Today brings big names and big thinking around service, with Grammy Award-winner John Legend, best-selling author Adam Grant, and Starbucks, America president Cliff Burrows among the many leaders sharing their insights and expertise with attendees at the 2013 Conference on Volunteering and Service.

The Business Track sessions will give corporate, government and philanthropic leaders – including CNN’s David Gergen and Redbox president Anne Saunders – the opportunity to demonstrate how leadership can bring positive change.

Improving educational opportunities for youth will be the focus of the America’s Sunday Supper event. Points of Light CEO Michelle Nunn will be joined by Laysha Ward, president of Target Community Relations, Wendy Spencer, CEO, Corporation for National and Community Service, Congressman Joaquin Castro and Elisa Villanueva Beard, Co-CEO, Teach for America. Legend, an education activist as well as a renowned performer, will perform and engage in the discussion.

America’s Sunday Supper, a signature Points of Light program sponsored by Target, invites people from diverse backgrounds to come together to share a meal, discuss issues that affect their communities and highlight the power each one of us has to make a difference.

The Conference theme Service Unites came alive at yesterday’s opening session as rivals aligned in the name of service. Bill O’Reilly, Donna Brazile, David Plouffe and Karl Rove came together onstage to mark the official launch of One America, a nationwide, yearlong campaign led by Points of Light, with support from JPMorgan Chase, to bring together rivals in politics, entertainment and sports with the goal of uniting in service.

Earlier in the day, the Faith and Service Unite Summit explored ways to make faith groups even stronger drivers of service. John Kelly, deputy chief of staff for policy at the Corporation for National and Community Service, told attendees that faith groups and the federal government have had worthwhile opportunities to work together.

At the Economy Forum, attendees discussed the role of entrepreneurs in community development and heard from service-oriented leaders including Share Our Strength founder and CEO Bill Shore and CAUSE founder Nick Vilelle.

Wednesday night, energized by the Conference’s opening plenary announcing One America, attendees came together to package nourishing meals to alleviate local hunger, at the Welcome to Washington, D.C., Unite in Service Celebration, sponsored by Bank of America. Volunteers worked in teams to package 100,000 “All American Mac n Cheese” meals in less than two hours, in partnership with Program Outreach – the largest nonsectarian, nonprofit provider of volunteer-packaged meals. Specially formulated to provide balanced nutrition to those facing hunger challenges, the meals will be provided to the Capital Area Food Bank to distribute throughout the region.

Celebrating Volunteerism on Capitol Hill

Wednesday morning at the historic Sewall-Belmont House & Museum on Capitol Hill, 200 volunteer leaders assembled 600 school supply kits for area low-income children. During the service project, sponsored by Altria, volunteers were joined by several members of Congress, including Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan and Rep. John Lewis of Georgia (pictured second from right with Michelle Nunn).

“One we have national service and community volunteerism – the twin engines of service – working side by side. We have the public and private sectors working side by side. And we have leaders in the House and the Senate and both political parties coming together today to serve. When we come together, we get things done for the common good.”

- Michelle Nunn, CEO, Points of Light, on Capitol Hill

Follow Us on Social Media

Advance Points of Light’s new One America campaign – use #1America.

Connect with fellow NCVS attendees and get the latest Conference updates, by following @NCVS on Twitter, and tweeting to the official Conference hashtag, #NCVS.

What have you thought of the sessions so far? What are you most excited about attending? Find any good local restaurants?

And, remember, you can stay up to date on volunteer and service news and opportunities throughout the year by following @PointsofLight.

Get more information at VolunteeringandService.org