Welcome

The National Conference on Volunteering and Service is the world’s largest gathering of volunteer and service leaders from the nonprofit, government, and corporate sectors. Convened by Points of Light Institute and the Corporation for National and Community Service, with local conveners NYC Service and New Yorkers Volunteer, the annual event provides participants with an opportunity to learn, connect and shape the future of service and volunteering through plenary sessions, workshops, special events, and service projects. It is also a time to celebrate and be inspired by the outstanding individuals and corporations who are committed to improving their communities year-round.

The following awards represent individuals, organizations and companies honored at the 2010 National Conference on Volunteering and Service.

Corporate Engagement Awards of Excellence
This award recognizes companies with a strong commitment to volunteering and who demonstrate a true investment into the well being of the communities in which they operate. The award honors the company’s overall employee and retiree volunteer efforts, highlighting the strategic vision, organizational policies, practices and community service programs. It is given once a year, at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service in the summer.

AT&T
Campbells Soup Company
Intel Corporation
Old National Bank

Spirit of Service
The Corporation for National and Community Service created the Spirit of Service Awards to recognize and celebrate the outstanding participants in each of its programs – Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America - as well as outstanding corporate and foundation partners.

The 2010 Spirit of Service awardees exemplify the best of national service, demonstrate exceptional leadership and results, and serve as role models for others in their communities and throughout the country.

President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll
The President’s Honor Roll, launched in 2006, annually recognizes institutions of higher education for their commitment to and achievement in community service, as well as increasing the public’s awareness of these contributions. President Obama has pledged to make service a central cause of his administration and wishes to commemorate the significant role that higher institutions play in helping to solve pressing social problems.

Lee University
Ohio Wesleyan
University of North Carolina Chapel Hill

George W. Romney Excellence Award
The George W. Romney Excellence Award was established in 1996 to honor Governor Romney and his personal commitment to volunteer service at all levels of society. The award is presented to honor the collective success of HandsOn Network Action Centers in making a meaningful difference through volunteering and service in their communities and across the sector.

HandsOn Nashville

The Innovative Technology Award
The Innovative Technology Award recognizes a HandsOn Network Action Center that is implementing inventive, nontraditional programs or methods that efficiently and effectively meet community needs through the use of technology. The recipient has demonstrated creativity and vision in finding solutions to address community issues through the use of technology.

Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz
Volunteer San Diego
**Corporate Volunteer Council of the Year Award**

The Corporate Volunteer Council of the Year Awards seek to honor the outstanding performance of Corporate Volunteer Councils, “local” networks that businesses join to share effective practices and address community needs through workplace volunteering.

- Shannon Lambert
- Kat Keck
- Delores Powell

**President’s Volunteer Service Award**

The President’s Volunteer Service Award program was established in 2003 to recognize and provide a tangible incentive for millions of Americans to volunteer. Individuals, families, and groups are honored at different stages of their service journey by acknowledging annual volunteer hours served and the resulting positive community impact. It is the only Presidential Award that is bestowed upon the general public.

- Krista Shugart

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- Faith Nelson
- Alexandria Segovia
- JT Eden
- Cole Layman
- Shaeli Marie Funk
- Hannah Salwen

**Hasbro Community Action Hero Award**

The Hasbro Community Action Hero Award recognizes outstanding young volunteers who show that you are never too young to make a difference in your local or global community. The program is a partnership of Hasbro and generationOn and celebrates youth between the ages of 5 and 18 for their extraordinary community service and volunteer activities.

- Faith Nelson
- Alexandria Segovia
- JT Eden
- Cole Layman
- Shaeli Marie Funk
- Hannah Salwen

**About The Co-Conveners**

- AT&T: AT&T Pioneers/AT&T Cares
  - AT&T's story began 100 years ago and is now one of the country’s most robust volunteerism and impactful philanthropic initiatives. AT&T’s commitment to volunteerism dates back to Alexander Graham Bell. Bell was the first member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, which was formed to give employees a way to unite and support the community. From its humble beginning, the AT&T Pioneers has grown into one of the largest industry-sponsored volunteer organizations, with nearly 325,000 members.
  - Volunteerism is ingrained in AT&T’s culture. Last year, the company launched AT&T Cares – a company-wide volunteer initiative designed to encourage employees to engage in community service that is meaningful to them and their communities. In 2009, AT&T Pioneers and employees donated more than 8.5 million hours to community outreach activities – worth over $176 million.
  - AT&T believes that investing in a well-educated workforce may be the single most important thing we can do to help America remain the leader in a digital, global economy.
  - For the past two years the company has administered AT&T Aspire, a $100 million philanthropic initiative to strengthen student success and workforce readiness. Under Aspire is the AT&T/Junior Achievement Worldwide Job Shadow Initiative. Students team up with AT&T employees to learn about careers and develop an understanding of the educational background and skills they need to succeed on the job. AT&T’s goal is to provide opportunities for 100,000 students over five years—and the initiative is making an impact and changing attitudes.

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Campbell Soup Company: Nourishing Our Neighbors

Campbell’s mission is: “Together we will build the world’s most extraordinary food company by nourishing people’s lives everywhere, every day.” The company has a long-standing commitment to the communities in which it is located and where its employees live and work. Campbell’s is uniquely positioned to “nourish” neighbors by providing volunteers to nonprofit organizations and leveraging the unique skills of employees through the Nourishing Our Neighbors program.

Campbell’s partners with the local Feeding America affiliate and the Food Bank of South Jersey. Through these partnerships, Campbell’s engineers have helped to draft plans for a new warehouse, employees have sorted and distributed food and Campbell’s research chefs have taught cooking classes as part of their Operation Frontline nutrition education program. Campbell’s strives to couple skills-based volunteering, financial contributions and in-kind giving to provide well-rounded support and impact with local nonprofit organizations and residents of these communities.

In the year since the launch of the Nourishing Our Neighbors initiative, U.S. employees logged more than 18,000 volunteer hours, benefitting over 200 organizations. Dollars for Doers grants quadrupled since the change was implemented. Participation in the company’s annual week of service, Make a Difference Week, increased 40% in 2009.

Doug Conant
President and CEO

Intel Corporation: Intel Involved

Intel strives to operate with uncompromising integrity and to be an asset to communities. Intel executives believe that their business success depends upon their continuing ability to be a trusted, responsible, open and engaged corporate citizen. Intel employees engage with communities through the Intel involved volunteer program and community leadership activities.

The Intel Involved program encourages employees to share their expertise and enthusiasm with communities through volunteerism. Employees spend thousands of hours mentoring young people, providing technical expertise, serving on task forces, and participating in community service projects. The program is distinguished by its high rate of employee participation, its global reach, and the Volunteer Matching Grant Program.

Through the company’s skills-based volunteering initiative, employees apply their specialized skills in law, marketing, IT and lean manufacturing practices to benefit schools and non-profit organizations. The Intel Education Service Corps program sends small teams of high-performing employees to developing countries to collaborate with a NGO to deploy the Intel®-powered classmate PCs. To date, this program has reached more than 15,000 students in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Egypt, India, Kenya, and Vietnam.

Intel’s mission is to enhance lives around the world and in the community by accelerating access to advanced technology. Its passion for innovation reflects a strong commitment to corporate social responsibility.

Dulcie David
Intel National Volunteer Hero Award Winner of 2009

Intel Corporation

Headquarters: Santa Clara, CA
Number of Employees: 84,000
Industry: Processors, Servers, Computing Technology
Old National Bank: One Community

From its humble beginnings to its current position as a regional bank with more than 160 banking centers and 2,800 associates, Old National has never wavered from its focus on community.

At Old National, community involvement is empowered and celebrated on a daily basis as a key component to achieving more for clients, associates and the communities they call home. This commitment begins with President & CEO Bob Jones and the Old National leadership team, who empower associates to donate up to two paid volunteer hours a month through the company’s One Community program. Last year, Old National associates donated nearly 80,000 total hours in support of more than 2,000 organizations. Associate volunteers are recognized for their efforts on the company Intranet site, and those with 25 hours or more of service each year join the “Volunteer Honor Roll” in Old National’s annual Community Investment Report.

In addition, a One Community Team Award is given each quarter to the associate team that best exemplifies the meaning of community care and involvement. Quarterly winners receive a $500 donation to the non-profit organization of their team’s choice, and an overall annual team award winner receives a $1,000 donation.

“Being a community bank in 2010 and beyond is about far more than meeting the financial needs of families and businesses. It requires a true passion for community service and a commitment to servant leadership. For us, it’s also about empowering and encouraging our associates to be every bit as engaged in community organizations, activities and causes as Old National is as a company.”

Bob Jones
President and CEO

Headquarters: Evansville, IN

Number of Employees: 2,812

Industry: Financial Services

“Help us Learn...Give us Hope!” is a plea from a school girl in Afghanistan to a soldier visiting her school. In response to soldier requests and because of a successful experience in a similar effort while assigned to an Infantry Brigade during the war in Vietnam, retired Army Colonel Gary LaGrange founded “Help us Learn...Give us Hope” Inc. This organization has three objectives: providing school supplies and books to children in Iraq and Afghanistan to enhance the education system, increasing goodwill toward soldiers through their distribution efforts, and positively engaging citizens of the United States.

Eighteen hundred soldiers, airmen, teachers, students and parents have asked for support, and Gary’s organization has responded. More than 520,000 pounds of supplies and 540,000 books have been donated, as shipments occur weekly. More than 300,000 children have received supplies through the organization. Fifty RSVP members, spouses and children of deployed soldiers, and many others are the engine that makes “Help us Learn” work.

Gary LaGrange found a way to help our soldiers and our country by helping others. After receiving supplies, a teacher in Kandahar, Afghanistan wrote “It is our greatest hope to have our children learn. Your help is the very best way to help us and for you to win our trust. Your gifts are gifts from God.”

Thanks to the generosity of Cabot Cheese, each Spirit of Service Individual Award Winner will receive an incredible week-long Celebrity Cruise Caribbean vacation for two in January 2011. The farm families who own Cabot Creamery, makers of Cabot cheese products, are deeply committed to community service and proud to stand as friends of the Corporation for National and Community Service.
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AmeriCorps Awardee:
Dwight Owens

At age 23, as a teacher and football coach, Dwight Owens had already mapped out his road to success. But his plans came to a screeching halt on Friday, August 5, 2005, on Highway 84 in Collins, Mississippi, when Dwight was hit by a drunk driver. After coding as a result of suffering several life-threatening injuries, he was on life support for 48 hours and awoke to the news that he was permanently paralyzed. Not expected to live, Dwight endured months of extensive rehabilitation to learn to complete life’s basic tasks and regain independence.

Dwight currently serves with LIFE/Project LINC (Linking Individuals Into Neighborhoods and Communities) AmeriCorps. As an AmeriCorps member, Dwight provided peer support to over 1,200 individuals with disabilities, completed 48 ADA site surveys to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities, provided over 300 life skills training sessions to increase independence for Mississippians with disabilities, helped transition many individuals from institutions to their own homes, and started a “Men with Disabilities” support group encouraging independence and leadership. Dwight also makes presentations wherever he can stop drinking and driving – using his own accident to prevent others. As a result of Dwight’s AmeriCorps service, Mississippians with disabilities are active, productive members of their communities.

Learn and Serve Awardee:
Janis Klein-Young

Janis Klein-Young has taught fine arts for 35 years with the Young Men’s Academy at MacArthur South, a 6th-12th grade alternative school for young men who have been expelled from traditional classrooms. Many of her students struggle with complex issues stemming from high-risk social environments.

With funding from Florida Learn and Serve, Janis designed and executed an arts-based service learning project at MacArthur South in 2002 that has expanded into a nationally recognized program and model. As part of the program, students work each week with local artists at ArtSouth in the Homestead Community learning indigenous arts/crafts techniques like painting, sculpture, ceramics, ornaments, batik, and woodwork. The students then teach what they have learned to local seniors and to profoundly handicapped immobile elementary-age students; conduct community, cultural, and arts events in Homestead; provide tours of ArtSouth; and create public murals, providing entertainment and enrichment to the mostly immigrant framing community.

By the numbers, Janis’s students’ attendance rose 15%; their GPAs rose by 252%; and their average number of suspensions decreased by 70% compared to the year before they participated. Students say that they love this project; and they modify their behavior to be able to participate.

Janis also conducts professional development training in for over 300 Miami-Dade County Public Schools, provides consultative/technical assistance for Florida Learn and Serve grantees and is an adjunct professor at Miami-Dade College, where she trains students and teachers to integrate service learning into their curriculum. She is the 2002 Miami-Dade County Public School’s Teacher of the Year.
Lee University’s dedication to social service is a mandatory part of the curriculum, as civic virtue was a key factor in the establishment of the school. The school’s commitment to service involves every student, who must complete two service-embedded courses and 80 hours of service-learning as a graduation requirement.

Students completed 66,200 volunteer hours in community service during the 2009-2010 academic year. Many of them worked through Lee University’s Crossover program, a student-led food reclamation and distribution program which partners with area grocers and retailers to feed the disadvantaged in the community. They distributed more than 192,000 pounds of food to those in need and also provided tutoring, job preparation training, and agency referrals to those same clients.

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, business students assisted 487 mid- to low-income individuals and families with their tax returns, securing refunds totaling more than $480,000. Another pioneering program, Lee University Developmental Inclusion Classroom (LUDIC), enabled university students to partner with local school districts to serve 23 young area students with autism-spectrum disorders.

After graduation, students’ volunteerism continues. Last year, 71 percent of graduates signed the Lee University Graduation Service Pledge, indicating their understanding of its importance and affirming their commitment to the ideals of the University’s service program as they move forward as global citizens.

In the last academic year, 1,773 Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) students donated more than 45,000 hours to community service projects including: tutoring and mentoring economically disadvantaged or at-risk youth, building homes; repairing hurricane damage, serving in soup kitchens, advocating for social justice and human rights; supporting fair trade and more. Additionally, they raised money for disaster relief, refugee relocation, disease research, microloans, and nonprofit organizations.

Students didn’t stop there. They gave blood; hosted workshops; recycled waste; circulated petitions; provided translation; marched, walked, danced, ran and fasted for a cause; making a difference on campus, in the community, and around the globe.

The ripple effect of these contributions is nearly impossible to quantify. What is measurable are the $28,000 raised by OWU’s Greek community for philanthropic causes, the carloads of canned goods and toiletries that students donated to the local food pantry, and the tons of garbage they removed from local waterways and highways. In fact, the students earned recognition with the “Community Stewardship Award” and the “Keep Delaware County Beautiful” program for all of their efforts. Faculty and administration are also active role models for civic responsibility, serving on boards, volunteering for causes, joining students on spring break mission trips, and taking a stand on local and global issues. Dedication to community service is a cornerstone of Ohio Wesleyan University, which has been committed to education for leadership and service since its inception in 1842. The school’s graduates take their learning and commitment to serve with them, well-prepared to address the issues impacting the global community.
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill), the nation’s first public school, has a long history of activism and community service. In the 2008-2009 school year, Carolina students contributed more than 1 million hours of service through meal packaging events, dance marathons benefiting the North Carolina Children’s Hospital, and other projects involving more than 150 community partners. Many students gave up vacations from school through Alternative Break experiences in which they traveled to help in a variety of destination communities. In addition, nearly 2,000 students contributed in nearby North Carolina communities through service-learning courses, internships, and fellowships. Students work side by side with domestic or global community partners to find solutions.

To support the many different interests of its students, the University offers several supportive offices and programs. The Campus Y is home to student activists and community advocates, the APPLES service-learning program provides opportunities for the campus community and the Carolina Center for Public Service is home to student fellowships, grants and faculty development opportunities. Both UNC-Chapel Hill’s students and the global community benefit from all of its civic engagement opportunities.

In 2009, Hands On Nashville (HON) connected 38,969 volunteers to service opportunities in over 300 nonprofit organizations, government agencies and schools. Weekdays between June and September, Hands On Nashville volunteers collaborate with the management and vendors of the Nashville Farmers’ Market to sort edible and compost produce as part of their Food Reclamation Program, diverting 60 tons of organic Municipal Solid Waste from landfills and providing 12 tons of nourishing food to the hungry.

During the 2009 Hands On Nashville Day, 1,250 volunteers completed 5,000 volunteer hours, creating a $101,250 economic impact. Their Arts and Schools program coordinated 108 projects to benefit metro area schools, with 170 volunteers contributing 885 hours of highly skilled labor. HON engaged 179 volunteer leaders in 2009, of which 59 were new. Together, they completed 35,000 verified service hours, valued at $709,000.

In response to recent Tennessee flooding, HON’s impact is larger than ever. Between May and June 2, 2010, Hands On Nashville placed 16,000+ volunteers in service, contributing a $1.4 million economic impact in human capital to the flood relief effort.
The Volunteer Center’s mission is to promote volunteerism throughout the community and to maintain a wide variety of volunteer opportunities which take into account the special needs and interests of all segments of the population. The Volunteer Center aims to enable all people, regardless of age, race, physical ability or other special circumstance, to share their skills and time in order to extend needed services in Santa Cruz County.

The Volunteer Center has made a concentrated effort to create an online presence and utilize technology to promote volunteerism. As a result, the Volunteer Center increased volunteer registration by 25 percent. The Volunteer Center has established online community through Facebook and Twitter, where they generate enthusiasm for volunteer opportunities, special events and connect volunteers. Additionally, the Volunteer Center uses YouTube and Blogger to share volunteer stories. Two promotional videos were created in collaboration with a volunteer videographer, providing nearly 100 hours of time to Volunteer Center video projects. Collectively, the creation and effective use of social media channels and forms of technology have expanded the Volunteer Center’s reach and effectiveness.

Volunteer San Diego (VSD)’s technology is a key component of its operational strategy to create lasting community impact through meaningful volunteer action. Technology allows VSD to engage prospective volunteers on their terms, in their preferred format and on their own time. VSD believes that social media outlets add a friendlier and interactive voice to communications, allowing them to retain a sense of high touch and high tech.

Volunteer San Diego uses an online volunteer orientation to more efficiently on-board volunteers and has increased the number of people oriented annually from 2,050 to 5,052. Recently awarded the “Classy Award for Use of Technology,” VSD has demonstrated that their use of social media outlets like Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, podcasts and a blog to promote projects, engage and inform volunteers have been well received and recognized locally. In times of disaster, VSD is San Diego County’s lead agency for coordinating spontaneous unaffiliated volunteers. In the 2007 Firestorm, VSD operated a virtual Emergency Volunteer Center, registering 10,000 prospective volunteers in its database and deploying 3,500 volunteers. VSD has accomplished new forms of civic engagement through technology.
**Shannon Lambert**

As a 15-year-old victim of acquaintance rape, Shannon Lambert felt isolated and scared. After four years of keeping her attack a secret, Shannon finally reached out online to seek help and eventually created a Web site telling her story. Shannon was asked to appear on *20/20* to share her story of healing and, in anticipation of abuse survivors seeing the show and needing support, Shannon started a small message board. This board eventually became Pandora’s Project, an online resource that connects survivors with others facing similar issues across the globe.

One of the best aspects of Pandora’s Project is that it is wide-reaching, providing support for the estimated one in six people who will experience rape or sexual abuse in their lifetime. The survivor-to-survivor support offered within the message board is vital, especially for people who live in rural areas and may not have access to conventional support groups. Pandora’s Project often serves as the first place for survivors to shed shame and truly talk about their experience, leading them to real help in their lives.

Pandora’s Project, funded entirely by donations, facilitates a chat room for its members, hosting guest speakers who share information and answer questions in their field of expertise. Survivors also have access to the lending library, a program that provides free books and DVDs via mail about healing from rape and sexual abuse to any survivor living in the United States.

What started as a simple message board has transformed into Pandora’s Project, the largest international online sexual abuse survivor community, serving more than 20,000 survivors worldwide.

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**Katy Keck**

Every child needs a mentor, and Katy Keck is working hard to make that a reality. Katy is a volunteer leader with Infinite Family (IF), an organization that connects teens and pre-teens in South Africa with adults internationally, using online video-based mentoring.

With an estimated 55 million youth affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, Katy felt it was critical to connect a caring adult mentor to children who often grow up alone. She believes that by creating these connections, children will begin to define their lives by what they have to gain, not what they’ve lost.

Katy has been the lead volunteer for Infinite Family since it began. With her professional background in event planning, she has produced all the organization’s fundraising events. For each event, she pulls together at least 75 volunteers, dozens of sponsors and in-kind donors. Over the course of three years, her efforts generated more than $200,000 in donations.

As a young organization, IF benefits from Katy’s leadership in fundraising, developing marketing and communication tools, and her ability to recruit volunteers and mentors. Through her leadership, Katy has inspired her friends, family and business partners to become active change agents, positively impacting youth in South Africa.

IF’s leveraging of technology to connect adults around the globe to youth growing up alone in Africa is an inspiring step towards ensuring that every child has a mentor. Katy received a University of Phoenix Volunteer Leader Award for her efforts.
Delores Powell

Twenty-three years ago, Delores Powell moved to the United States from Jamaica with dreams of a better life. Despite working hard as a home health aide, she struggled financially, making just $100 a week. After moving to Buffalo, New York, in 2004, Delores set out to buy a home for her and her four children.

Unable to afford a realtor or lawyer, Delores negotiated her house purchase without aid, only to discover her new home was on the city’s demolition list. Though Delores convinced city officials to give her time to make the repairs, after five and a half years, the family’s home was still uninhabitable.

During this time, Delores focused not just on her own problems, but began to take the whole neighborhood under her wing. As a grassroots activist, Delores partnered with the non-profit community organization “PUSH Buffalo,” an organization that works to rebuild and improve the west side of Buffalo.

Volunteers at PUSH assisted Delores’ family with a video submission for the television show Extreme Makeover: Home Edition and due to their extreme need, the family was chosen for a home makeover.

Inspired by Delores’ passion for helping others, WNY AmeriCorps, Hands On Greater Buffalo and volunteers with Extreme Makeover: Home Edition mobilized to not only help the Powell family, but the entire neighborhood. Motivated by Delores’ actions, the nonprofit partners and volunteers restored the community by building 119 homes in addition to her own.

Krista Shugart

By becoming a member of the Pass It Along ServiceCorps, seventeen-year-old Krista Shugart made a pledge to commit 100-300 hours of service within the year. She not only exceeded those hours, but in the process, she has become a standout awareness advocate for the community of Sussex County, New Jersey. Pass It Along educates youth about the pressing needs in their communities and provides a forum for them to create solutions and take action, which is exactly what Krista has achieved.

Through a program called “Tilly’s Kids,” Krista serves as a mentor for inner city children who come to Sussex County to get a glimpse of what life is like outside of their own difficult situation. Every month, Krista travels to the House of Mercy Mission in Newark, New Jersey, to prepare, cook and serve a meal at a soup kitchen. She is a participant in both the “You’ve Got A Friend” and “Girl Power” programs and helps at annual programs such as the Serve-A-Thon. She also helped develop a “Knitting For A Cause” program. All knitted items such as blankets, hats, scarves and gloves that are created by the adults and teens who volunteer for this program are donated to families in need.

Those who work with Krista testify that the time and effort that she contributes freely to Pass It Along have been invaluable to the organization.

“Not only is Krista active in hands-on service, but she also serves every individual with kind words and compassion,” said an AmeriCorps member who serves with Krista. “Krista has been a personal inspiration for me and to all of our staff here at Pass It Along.”
The Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council (BVC) has a long history of collaboration with both the business community and non-profit organizations. The BVC was created in 1999 through an alliance of corporations, non-profit organizations, the local Volunteer Center and United Way, who engaged in a year-long planning process to determine need, gaps in service, and ways in which those gaps could be addressed by the business community.

The BVC strives to ensure that the collaborative spirit remains alive and responsive to the needs of the community. The BVC’s stated purpose is “to significantly impact the lives of children and families – specifically in the areas of hunger, health, and education – by connecting area business with non-profit organizations to direct resources to those in need.”

Results are impressive. Since 2000, the BVC has generated over $1 million in resources; delivered 48,500 new books to 9,700 preschool students; delivered 3,400 backpacks to foster children; distributed $222,000 in food and cash donation; and $285,000 in school supplies donated to agencies and schools.

The success of the initiatives demonstrates that the program works for BVC members, but the impact goes even beyond the resources provided to the community. BVC members have continuity in their employee volunteer programs by offering the initiatives each year. The initiatives provide a starting point for corporations to develop relationships with charitable organizations, and new and prospective member companies learn the ropes of running corporate volunteer projects through the initiatives.

Faith Nelson
Ten-year-old Faith Nelson has played a key role in the many service projects coordinated by the Cougar Kids Care Club at her Greensboro, North Carolina elementary school. Some of the projects in which Faith has played a pivotal role include: helping to establish a recycling program at her school, collecting almost 1,000 cans in a food drive, contributing to feed six families for Thanksgiving, providing weekly treats to show appreciation to teachers, participating in a four-hour vow of silence to honor children silenced by poverty and managing a uniform clothing drive for students in need. “Through each project, Faith worked with a composition that came from the inside out. She has shown great understanding of the importance of these projects to her community and always finds a way to put others before herself,” said her school counselor.

Alexandria Segovia
Florida teen Alexandria Segovia has completed more than 500 hours of community service through HandsOn Network Action Center, Hands On Miami, where she serves as President of the Youth Advisory Council. She leads the 4,000+ Youth Volunteer Corps members, coordinates monthly service projects and serves as the onsite director for their volunteer activities. Additionally, she is Junior Community Emergency Response Team trained and recently helped 35 other teens achieve this certification. In addition to volunteering on Hands On Miami’s annual days of service, she personally calls and emails elected state officials before each service day. Florida Senator Dan Gerber attended her Global Youth Service Day project in April as a result of Alexandria’s persistence. As Community Services Chairperson for her school PTSA, she also facilitates classes to teach her peers the benefits of civic engagement. Her nominator emphasized that Alexandria has innovative ideas for projects, and her commitment to volunteering is exceptional.
JT Eden

Seven-year-old JT Eden did not waste time making new friends and involving them in volunteer activities when he moved to a new school. JT began a service club and invited all of his classmates to attend the weekly meetings at his home in San Carlos, California. The earthquake in Haiti occurred shortly after the club was established, so the students decided to help. The club, which the students named Planet Protectors, began fundraising immediately, organizing a bake sale and lemonade stand and selling treats outside of the movie theater. Under JT’s leadership, the club raised more than $1,200 to donate to the Red Cross. The students’ next project was creating care packages and writing letters to a group of Marines serving in Afghanistan. JT is helping his second-grade classmates change the world, one project at a time. “JT and his fellow Planet Protectors are excited to extend a helping hand to others. It is JT’s enthusiastic approach to helping others that is contagious,” said JT’s teacher Jayne Tinney.

Cole Layman

Twelve-year-old Cole Layman is making his mark on service in two states. Cole founded the Paws for Peace Kids Care Club in Tampa, Florida, and led the club in more than 20 projects. When Cole moved to Virginia in September 2009, he was quick to dive into volunteer activities at his new school, Cunningham Park Elementary School. Cole began volunteering his time to help younger students who need academic and social support, and also helped the school establish its first annual Random Acts of Kindness Week. Cole also plans to establish a Kids Care Club at his new school. In the meantime, he is busy composing songs to play at local nursing homes and hospitals. “Cole does not seek recognition for what he does, but it finds him through his good deeds and character. He truly is a fine young man,” said an adult in the community.

Shaeli Marie Funk

Eleven-year-old Shaeli Marie Funk from Jackson, Wyoming, weaves helping others into everything she does. She started the “Under the Stairs” club with her friends to collect gently used items for those in need, which she stores under her family’s staircase. The club donates different items each month to various nonprofit organizations. In December, Shaeli’s club decorated and filled 92 stockings for seniors at a nursing home and a local senior center. Other projects the club has completed include collecting stuffed animals for police officers and firefighters to distribute to children in times of crisis, and a dog treat fundraiser for a local animal shelter. After each project, Shaeli walks away with a smile from ear to ear and talks about how good it feels to know that she has helped others. She has been an inspiration for her club members and the adults who have watched her ideas come to life.

Hannah Salwen

Hannah Salwen was already volunteering many hours at facilities serving the homeless and impoverished populations of Atlanta when, as a 14-year-old, she and her father saw a homeless man juxtaposed against a shiny Mercedes. “If that man there didn’t have such a nice car, that man over there could have a meal,” Hannah observed. From that simple recognition of the haves and have-nots, Hannah convinced her family to sell their large home, move into one half its size and donate half the sales price to charity. Over the next year, the family studied and decided together how to invest the proceeds from the house sale. In the end, they decided to invest more than $800,000 to help end poverty among villagers in Africa, working with an organization called the Hunger Project. These days, 17-year-old Hannah takes her message to schools, religious groups and others to encourage them to recognize that they have more than enough of something in their lives (time, talent or money) that they can share with others. She also co-authored a book, The Power of Half: One Family’s Decision to Stop Taking and Start Giving Back (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010).
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