Don’t Miss: How Citizen Service Strengthens Communities

Our time here in the Windy City is winding down and we’re excited to take some time to reflect on the excitement of the past few days from immersion learning sessions to service projects to the new connections we’ve made with service-minded friends. Today’s closing plenary will feature CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service Wendy Spencer, journalist Laura Ling, Guiding Light Network Founder Eric Liu and Save the Children Vice President Mark Shriver. Together, they will help us define the role 21st century citizens play in their communities, our role as citizens and the connections we have to our communities. Don’t miss the special video messages former President Bill Clinton, first lady Michelle Obama and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney have provided, sharing their thoughts on the power of service. Join us at 10:30 a.m. in the Skyline Ballroom (W375) and look for future communications on the 2013 National Conference on Volunteering and Service.

Service Superstars – 2012 Awards Overview

Corporate Engagement Awards of Excellence recognize companies with a strong commitment to volunteering and who demonstrate a true investment in the well-being of the communities in which they operate.
- Cbyond Inc.
- Kraft Foods Inc.
- Timberland, LLC

National Service Impact Awards, created by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of participants, programs and leaders of CNCS’ programs.
- Disaster Services - AmeriCorps St. Louis Emergency Response Team
- Economic Opportunity - Christopher Gonzales — Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center
- Education - National College Advising Corps
- Environmental Stewardship - Coulee Region RSVP
- Healthy Futures - Philadelphia Health Corps
- People’s Choice - Habitat for Humanity Vet Corps

The Eli J. Segal AmeriCorps Alums Entrepreneurship Award is the highest award given annually to AmeriCorps Alums who demonstrate the essence of citizen service that Eli Segal embodied.
- Ryan Sarafolean
- Anita Yip

The George W. Romney Excellence Award is presented to honor the collective success of HandsOn Network Affiliates in making a meaningful difference through volunteering and service in their communities and across the sector.
- HandsOn South Alabama

The Daily Point of Light Award honors individuals and groups creating meaningful change in communities across America.
- Cassandra Lin

The Corporate Volunteer Council of the Year Award honors the outstanding performance of a Corporate Volunteer Council or “local” network that businesses join to share effective practices and address community needs through workplace volunteering.
- Central Indiana Corporate Volunteer Council

The Corporate Volunteer Council Fast Start Award celebrates a Corporate Volunteer Council’s success in employing the CVC Principles of Excellence specifically for CVCs established within the past three years.
- Calgary Corporate Volunteer Council

Hasbro Community Action Heroes are outstanding young volunteers who show that you are never too young to make a difference in your local or global community.
- Nina Mahalingan
- Cassandra Lin
- Zachary Certner
- Will Lourcey
- Maryam Farooq
- Ninansha Jain

Leading at the Crossroads

During the three days leading up to Conference, the Summit on Advanced Volunteer Engagement (SAVE) explored advanced topics in volunteer engagement through challenging discussions on issues, strategy, trends and research. Three plenary sessions, 13 workshops and six poster sessions allowed attendees to network and share best practices in an environment designed specifically for those with at least three years of experience in engaging volunteers in nonprofit, government and community organizations.

Subject matter experts led deliberate dialogues and shared proven models and innovations to equip attendees with the knowledge and tools necessary to apply innovative volunteer engagement practices and position programs strategically within their organizations and communities.

“As much as we have worked for and treasured the support of political leaders, the progress of our movement has truly been the result of the imagination, determination and hard work of the people gathered here today — and the people who have come together at this Conference for the past two decades.”
- Michelle Nunn

Get more information at VolunteeringandService.org
Solving America’s Education Crisis

Yesterday’s “Celebrating the Power of Service in Education” session, sponsored by Target, brought to light the issue ranked most important to Americans – the education of our nation’s children, Soledad O’Brien, CNN special correspondent and anchor, led the discussion exploring how public service and volunteerism can allow a community to play a large role in shaping the education of youth and, by extension, the future of America’s workforce and its place in the global community. O’Brien was joined by U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Wendy Spencer, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service and Target’s very own Laysha Ward, president of community relations. Together, this engaging speaker panel paved the way to tackle our education crisis and encouraged all to use their personal power to improve students’ academic performances.

Just Released: Trends in Excellence, Activities of Employee Volunteer Programs

The Points of Light Corporate Institute has released the newest Trends of Excellence, a series of reports analyzing employee volunteer programs (EVP) to identify the practices associated with excellence.  

This edition describes the variety and unique twists that Excellent EVPs incorporate into their volunteer practices. Findings show that the path to excellence is paved with creative volunteer offerings, such as service sabbaticals, skills-based volunteering, job-integrated volunteering and more. The report is based on information from newly announced 2012 Points of Light Corporate Engagement Awards of Excellence finalist companies. Stop by the Points of Light News Desk to pick up your copy today.

Corporations Creating Change

Throughout the economic downturn and continuing recovery, individuals and organizations have looked to the volunteer sector to address community needs. While nonprofits have stepped in to help, the challenge of how civic engagement can build a stronger economy, more highly skilled and versatile workers, and create economic benefits for communities remains.

Yesterday, Chase, the official economy track sponsor, hosted “Civics Service, Helping to Drive Economy Through Action.” This super session brought together thought leaders, corporations and individuals that are making an impact in their local economies and setting the stage for significant change in society through service that provides a tangible economic benefit.

The session featured JPMorgan Chase Chairman of the Midwest Glenn Tilton; former Governor of the Federal Reserve System Dr. Randall Kroszner; Global Vice Chairman of Edelman Business + Social Purpose Carol Cone; Chicago Chief Service Officer Jenné Myers; IBM Foundation President Stan Litow; Executive Director of the National Community Tax Coalition Jackie Lynn Coleman; CSR Wire CEO Joe Sibilia; and the Second City improv troupe.

Action Heroes Needed

Join forces to do good this summer. Your community needs you. This summer, generationOn is mobilizing kids, teens and parents to pledge to make service a priority in one of the following areas: animals, environment, homelessness, hunger, literacy, health, military and disaster preparation. Participants will be provided with projects ideas and instructions, but will also be encouraged to use their imaginations and creativity to come up with a project entirely their own. We look forward to stories, photos and videos of the positive change being created across the country from our nation’s youth. Register with generationOn for updates on this exciting campaign launching June 25.

Are You a Service Enterprise?

Today’s nonprofit challenge: Do more with less. Instead, why not do more with more? Research shows that service enterprises strategically leverage volunteers to increase their capacity, outperform their peers and have greater impact. What’s more, service enterprises get a big return, gaining up to $6 for every $1 invested in their volunteer capacity. Reimagining Service, a national multi-sector coalition, is increasing effective volunteer engagement through the creation of more service enterprises.

Currently, less than 15 percent of nonprofits nationwide demonstrate the characteristics of a nonprofit service enterprise. Is your organization one of them? Learn more and access tools and resources to maximize your volunteer engagement practices by visiting ReimaginingService.org.