

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

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Volunteers donate more to charities

Study finds drop in giving since '95

By Larry Witham
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Americans who volunteer time to help others also give more in cash donations, though the nation's booming economy has not prompted households to give more of their income than they did in 1995, a new report shows.

The research group Independent Sector's "Giving and Volunteering" report for 1998 said that for the seven in 10 U.S. households that gave a contribution, the average was \$1,075 a year, or 2.1 percent of income.

That was a slightly smaller portion of income than American households that made contributions handed out in 1995, the last year studied by the survey.

"Contributing households with at least one family member who volunteers give a much higher percentage of their household income than contributing households that do not have a volunteer," said the report, issued at a news conference yesterday.

The higher percentage amounted to more than twice the amount of other contributing households, or an average annual giving of \$1,339, compared with \$524 for households without a volunteer.

The pattern that sees volunteers giving more in cash has been attributed to a spirit or attitude in a household toward giving in general, and toward trusting the intentions of the recipient.

The survey has been conducted six times since 1988. In that time, the survey has found that when the number of volunteers in the nation increases, giving also increases, and is unaffected by "times of economic recession or uncertainty."

The report also said having wealth was a determinant of giving: "As the level of income increased, more households reported making a contribution."

In a report on volunteer work, the survey said that 109 million Americans gave their time in 1998. This added up to 20 billion hours, worth \$225 billion if a salary had been paid.

Researchers on the study would not go so far as to say Americans fall into two classes — givers and non-givers — because the trends are diverse.

"There are more people participating in volunteering, but they are not able to do that on a regular basis" because of work and family schedules, said Independent Sector's chief researcher, Susan Saxton-Harrold.

Though more people are giving in different ways, she said, on average the giving "is not actually keeping pace with rising income."

She said one remarkable finding is the number of people over age 75 who volunteer — 43 percent. "Retired people of all ages are a new social force for the nonprofit sector," she said. "They are a large, untapped source of energy, expertise and skills."

The largest percentage of American giving went to the religious sector, totaling more than 60 percent of all contributions.

Still, the number of households that are religious givers has shrunk. In 1995, 48 percent of households had given to religion, but in 1998 the percentage had dropped to 45 percent.

But this smaller segment is giving more. Last year, religious giving households put in the offering plate \$1,002 on average, whereas in 1995 it was \$868.

After religion, the second most popular charity was "human services," which received 9 percent.

This was followed by giving to health (6.5 percent), to education (6.4 percent), youth development (4.9 percent), arts, culture and humanities (3.3 percent), and the environment (2.2 percent).

North Carolina awash in rain

Series of hurricanes keeps state's coastal areas submerged

TARBORO, N.C. (AP) — Eastern North Carolina residents are struggling to raise their spirits after suffering through three straight hurricanes that have deluged the state with 4 feet of rain, damaged thousands of homes and turned lives upside down.

"I just hope that it gets better soon," said Casheila Draughn, 43.

She spoke from a Red Cross center, a day after Hurricane Irene dropped up to 11 inches of rain on the region. The storm veered out into the Atlantic late Sunday without making landfall in North Carolina, but it still brought heavy rain.

"Obviously, it can't be as bad as it was the last time, but I'm just hoping for life to get close to normal," she said.

Normal may still be months away: Hundreds of people already live in camping trailers because their homes were damaged in floodwaters from Hurricane Floyd in September.

The new rains overwhelmed rivers and promised to produce more serious flooding later this week as runoff drains into the Tar, Neuse and Cape Fear rivers — the

last with crests 8 feet above flood stage expected.

To make matters worse, the next storm, Jose, was swirling in the Caribbean and reached hurricane strength yesterday with maximum sustained winds topping 75 mph. Forecasters were uncertain of Hurricane Jose's track, but said it could threaten the United States.

State transportation officials said Irene was responsible for 156 road closings as of late Monday. That was on top of 75 roads that still remain closed in the aftermath of Floyd. Still, inland rainfall amounts in most areas were below more grave predictions.

"We were fortunate," Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. said. "It didn't turn out to be a great big thing."

Hundreds of people living in a government camper trailer park in Rocky Mount returned to their trailers Monday after spending Sunday night in a shelter. Schools in the area returned to a normal schedule yesterday.

Judy Farrar, a Red Cross mental-health counselor in Tarboro, said many people have become "hypervigilant" — nervously

mindful of every change of weather, every rainfall.

Irene was blamed for one death in North Carolina, a motorist whose vehicle hydroplaned into a tree Sunday in Granville County. Eight other people died as a result of the storm elsewhere, including five in Florida. A pair of Irene-spawned tornadoes were blamed for two injuries in North Carolina on Sunday.

First North Carolinians suffered through Hurricane Dennis, which battered the coast for a week and dumped up to 8 inches of rain. Two weeks later, Floyd poured 20 inches of rain, causing record flooding and 49 deaths. An additional 8 inches fell less than two weeks after that.

Then Irene arrived.

The story was the same along South Carolina's coast.

A day after Irene swelled the Waccamaw River to almost 9 feet Monday — or nearly 2 feet above flood stage — Mary Roberts returned to her riverside home to find 8 inches of water sloshing in her house.

Catholic bishops offer advice for voters in guide

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The nation's Roman Catholic bishops are urging America's 60 million Catholics to think about the rights of the poor and of "innocent unborn children" before they pull the lever in the voting booth next year.

In a guide due to reach parishes throughout the country next month, the bishops call on Catholics to consider voting a moral obligation.

The guide, "Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium," includes 10 questions to help Catholics assess candidates.

They include "How will we protect . . . innocent, unborn children?" and "How will we address the 35,000 children dying every day of the consequences of hunger, debt and lack of development around the world?"

"This is not a voting guide," said Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles. "There are no lists of candidates."

The document, he said, is intended to help Catholics "look at issues through the lens that reflects our belief in God's revelation."

The U.S. bishops have issued such guides during every presidential election year since the mid-1970s.

The main topics include abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment. But this guide is also the first to focus on such issues as debt reduction, school violence and land mines.

Deal Hudson, editor of the conservative Catholic magazine *Crisis*, called the approach evenhanded, noting "a very conscious attempt on the bishops' part that this document should not be politicized in a partisan way."

Tom Roberts, editor of the liberal Catholic weekly, *National Catholic Reporter*, agreed.

"It's an extremely valuable run-down on what American Catholics should be concerned about," he said.

PHIL MURPHY -
Data

THE IDEAS INDUSTRY

Richard Morin and Claudia Deane

A Wealth of Nonprofit Financial Data

The **Urban Institute** is putting the final filigree on a new online gold mine of information about the country's think tanks, charities and other nonprofits.

With the help of the Internal Revenue Service, the institute has been downloading the tax forms filed last year by about 200,000 nonprofit organizations (known in the biz as 501c3s), a tax basket that includes groups from the American Cancer Society to the Heritage Foundation. The IRS has been scanning the forms.

Got a fund-raising letter from Poodles in Crisis? You'll be able to check out its programs, officers and income online.

Of course, the database also will make it easier for the reflexively nosy among us to identify those folks being paid the most for their good works (the salaries of each organization's top five earners are listed), parse dollars spent on fund-raising and see who's garnering the big government bucks.

Federal law requires charities to make these Form 990s available to the public, but that doesn't mean the information has been easily accessible.

"At the moment, the only way to access them is to go individually to the organizations," or to write to the IRS, said Linda Lampkin, who runs the Urban Institute's National Center for Charitable Statistics. "This will give instant access."

Three years in the making, the multimillion-dollar project is set to debut later this fall. Watch the institute's Web site for details (<http://www.urban.org>).



ODD COUPLE: The left-leaning **Center for National Policy** has announced that it will break with recent tradition and give half of its annual Edmund S. Muskie Distinguished Public Service Award to . . . a Republican. This year Sen. John W. Warner (R-Va.) and Sen. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.) will share the prize for their work on foreign affairs, from Cuba to Kosovo. Previous recipients of the four-year-old award include Hillary Rodham Clinton, Lee H. Hamilton, Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Senate Minority Leader Thomas A. Daschle (D-S.D.). A blowout is planned at the National Building Museum in mid-October.

Word is that CNP is working on upping its appeal to the less familiar side of the aisle. But "it's not like this is the first Republican to walk through our doors," said center spokesman Justin Leach, who points out that the tank has had GOP speakers at other events.



ON THE AIR: If you happened to catch the local broadcast of Rush Limbaugh's show in the past few days, you know the **Competitive Enterprise Institute** is doing more than just thinking about Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. In the past week, CEI has been running ads denouncing CAFE during Limbaugh's broadcast on WMAL, and in previous weeks bought time on 10 stations in Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota.

The occasion is the upcoming consideration of the transportation appropriations bill in the Senate, where a bipartisan group of lawmakers want to begin laying the groundwork for a tightening of the standards. Currently, they are set at 27.5 miles per gallon for car fleets, and 20.7 miles per gallon for trucks, minivans and SUVs.

The radio ads are the latest salvo in a war CEI is waging against CAFE. Earlier this year, the group released a controversial study that claimed CAFE kills, albeit indirectly. Strict gas mileage standards equals smaller cars equals worse car crashes, CEI researchers claimed. Their estimate: 2,600 to 4,500 fatalities were due to CAFE passenger car standards in 1997.

From its start in 1984, the institute has thumbed its nose at the traditional think tank model, instead adopting what it terms a "full service approach" that begins with research but doesn't end there, stretching instead to dogged issue advocacy. CEI thinkers have been after CAFE standards since drawing their first organizational breath, even taking the federal government to court three times.

The CAFE fight puts them on the side of automakers (from whom they receive some funding), and pits them against enviros. Both sides have taken their case to key states.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: It was the 15th annual **Cato Institute** Salmonfest on Sunday at the lakefront Falls Church home of Cato President Ed Crane. More than 400 staff members and supporters took boat rides, ate snow cones, rubbed libertarian elbows and wondered whether RSVPed Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes would show up (he didn't). Of course they also tucked into 250 pounds of high-priced grilled fish. Brain food for brainiacs, maybe?



NET NEWS: Here's an Internet address you've got to love: <http://www.overlawyered.com>, a Web site recently launched by **Manhattan Institute** senior fellow Walter Olson. Olson writes that he launched the site to document "the need for reform of the American civil justice system." The page is updated regularly with legal horror stories, data links and such.



FINAL THOUGHT: Next week the **Center for Media and Public Affairs** will release its latest report: "Murder, Malice and Mayhem: Violence in Popular Entertainment." The center compares coverage of violence on broadcast TV, cable, movies and music videos. And it's already got a sequel in the works for release later this fall: "Lewd, Crude and Rude: Sex and Sleaze in Popular Entertainment." Is it ratings sweeps week?

Have news about think tanks, policy-oriented foundations or nonprofits? E-mail it to ideas@washpost.com

The Washington Post

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Debate Arises on Renewing U.S. Training of Indonesian Troops

By DANA PRIEST and BRADLEY GRAHAM
Washington Post Staff Writers

Over the past decade, the U.S. military has spent millions of dollars to train legions of Indonesian troops. When Congress restricted the programs after the military's 1991 massacre of peasants in East Timor, the Pentagon continued to train elite special forces through a loophole it created.

The Indonesian military's participation in the violence in East Timor this month has rekindled a heated debate over the value of continued military contacts with the insular armed forces that dominate the world's fourth-most populous country.

On one side is the U.S. military and the defense committees in Congress, which argue that congressional restrictions have hindered the Pentagon's influence and have cut the United States off from the new generation of commanders.

On the other side are human rights groups and some members of congressional foreign relations committees, who believe the ties have only emboldened the Indonesia military and have trained troops responsible for long-standing repression in East Timor.

Last Thursday, the administration sus-

pended all military-to-military contacts indefinitely. President Clinton charged the Indonesian military with "aiding and abetting" the violence in East Timor. U.S. military officials are set to argue for its resumption once the situation calms, according to defense officials.

Since the mid-1990s, the U.S. military has sent a parade of generals and has conducted numerous Navy port visits to the country to gain access and influence. Dozens of Indonesian officers have come here each year on exchange programs.

Congress curtailed most tactical military training programs in 1992, after the military's involvement in the Dili massacre of peasants and independence activists in November 1991. Since then, though, special operations forces have conducted 41 training exercises with Indonesia. Most involved Indonesian special forces troops, called Kopassus, and included courses on sniper techniques, close-quarters combat, mortar attacks and "internal defense."

In May 1998, U.S. officials concluded that some Kopassus troops and commanders had been involved in torturing and kidnapping political dissidents, allegations human rights groups have made for years. Kopassus, which has played a key military

role in East Timor, is being accused by international human rights groups and East Timorese activists of organizing and training the militias that carried out this month's rampage.

"I can't see any benefit to it," said Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) when asked yesterday about the contacts. "What good did it do us?"

Harkin, who visited East Timor days before the population overwhelming voted to become independent of Indonesia, said future contact should be "arm's-length" and that civilian exchanges to encourage a transition to democracy should be augmented.

Far from interpreting the recent crisis as evidence that military contact programs pay few dividends, Pentagon officials say the opposite is true. They say it was against the backdrop of friendly U.S.-Indonesian military ties that Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, became acquainted with his Indonesian counterpart, Gen. Wiranto, during two visits over the past five years.

Shelton called Wiranto last Monday, telling him the United States expected Indonesian forces to reestablish control in East Timor, according to a high-ranking U.S. officer familiar with the conversation.

Shelton phoned again Friday, as violence continued and after Wiranto opposed accepting peacekeepers in the near term. Shelton delivered "a very blunt message," the officer said, warning that Indonesia would become a pariah state, stripped of international military and economic assistance, if order were not restored.

"I do think it was influential," the officer said. "I think hearing it in no uncertain terms as a friend to a friend, as a military leader to military leader, sent a very clear signal to Wiranto that this was getting very serious."

Wiranto visited East Timor the next day, then phoned Shelton on Sunday to report his decision to recommend that peacekeepers be allowed in after all.

Pentagon officials suggest that events could have been worse in East Timor without their training. "We're not trying to claim that the Indonesian military is perfect, far from it," the senior officer said. "But we don't know what they might have been doing had they not had the training they've gotten or had we not had the contacts we had. You don't fix them overnight, but you at least stand a chance if you've got people in there talking to them and you've got people living in America looking at how we operate in this society."

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