will recruit, train, mobilize and equip another 2,000 volunteer leaders, another 1,600 skill-based volunteers and develop 400 new volunteer engagement partnerships. Finally, the selected grant recipients will match their awards with a combined total of \$1.26 million raised from their local partners.

HandsOn Network looks forward to announcing future rounds of funding opportunities under this initiative with the Corporation. We expect the next Notice of Funding Availability to be issued in the spring of this year. Funding levels will be up to \$1.3 million. Interested parties should log onto the HandsOn Network website at: [www.handsonnetwork.org](http://www.handsonnetwork.org) for more information. **The next Volunteer Impact, Retention and Expansion Grant Notice of Funding Availability and Application materials will be available for download from the website in May of 2009.**

**Congratulations to the selected Volunteer Impact, Retention and Expansion Grantees. They are as follows:**

American Red Cross of Massachusetts Bay	Cambridge, MA	\$100,000
Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership of Marin	San Rafael, CA	\$ 49,906
Governor’s Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service – Volunteer Florida	Tallahassee, FL	\$ 50,000
HandsOn Greater Phoenix	Phoenix, AZ	\$ 40,000
HandsOn Greater Portland	Portland, OR	\$100,000
HandsOn Jacksonville	Jacksonville, FL	\$100,000
HandsOn Nashville, Inc.	Nashville, TN	\$ 49,799
Michigan Nonprofit Association	Lansing, MI	\$ 50,000
New York Cares	New York, NY	\$100,000
North Coast Opportunities, Inc. (NCO)	Ukiah, CA	\$ 50,000
State Planning Office (Maine Commission)	Augusta, ME	\$ 49,970
Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago	Arlington Heights, IL	\$ 48,357
United Way of Central Minnesota	St. Cloud, MN	\$ 44,000
United Way of Larimer County	Ft. Collins, CO	\$ 50,661
Volunteer Center of Gloucester County	Sewell, NJ	\$ 21,977
Volunteer Center of Lehigh Valley	Bethlehem, NJ	\$ 35,286
Volunteer Centers of Lewis, Thurston and Mason Counties	Olympia, WA	\$ 50,000
Volunteer Frederick	Frederick, MD	\$ 50,000
Volunteer Macon, Inc.	Macon, GA	\$ 47,256
Washington RSVP	Seattle, WA	\$ 50,000
United Way Capital Hill Area – HandsOn Central Texas	Austin, TX	\$ 82,497

**About Points of Light Institute**

Points of Light Institute was created by the merger of the Points of Light Foundation and HandsOn Network in August 2007. The result is a powerful, integrated national organization with a global focus to redefine volunteerism and civic engagement for the 21st century, putting people at the center of community problem solving. To realize this vision, Points of Light Institute operates three dynamic business units that share a mission to inspire, equip and mobilize people to take action that changes the world; HandsOn Network, Mission Fish and Civic Incubator.

**About HandsOn Network**

HandsOn Network equips, mobilizes and inspires people to take action that changes the world. Our Network, now the largest in the nation, is leading people from impulse to action, turning their ideas for change into real projects like building wheel chair ramps, watershed protection projects and tutoring programs – action that addresses critical issues facing our communities, our nation and our world. The Network includes over 250 affiliates—that serve in all 50 states and in nine countries. In 2007 alone, these HandsOn Action Centers helped to deliver more than 33 million hours of volunteer service valued at \$1.2 billion. For more information, visit [www.HandsOnNetwork.org](http://www.HandsOnNetwork.org).

**About The Corporation for National and Community Service**

The Corporation for National and Community Service improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. Each year the Corporation engages more than four million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet local needs through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs. For more information, visit [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov).