

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

12/15/99

Eric -

Here is a copy of a
short informational memo
is sending over this afternoon.

Let me know if you
have questions.

Bgt.
V.B.

Sam -
Mick Compz

December 15, 1999

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

From: Harris Wofford 
Subject: Bulletin on Progress in National Service

I write to bring you up-to-date on three significant developments:

First, the Corporation for National Service took the leading part in bringing about a new compact with more than a dozen of the leading national youth organizations specifically pledging to increase opportunities for young people to help fulfill America's Promise for other young people. We are working closely with organizations like Big Brothers Big Sisters, the YMCA, and Boys and Girls Clubs to demonstrate that young people must be seen – and see themselves – as resources and leaders in fixing what ails us as a nation. By adopting common strategies to achieve this shared agenda, we are making major strides toward bringing service by youth to scale in this country. The compact includes concerted support for the goals of 100,000 AmeriCorps members, two million President's Student Service Awards for 100 hours of service, and half a million work-study students in community service.

Second, the Corporation continues its close collaboration with the Department of Education to advance service-learning in schools at all levels. In September, we released the findings of a joint study that shows one-third of all public schools in the country – and nearly half of all public high schools – engage students in service-learning, and nearly two-thirds organize or recognize some form of community service. Just last week, Secretary Riley and I renewed our agencies' (and the Administration's) commitment to a set of principles that are critical to promoting service-learning in our nation's schools.

Third, consistent with your emphasis on closing the Digital Divide, we recently joined in the announcement of a new multimillion dollar initiative called *PowerUP*. It is a joint venture of America Online, the Case Foundation, America's Promise, the YMCA of the USA, Boys and Girls Clubs, the Waitt Family Foundation, and other partners and funders who are donating computers, internet access and other resources to schools and community centers that are without them. In 250 new PowerUP centers, more than 400 trained AmeriCorps*VISTA members will serve full-time as mentors to young participants and train them in computer technologies they'll need to succeed in the digital age. Most of the VISTA costs will be paid by the Case Foundation or other partners such as the Boys and Girls Clubs.

I enclose further information on each of these developments. Taken together, they represent strong progress in making citizen service the common expectation of all Americans and to using service as a key strategy in engaging young people in solving some of the country's most pressing problems.



A Compact to Fulfill All Five Promises through Young People: *Giving all young people the challenge, inspiration, and opportunities to serve*

We, the undersigned organizations, join in the common conviction that young people are vital resources for their communities and can play a key role in fulfilling all five of the promises of the campaign for America's Promise for other young people. We – youth and those who are older – will combine our efforts to achieve these aims:

- build awareness, enthusiasm, and the will to serve among the young;
- offer high-quality opportunities for service – including service-learning – by the young;
- recognize, reward, and highlight youth as role models for service and citizenship;
- develop the leadership potential and encourage the civic engagement of young people through training, peer-to-peer exchanges, and service experiences that challenge them to assume increasing responsibility; and
- add resources to and strengthen the infrastructure of the youth service field to accomplish the above aims.

A Youth Service Strategy:

A centerpiece of our strategy to achieve these aims will be National Youth Service Day, April 14-15, 2000. This day will kick off a year of continuing and growing activity for service by young people, including other signature days of service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Make a Difference Day, Family Volunteering Day, the Youth Summit at the National Community Service Conference and the Youth Service Day of the Fraternal Congress. All of these days will provide opportunities 1) to sign up more young people to serve; 2) to honor, reward, and recognize young people for their leadership; and 3) to expand the service opportunities for young people to fulfill their service pledges and commitments to help fulfill the five promises.

In addition to these days and seasons of service, our collaborating organizations will pursue together the following: 1) a 'toolkit' or 'cookbook' on how to engage youth in service including model initiatives and strategies from each participating organization; 2) joint training for key staff in each organization in how to include youth as leaders in service and training in fundraising for local organizations to help them build sustainable initiatives; and 3) a national public information campaign to highlight youth as resources.

During this year, through a range of youth service initiatives sponsored by the participating organizations, one of the measures for service will be the standard of 100 hours – to be tracked by the President's Student Service Awards. This initiative, paralleling the President's Physical Fitness Awards, puts civic fitness on par with physical fitness by honoring youth ages 5 to 25 who perform at least 100 hours of service to their communities. On each National Youth Service Day, we will report our progress, launch new partnerships, and share resources for the common elements of the national youth service agenda.

This strategy to provide opportunities and inspiration for young people to give back through their own service on behalf of all five promises should seek to achieve the three targets set by the Goal Five Advisory Board created by America's Promise after the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia in 1997. The Advisory Board developed three specific milestones toward which to strive:

- 1) At least two million additional young people to serve 100 hours per year by the year 2000. (The President's Student Service Awards were created to promote and track progress toward this goal.)
- 2) At least 100,000 young people to have the opportunity to become service leaders who provide more than 1,000 hours of service per year. (The President's budget forecasts funding for 100,000 AmeriCorps members per year by 2003. Some of them would be part of a proposed new high school AmeriCorps.)
- 3) At least half of the one million college students paying for college costs through the federal work-study program to work in the community, rather than on campus. (More than 1,200 colleges and university presidents have joined in a call to service by work-study students through local America Reads and America Counts Challenge programs.)

Implementing the Strategy:

This year-round strategy for service by young people – including the following key initiatives of the participating organizations – will enable us to achieve the aims set forth in this compact. Each participating organization will embrace – in addition to its own initiatives and priorities – as many of the following as their missions permit. And as new initiatives develop, the participating organizations will consider how to help them succeed.

- America's Promise, States of Promise, Communities of Promise – As sponsor and key partner of this Compact, America's Promise will ask its several hundred corporate and non-profit commitment-makers and the network of States of Promise and Communities of Promise to join in advancing this strategy for youth engagement in service. This Compact will be presented to the public as one of the important ways that America's Promise is organizing an Alliance for Youth that works together to fulfill all five promises.
- President's Student Service Awards – The Awards honor youth ages 5 to 25 who perform at least 100 hours of service to the community in a 12-month period – or, for those under age 15 at least 50 hours. All award winners receive a gold or silver pin, a presidential certificate, and a letter from the President. More than 17,000 Awards have been distributed thus far.
- President's Student Service Scholarships – So long as Corporation for National Service funds are available and matched by local contributors, each high school in the country may select up to two students – preferably one junior and one senior – to receive a \$1,000 President's Student Service Scholarship for outstanding service to the community (\$500 is provided by the Corporation).
- National Youth Service Day – National Youth Service Day is the largest annual service event in the country mobilizing approximately 3 million young people and adults through thousands of service projects. Its goal is to recognize the contributions of young people through service, to mobilize the next generation of volunteers and service leaders, and to highlight youth as resources in their communities. Next year's National Youth Service Day is April 14-15, 2000.

- **America Reads Challenge** – The goal of this presidential challenge is to ensure that every child can read by the end of the third grade. Thousands of AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA members, Senior volunteers, and college work-study students or volunteers are engaged in organizing and participating in after-school, in-school, or summer literacy programs. The Communities In Schools model for Schools of Promise is being replicated across the country. City Cares is working with universities and colleges to get college tutors to give four hours per week to tutor a child.
- **SERVEnet** - Youth Service America is committed to having volunteer opportunities for every zip code in America on its web site by the end of the year 2000. This database is accessible through “Volunteer Now” boxes on popular culture web sites, such as MTV, NBA, Sears & Roebuck, and Timberland, with Parade Magazine and REACT magazines now joining the effort.
- **Youth Summit** – A Youth Summit is in the initial stages of being organized as part of the Year 2000 National Community Service Conference in Orlando in June, 2000.
- **The Kindness and Justice Challenge** – The K&J Challenge is Do Something’s two-week campaign to practice acts of kindness and justice for character education and leadership training around the Martin Luther King Day Holiday. Last year 16,000 educators engaged more than two million students in all 50 states in this effort.
- **Out-of-School and Summer Service Time** - City Cares is encouraging summer time service, working through camps. Its affiliates in Charlotte and Atlanta have developed good models for the national effort. AmeriCorps, including City Year, the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and VISTA, is also giving summer service and vacation programs priority.
- **Bigs/Littles Serving Together** – Big Brothers Big Sisters of America encourages its Bigs and Littles and its “sibling matches” to do service together as a core activity in the mentoring relationship. Some programs encourage service together once a month.
- **Older Students Mentoring or Tutoring Younger Students** – Big Brothers Big Sisters’ affiliates are experimenting with high school and college students mentoring elementary school students. In Boys & Girls Clubs’ Keystone Clubs for 14-17 year olds, efforts are underway to encourage older Club members to serve as mentors to younger Club members. Literacy corps and many other local initiatives with AmeriCorps members and service-learning programs are engaged in organizing high school or middle school students to tutor elementary students in after-school programs.
- **Youth Affirmation** – This new five-year, \$5 million initiative of the Red Cross will make funds available to forty local chapters who demonstrate effective collaborations with other youth service organizations and within the Red Cross structure. Chapters are being encouraged to integrate youth into their leadership structure and to provide substantive and diverse opportunities for youth involvement.

- Continuing Service Initiative for Former AmeriCorps Members –Working with the partners in this Compact, the Corporation for National Service is developing a special registry of former AmeriCorps members who are interested in continuing volunteer service and will match the skills and experience of these alumni with the specific needs of nonprofit and educational allies. The President issued this Call to Continuing Service on the Fifth Anniversary of AmeriCorps and is writing to all 150, 000 former and current AmeriCorps members.

In addition to the primary joint undertakings described above, members of this Compact also recognize the following initiatives of participating organizations and the contribution they make to fulfilling all five promises through young people:

- Service Passports: City Cares is developing a tool to allow young people to track their service hours to prove eligibility for perks and discounts from corporate sponsors. The program is currently in the first of three developmental phases. When it is ready to be expanded beyond the City Cares network, many participating organizations are interested in supporting this initiative.
- Schools of Promise: Communities in Schools is leading the charge on behalf of America's Promise to serve as the broker to bring community agencies and volunteers into the schools to deliver all five basic promises
- Service-Learning Leader Schools: In its inaugural year, seventy high schools located in 41 states were selected through an annual competition and honored by the Corporation for National Service for their exemplary efforts to integrate student service into the curriculum and life of the school. Next year the competition will be extended to middle schools. Leader schools will play an active role in spreading service-learning to other schools in their districts or states.
- Civic Action: A new initiative of the YMCA funded through the Pew Charitable Trusts will work with young people 18-25 years old to get them involved in community governance and other aspects of civic life.
- Youth of the Year Program: All Boys and Girls Clubs select a Youth of the Year, with service as an important criterion. Each state chooses a winner and there are regional and national Youths of the Year, all receiving cash scholarship awards. The \$1,000 college scholarships for service are also now available to local clubs for their Youths of the Year.
- Family Matters: This program of the Points of Light Foundation promotes volunteering by families and sponsors the national Family Volunteering Day.
- Leadership 2000: This initiative of Youth Service America will seek to integrate service into the current presidential campaign dialogue and debates.
- Serve 2K: The Grantmaker Forum on Community and National Service is working with other participants to agree on an integrated approach to communications and policy in order to infuse service into the public discourse surrounding the millennium. A central aim of Serve 2K is to create a "universal message" about service (like the auto industry's "buckle up" campaign) to which organizations can attach their own tag lines and logos.

- Y Earth Service Corps: This existing program of the YMCA engages teams of 10-15 high school and college-age youth in planning and implementing environmental service projects. This is part of the YMCA's growing effort to include service-learning in its youth activities.
- The Fund for Social Entrepreneurs of Youth Service America: The Fund provides financial support to talented individuals who are launching innovative national and community youth service ventures. The Fund will add six slots designated for young people next year.
- Do Something League: The Do Something organization is promoting a new "sport" of community-building through which every school has a Community Coach to lead a year-round curriculum teaching young people important skills in leadership and service.
- Fostering Success: This Girl Scouts demonstration project in Michigan serves girls in foster care as an effort to bring the long-standing and tested scouting program model to some new and particularly under-served populations.
- Mentoring Girls: Supported by the Met Life Foundation, this Girl Scouts demonstration project is operating in 15 sites.
- Girl Scouts Beyond Bars: In collaboration with the Department of Justice, this Girl Scouts expansion effort works with girls whose mothers are incarcerated.
- Border Initiative: In collaboration with the Texas Border Council and a leading national Latino organization, this Girl Scouts expansion effort works with girls on the U.S. – Mexico border.
- Prudential Youth Leadership Institute: This national innovative leadership and service training program for high school age students is administered by Prudential, the Points of Light Foundation, and Youth Service America. A network of 300 trainers from local organizations/partners delivers the training across the country to more than 2,000 students each year.

Organizations Participating in the Compact:

America's Promise
 American Red Cross
 Big Brothers Big Sisters
 Boys and Girls Clubs
 City Cares of America
 Communities in Schools
 Corporation for National Service
 Do Something
 Girl Scouts of America
 Grantmaker Forum for Community and National Service
 Points of Light Foundation
 United Way of America
 YMCA of the USA
 Youth Service America

Organizations to be invited to join the Compact:

Boy Scouts of America
Campfire Boys and Girls
Campus Compact
Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL)
Center for Youth As Resources
City Year, Inc.
Girls Incorporated
Jewish Community Centers of North America
Job Corps, U.S. Department of Labor
Lions Club International
March of Dimes
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National 4-H Council
National Assembly of Health and Human Service Organizations
National Association of Police Athletic Leagues
National Fraternal Congress of America
National Governors' Association
National League of Cities
National Mentoring Partnership
National Youth Leadership Council
Urban League
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Volunteers of America
Women in Community Service
Youth Volunteer Corps of America

Partners in the Above Primary Youth Service Initiatives

For each of the initiatives described in the “Implementing the Strategy” section above, we list below first the sponsoring organization and then, secondly, the organizations in this Compact that have so far agreed to actively pursue them.

- **President’s Student Service Awards**, an initiative of the President and the Corporation for National Service administered by the American Institute for Public Service, Points of Light Foundation, and Youth Service America.
Organizational Partners: All organizations participating in this Compact.
- **President’s Student Service Scholarships**, an initiative of the President and the Corporation for National Service administered by the Citizens’ Scholarship Foundation of America.
Organizational Partners: The Points of Light Foundation, Communities in Schools, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Youth Service America, Do Something, the United Way of America, and America’s Promise.
- **National Youth Service Day**, an initiative of Youth Service America.
Organizational Partners: Currently there are 34 National Partners that have signed up to promote the event through their networks, including all organizations participating in this Compact.
- **America Reads Challenge**, an initiative of the President, the Department of Education and the Corporation for National Service.
Organizational Partners: Communities in Schools, Do Something, The Points of Light Foundation, the YMCA of the USA, City Cares of America, the United Way of America, and America’s Promise.
- **SERVEnet**, a service of Youth Service America for all youth service organizations.
Any organization can post volunteer opportunities and other service-related information on SERVENet for free. In addition, YSA is providing the Volunteer Now! box and database to interested partners to place on their web sites.
- **Youth Summit**
Organizational Partners: The Points of Light Foundation, United Way of America, Corporation for National Service, Youth Service America, City Cares, Do Something, the American Red Cross, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, the YMCA of the USA, and America’s Promise.
- **Kindness and Justice Challenge**, an initiative of Do Something
Organizational Partners: Youth Service America, United Way of America, the Points of Light Foundation, Communities in Schools, the Corporation for National Service, and America’s Promise.
- **Out-of-School and Summer Service Time**
Organizational Partners: City Cares of America, the Points of Light Foundation, Do Something, Communities in Schools, Youth Service America, the Corporation for National Service, and America’s Promise.

- **Bigs/Littles Serving Together**, an initiative of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America.
Organizational Partners: Do Something, Corporation for National Service, and Youth Service America.
- **Older Students Mentoring or Tutoring Younger Students**
Organizational Partners: Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, The Points of Light Foundation the Corporation for National Service, and America's Promise.
- **Youth Affirmation**, an initiative of the American Red Cross.
Organizational Partners: Do Something and the Corporation for National Service.
- **Continuing Service of Former AmeriCorps Members**, an initiative of the Corporation for National Service.
Organizational Partners: American Red Cross, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Points of Light Foundation, United Way of America, YMCA of the USA, City Cares of America, Communities in Schools, Youth Service America, and America's Promise.

Background on the Fifth Promise

The historic Presidents' Summit for America's Future – held in Philadelphia in April 1997 – was designed to unleash a new level of energy, organizational commitment and citizen power to help turn the tide for millions of children and youth who lack five basic conditions for success. They are embodied in the five promises declared at Philadelphia and carried forth in the campaign for America's Promise led by General Colin Powell – that all young persons in America will have: (1) an ongoing relationship with a caring adult as mentor, tutor, coach; (2) safe places with structured activities to learn and grow during non-school hours; (3) a healthy start and a healthy future; (4) a marketable skill through effective education; and (5) an opportunity to give back through their own service to the community.

Every young person needs all five basic promises, and there must be a common strategy for delivering all five. But none of the promises is more important than the fifth one – that all young people be challenged, inspired, and given opportunities to serve.

Much attention is paid to what's wrong with today's children and youth – the problems of isolation, despair, and recklessness. The common response is to look to adults to help children. But much more attention must be given to the role young people themselves can play in delivering the five promises to their peers, to younger children, and to themselves.

Youth service – tapping into the talents and energies of young people – is part of the antidote this country needs for our toxic culture of violence, apathy, and alienation. Recent tragedies give ever more reason why we must invest in our young people, why we must ignite their imaginations, why we must engage their minds and bodies in working along side people of different racial, economic, and religious backgrounds to solve problems and achieve common goals. Young people must be seen – and see themselves – as resources and solutions, not as problems and victims. They must be asked to take responsibility, work hard, and become leaders.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve." To fulfill America's Promise, every young person must be challenged and inspired to realize this greatness. We must challenge families, schools, colleges and universities, communities of faith, national service and youth corps, and community organizations to create more high quality opportunities for young people to serve America.

Most importantly, we must ask. We must ask more of young people – to demonstrate their power to lead, to serve, to deliver America's Promise to their peers and themselves. A Gallup Poll showed that teens were nearly four times more likely to volunteer if they were asked than if they were not. So we must ask all young people to become active-duty citizens—and to discover their own potential through service.

History shows that great goals galvanize. The five promises of America's Promise have this same potential. Our vision – the vision of Promise Five – is to make citizen service the common expectation and common experience of all Americans. Raising people's sights to this vision is one of the nation's greatest needs.

*-- Taken from the working paper of the earlier advisory group on Promise Five:
"Tapping the Power and Talent of Young People."*



FOR EMBARGOED RELEASE: 11 a.m.
September 29, 1999

Contact: David Thomas (202) 401-1579
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SURVEY SHOWS COMMUNITY SERVICE, SERVICE LEARNING ON THE RISE

A new survey shows that many public schools are encouraging students to perform community service and that much of this service is integrated into the curriculum, a practice known as service-learning.

According to the survey, approximately one-third of public schools use service-learning as part of the curriculum and nearly two-thirds have students involved in community service that is recognized or arranged by the school.

Furthermore, the study finds that community service and service-learning are now rooted in public education at all grade levels.

"Schools are teaching students to become better citizens by helping their fellow citizens," said U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, "and making their community service even more relevant by linking it to what they learn in school. This is a good recipe for connecting education to life experiences. The increase in these activities is a good sign for our schools, our communities and our nation."

Riley added that he is encouraged by the complementary work of the Corporation for National Service, which is ensuring that students pursue quality in their community service experiences and that schools find innovative and effective ways to incorporate community service activities into their curricula.

"The survey confirms what we've been hearing from educators – that service learning makes a tremendous impact on students and their communities," said Harris Wofford, CEO of the corporation. "Students develop solid citizenship skills by participating in projects to make their communities better places to live."

Wofford will highlight findings from the report today in Philadelphia, along with James Kohlmoos, deputy assistant education secretary, and David Hornbeck, Philadelphia's superintendent of schools. During the event, students at Simon Gratz High School will demonstrate the impact that service-learning has had on their education.

Service-Learning and Community Service in K-12 Public Schools, released by the Education Department's National Center for Education Statistics, is the first study to provide reliable national estimates of the percentage of public K-12 schools incorporating service-learning into their course curriculum, as well as providing the most recent data on school engagement in community service.

Highlights from the survey include:

- Sixty-four percent of all public schools, including 83 percent of public high schools, had students participating in community service activities recognized by or arranged through the school;
- Fifty-seven percent of all public schools organized community service activities for their students;
- Thirty-two percent of all schools organized service-learning as part of their curriculum, including nearly half of all high schools;
- Most schools with service-learning cited strengthening relationships among students, the school and the community as key reasons for practicing service-learning; and
- Eighty-three percent of schools with service-learning offered some type of support to teachers integrating service-learning into the curriculum.

The survey also provides reliable national estimates on sources of funding to support community service and service-learning, school policies making participation in service-learning voluntary or mandatory, and how schools are implementing service-learning.

IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS *and the* CHALLENGE of CITIZENSHIP

A Declaration of Principles

Ours is a nation blessed with unmatched resources and an inspiring tradition of self-government. As we face the rising of a new century—indeed, a new era—perhaps no single issue demands more serious attention than how we shall go about assuring the highest quality education for all Americans. The challenge of citizenship in a democratic society demands from each of us our very best.

What efforts must we make to develop the leadership and skills that it will take for our children not simply to survive but to thrive in the 21st Century?

Education is the key to honoring America's promise. Our schools are indeed the crucible of our democracy. Their quality and constant improvement—a daily obligation, a daily rediscovery—is very much the measure by which our success as a nation depends. That is a daunting standard, but its achievement is within our grasp.

That is why we believe it is important to emphasize the common enterprise of school improvement and the national service movement. Service-learning is the bridge. Travelers from both directions know how much each depends on the other, and how each contributes to the greater good of our schools and indeed our public life. Working together, the Corporation for National Service and the United States Department of Education seek to honor and to support the many thousands of teachers and parents and students who each day continue to make distinctive contributions to the quality of learning and life in their many communities across the country.

Six principles declare our shared commitment to school improvement and what's best in our American tradition of self-help and community spirit. Each is a partner to the other; neither stands alone. Achievements across the country already demonstrate that there are many effective ways to advance the goal of school improvement, and many models to praise and follow. No single formula for school improvement will fit every local community's needs, but innovative service-learning is invariably a key feature of local school success. A remarkable symmetry of both purpose and pedagogy illustrates the partnership we seek to advance.

Principle 1. All children can achieve higher levels of academic success while learning to serve if they are set challenging standards and given the opportunity to reach them.

Demand the most from young people and they will confidently exceed your best expectations. Not only do students learn more by serving their communities, but also their communities prosper as their students learn and provide needed service.

Principle 2. By solving real-life problems, students engaged in service-learning are challenged to exercise leadership and responsibility. Citizenship is something we learn, not something we merely inherit. Hundreds of thousands of young people are learning to lead and "getting things done" in America's communities.

Principle 3. School improvement and service-learning require career-long teaching and professional development.

Successful service-learning programs invariably find innovative ways to advance the twin goals of teacher development and innovative curriculum development. That is the kind of partnership at the local level that will improve the quality of learning for all our children.

Principle 4. Improving our schools requires parental and community involvement.

Service-learning provides both teachers and parents with significant roles in helping students bridge the academic skills of the classroom and the responsibilities of daily life.

Principle 5. Improving our schools requires the participation of the private sector and the full range of every community's resources.

Businesses, community organizations, places of worship, recreational centers, and institutions of higher education each has a distinctive role to play in strengthening the partnerships between community service and the improvement of our schools. Partnerships of this kind underscore the fundamentally local and community-based tradition of American public education.

Principle 6. Ours is a nation of diverse cultures. Yet we are one people.

Service-learning is a vital factor in the movement to improve our schools. Their partnership is essential to helping our children to understand and to respect each other, and to exercise the rights and responsibilities of democratic citizenship.

Unflinching devotion to the highest academic standards and expectations of community responsibility are the cornerstones of genuine education reform and national service. We invite and anticipate the support of every American.


Richard W. Riley


Harris Wofford



Not p. 2

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lisa Ellen (212) 453-2444
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MAJOR "DIGITAL DIVIDE" INITIATIVE LAUNCHED

**Coalition of Business, Nonprofits and Government Partner to Reach Underserved Youth in
Thousands of Communities and Schools**

**A Breakthrough in Technology Access and Education --
New Organization Created to Advance Goals of America's Promise**

AOL and Gateway CEOs Commit Internet Accounts, Computers and Millions in Grants

WASHINGTON, November 8, 1999 -- More than a dozen nonprofit organizations, major corporations and federal agencies today launched a major new multimillion dollar initiative to help ensure that America's underserved young people acquire the skills, experiences and resources they need to succeed in the digital age.

The new initiative, called PowerUP™, is a unique partnership to give underserved children access to technology and guidance on how to use it. Based in schools and community centers around the country, PowerUP not only will provide young people with access to the wide range of content and information on the Internet; it will also help them develop additional skills they need to succeed in the 21st century.

PowerUP will be able to scale quickly and reach thousands of young people because it will leverage partnerships with numerous public and private organizations, and build on thousands of existing community centers, schools and other locations nationwide. PowerUP partners will provide technology, funding, trained personnel, in-kind support and other resources to help close the divide between young people who have access to computer-based information or technology-related skills and those who don't.

AOL Chairman and CEO Steve Case, who is chairing PowerUP, said: "There's no single solution to bridging the digital divide -- it's going to take all of us working together to make a difference. In a few short years, the Internet has transformed nearly every aspect of our lives -- and is fast transforming our society. The real question we face now is how we can make sure that everyone benefits from these changes. We must take steps now so that in the Internet Century, no children are left behind."

Case added, "PowerUP has drawn inspiration from America's Promise to deliver positive youth development opportunities to the nation's young people. Its goal is not only to provide young people with access to computers and the Internet, but also to leverage technology's power and the potential of the online medium to help young people develop character and competence."

- more -

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email: ContactPowerUP@aol.com www.powerup.org

PowerUP
2-2-2-2

Gateway Chairman and CEO Ted Waitt, a founding member of the board of PowerUP, said, "The gap between the Internet haves and have nots is widening along racial, economic and geographic lines, and we absolutely, positively cannot afford another divide in this country. We can pull together. Nothing is more important in our lives and in the future of our communities than ensuring all of our children have access to the tools and information they need to get ahead, and stay ahead."

Created as a nonprofit organization, PowerUP is guided by a board of directors that in addition to Case and Waitt includes: Erskine Bowles, partner at Forstmann Little and former White House chief of staff; Jean Case, President of the Case Foundation; Carly Fiorina, President and CEO of Hewlett-Packard Company; Jack Kemp, Co-Director of Empower America; David Mercer, National Executive Director of YMCA; Sam Nunn, Partner at King and Spalding and former U.S. Senator; Leon Panetta, Director of the Panetta Institute and former Director of OMB and White House chief of staff; Retired Army General Colin L. Powell, Chairman of America's Promise; Franklin Raines, Chairman and CEO of Fannie Mae; and Roger Staubach, Chairman and CEO, The Staubach Company.

A Compelling National Need

General Colin L. Powell (Ret.), Chairman of America's Promise, said, "PowerUP is a breakthrough initiative that our nation urgently needs. As I've traveled throughout the country, it has become clear to me that our future success as a nation will depend on how prepared our young people are for the challenges of the 21st century. PowerUP will bring to the nation's underserved youth the skills and experiences they need to build a successful future."

Harris Wofford, CEO of the Corporation for National Service, said, "AmeriCorps is proud to add people power to PowerUP. We know from experience that just putting computer hardware and an Internet connection in the schools is not enough. To unleash the full potential of young people -- and of the computer -- kids need to know more than just how to surf the net. They need to learn how to use computers to succeed in a digital world. AmeriCorps members will give students access to advanced technology and compelling programming, in a safe environment with a caring adult. Together, that's what all of us in PowerUP will do."

A Powerful Program Offering

PowerUP brings together several critical and innovative program elements to create a powerful offering for community centers, schools and other locations nationwide. Key elements include:

- **Computers and Internet Access** - Through major grants from the Waitt Family Foundation and the AOL Foundation, PowerUP will provide 50,000 computers and 100,000 AOL accounts for free Internet access to sites throughout the country.

- **Innovative, Life-enriching Interactive Programming** - A unique "PowerUP Online" guide aggregates information and organizes activities and resources according to the "five promises" identified by America's Promise as essential for children to become successful adults including: tools on how to find a mentor; fun and productive activities to do after school; healthy lifestyle information; exploration of career opportunities and how to acquire the skills needed to take advantage of them; community service; and links with real-time community youth program opportunities provided by participating local youth serving organizations. PowerUP Online, developed by the AOL Foundation, also includes a scholastic/academic component addressing educational achievement.
- **An Army of Trained Workers** - PowerUP will provide the people power needed to effectively train young people in attaining digital literacy skills while offering them an ongoing relationship with a caring adult in a safe environment. Initially more than 400 specially trained, full-time AmeriCorps*VISTA members and other staff will provide a sustained and trained presence at PowerUP-supported centers where needed. One of the shortcomings in technology education efforts to date has been lack of dedicated, capable adult staff to work with young people in centers on a regular basis.
- **Partnering with Key Groups to Scale Quickly and on a Large Scale** - PowerUP's goal is to scale quickly to reach a national level. It will do this in two ways: by engaging key partner groups at the national and local levels, and by providing flexible program options for existing centers.
 - *Youth-serving organizations* - PowerUP will partner with local YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Save the Children's "Web of Support" centers, National Urban League, and other organizations with roots in thousands of communities across the country to connect young people with additional learning and positive youth development activities such as after-school sports, arts and crafts, or other classes and technology services.
 - *Federal agencies* - In keeping with a PowerUP goal of enhancing scholastic achievement and digital literacy, PowerUP will partner with the U.S. Department of Education's Computer Technology Centers and 21st Century Community Learning Centers to supplement and complement educational goals of children both during and after school hours.
 - *Corporations* - Companies that have established their own sites or technology programs may choose to add PowerUP program elements, and/or supply additional financing or in-kind support either at the national or local level.
 - *Private individuals and foundations* - Financial and in-kind support.

- **Millions of Dollars in Local Community Grants** - PowerUP will provide an initial total of \$5 million in direct grants to community- and school-based centers who wish to participate in the PowerUP program. Grants may be used for any activities or resource needs that are consistent with PowerUP's program goals.
- **Links with Schools** - PowerUP works to enhance scholastic achievement and national digital literacy goals by forming partnerships with local schools and educators. A section of the PowerUP Online guide features a scholastic approach to educational attainment linked to academic curricula, and AmeriCorps*VISTA members are responsible for connecting the PowerUP program with local schools to supplement and complement educational goals of young people both at school and after school.
- **Healthy Snacks** - Through its partnership with PowerBar Inc., PowerUP will provide PowerUP-supported sites with healthy snacks, including PowerBars, PowerBar Harvest bars, and PowerBar Essentials bars.

Steve Case said, "We recognize that there are many projects underway in communities across the nation that seek to bridge the digital divide, but they are fragmented and lack the scale necessary to attract significant resources. PowerUP will help knit these initiatives into a national tapestry and jump-start a crusade that can change the lives of millions of kids, bringing together an unprecedented combination of people, skills and resources."

"PowerUP offers us the opportunity to make dramatic progress in establishing consistent, quality-oriented methods and resources to ensure that technology centers and programs across the country share a common standard of excellence in driving positive youth development," Case said. "Just as the nation made a successful commitment to ensuring that every child has access to public education starting at the age of five, we must now commit ourselves to ensuring that in the 21st century every child in America has access to technology so that no one falls behind. This mission is what PowerUP is all about."

Partnership Brings Funds, People, Skills and Resources

The PowerUP partnership brings a range of support services and resources to community centers, schools and other youth service locations around the country:

- **National Benefactors** - National benefactors of PowerUP include the Case Foundation, the Waitt Family Foundation, AOL Inc./AOL Foundation, and The Corporation for National Service (which houses AmeriCorps*VISTA), and The YMCA of the USA. These organizations will bring money, computers, access, interactive programming, trained staff and other community-based services on a large scale to sites across the nation:

- *The Case Foundation*, established by Steve and Jean Case, will provide an initial grant of \$10 million to establish PowerUP. The grant includes \$5 million to cover all staff and administrative costs of the program, enabling partnership contributions to go directly to supporting or establishing in-site programs for youth at centers across the country. Another \$5 million will provide the local community grants to benefit up to 5,000 local community centers and school-based sites nationwide.
- *The Waitt Family Foundation*, established by Ted and Joan Waitt and their family, will supply computer hardware to PowerUP by providing 50,000 Gateway computers and Internet appliances over the next three years.
- *AOL Inc./The AOL Foundation* has donated its resources and staff to develop PowerUP Online, a first-of-its kind interactive programming guide built around the "five promises" that America's Promise has identified as essential for children to become successful adults. PowerUP Online aggregates valuable content and organizes activities and resources in an easy-to-use format for use in grades K-12. In addition, 100,000 AOL accounts are being provided for centers that need them.
- *The Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps*VISTA)* is bringing people power to PowerUP. Initially more than 400 AmeriCorps*VISTA members and others in AmeriCorps will be trained and deployed to provide dedicated, full-time mentoring and other assistance to schools, YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, National Urban League centers, Save the Children "Web of Support" centers, the U.S. Department of Education's Computer Technology Centers and 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and other community technology centers across the country.
- *The YMCA of the USA* will provide service-learning and positive youth development opportunities for young people at PowerUP-supported sites, including providing a sustained presence of caring, supportive adults who regularly interact with parents and teachers in the community.
 - **Founding National Partners** - Founding national partners who will support the program through their existing networks of community-based centers, training programs, in-kind contributions and other activities include Sun Microsystems, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Save the Children, National Urban League, Communities in Schools, FamilyEducation Network, PowerBar Inc., and the U.S. Department of Education's Computer Technology Centers and 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

PowerUP
6-6-6-6

- **Founding Local Sponsors -** Founding local sponsors who have established pilot sites for PowerUP in their communities include Microsoft, Sun Microsystems, the Northern Virginia Technology Council, and the Case Foundation. The sites are located in San Jose, CA; Seattle, WA; Alexandria, VA; and Washington, DC. The sites are additionally supported by the YMCAs of Santa Clara Valley, Greater Seattle, and Metropolitan Washington, which provide service-learning and positive youth development opportunities.

PowerUP is a commitment to America's Promise. America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth led by General Colin Powell, is dedicated to mobilizing individuals, groups and organizations from every part of American life, to build and strengthen the character and competence of our youth.

#

FROM:**John S. Gomperts****Chief of Staff****1201 New York Avenue, NW****Washington, DC 20525****(202) 606-5000, ext. 121****(202) 565-2784 fax****JGompert@cns.gov****CORPORATION****FOR NATIONAL****SERVICE****To:**Eric Liu**Fax Number:**456 - 2878**Pages:**2(including cover)**Date:**August 13, 1999

I thought you'd be pleased with General Powell's op-ed on AmeriCorps

Promise Fellows. This one ran on Monday in the Jackson (MS) paper.

There are about 10 others pending at similar regional papers.

The Clarion-Ledger

Mississippi's Newspaper

Monday ■ August 9, 1999

COLIN W. POWELL

AmeriCorps teens are helping to make Mississippi better



Guest Columnist

For some of our young people, preserving our democratic way of life means shouldering a rifle.

For others it means helping a child to read, or to secure health care. Or it means building a park, or helping communities recover from natural disasters, or reclaiming the environment.

For a select group of young people called the AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, it means endowing those younger than themselves with the character and competence they need to lead successful lives.

The AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are the latest idea to emerge from the partnership between the Corporation for National Service (AmeriCorps) and the crusade for young people, called America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, I am leading.

Five promises to youth

At the heart are five mutually reinforcing promises to our youth:

■ An ongoing relationship with a caring adult — a parent, mentor, tutor or coach.

■ Safe places and structured activities during non-school hours.

■ A healthy start.

■ A marketable skill through effective education.

■ An opportunity to give back through community service.

To keep these five promises, we are mobilizing a national alliance of government, business, nonprofits, service organizations and other concerned sectors.

The creation of the AmeriCorps Promise Fellowships was announced by President Clinton last year. The AmeriCorps Promise Fellows will serve as full-time leaders who can mobilize volunteer efforts to meet the needs of local youth. Right now, more than 400 are at work in communities all across the country.

Here in Mississippi, 11 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are establishing mentoring, after-school and literacy programs, as well as other projects, to serve young people across the state.

In Canton and Sebastopol, AmeriCorps Promise Fellows serving with the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association are helping to notify community members of available health care services.

Another Fellow started a class, Parenting 101, that helps parents give their children a healthy start.

More success stories

An AmeriCorps Promise Fellow in north Mississippi helped bring medical care to 150 students through the CATCH Kids program that brings doctors and nurses into public schools to treat children and educate students.

Another AmeriCorps Promise Fellow helped recruit 150 volunteers to run a day camp in Jackson free of charge.

These are just a few ways AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are making Mississippi a better place by giving young people a better chance at life. Their motto is, "Delivering on America's Promise to Youth," and that is what they are doing.

Because these young people are going to be serving in positions of leadership, they are going to exert an influence far in excess of their numbers. They are going to help put children and teens on the road to successful adult lives.

They are also going to be role models for their own peer groups.

Finally, when they finish their year of service, they are going to carry that experience with them for the rest of their lives.

Whenever they are confronted with a problem or need in their communities, they will be able to draw on their experience as Fellows in devising solutions, and their neighbors will be able to look to them for leadership and advice.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are an investment in young people, for the purpose of helping other young people, that promises to pay unlimited returns to our nation in the century ahead.

Retired Army Gen. Colin L. Powell is chairman of America's Promise — The Alliance for Youth.

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Ten Years of Youth in Service to America

Shirley Sagawa

AMERICAN YOUTH POLICY FORUM



NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING LEADER SCHOOLS

a Presidential initiative administered by
THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

The Corporation for National Service announces a new Presidential awards initiative—the National Service-Learning Leader Schools Program. In 1998-1999, its pilot year, the program will recognize up to 100 high schools for their exemplary integration of student service into the curriculum and the life of the school.

What Types of Schools Will Be Selected?

A National Service-Learning Leader School must have broad-based service-learning activities taking place throughout the school. There are many ways to incorporate service effectively into a school's curriculum and culture. Leader Schools should demonstrate service-learning that enhances student learning, meets the needs of the community, is well integrated into the life of the school, and is designed to foster civic responsibility.

What Will National Service-Learning Leader Schools Do?

The National Service-Learning Leader Schools Program is not simply an awards program. The schools selected as National Service-Learning Leader Schools will be active winners, assisting other schools and contributing to the advancement of service-learning throughout the country. For a period of two years, the selected schools will serve as models for other schools—locally, regionally, and nationally. They will lead, mentor, and coach other schools by sharing materials, making presentations, or participating in peer exchanges. Additionally, the National Service-Learning Leader Schools will comprise a network of educators who can learn from one another and further develop their school's leadership.



What Is Service-Learning?

Service-learning combines meaningful service to the community with classroom studies in a way that improves student learning and strengthens communities. Students work in collaboration with community members, teachers, and their classmates to meet real needs while learning more about math, science, English, social studies, and other subjects.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

In this pilot year, all high schools in the United States that serve any combination of grades 9 through 12 are eligible to apply. Schools will apply to their state education agency which will then forward the state's nominees to a national review panel. Schools from U.S. territories and Indian tribes will send applications directly to the national office--call for details.

How Do I Get More Information?

If you think your school might qualify, please contact:

Service-Learning Leader Schools
1150 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036
800/628-8442 extension 690
www.nationalservice.org/learn

Learning to Serve...Serving to Learn

working group

A working group of nationally known educators, teachers, administrators, students, service-learning advocates, and others has helped the Corporation for National Service develop the National Service-Learning Leader Schools initiative. Members of the working group include:

Amy Achor

High School Student and Organizer
America's Promise
Waco, Texas

Sharon Achor

Teacher, Midway High School
Waco, Texas

Elaine Andrus

Director, Carnegie Middle Grades
School State Policy Initiative for
Colorado

Sheila Bailey

Service Learning Consultant
Vermont Department of Education

Bill Basl

Executive Director
Washington Commission for National
and Community Service

Sharon Bassett

Executive Director
Massachusetts Campus Compact
Tufts University

Kathryn Gibson Carter

Learn and Serve Coordinator
South Carolina Department of
Education

Diana Crowley

Service Learning Coordinator
Rhode Island Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education

Joe Follman

Coordinator, Florida Learn & Serve
Florida State University

Luke Frazier

Executive Director, Maryland Student
Service Alliance

Andy Haimowitz

Service Learning Project Coordinator
Taos Pueblo Day School, New Mexico

Alice Halsted

President, National Helpers Network
New York

Stan Hansen

Bureau Chief, New York State
Education Department

James Harris

President, Defiance College
Defiance, Ohio

Meredith Honig

Stanford University School of
Education

Michele James-Deramo

Director, Service Learning Center
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and
State University

Christine Kilbane

Teacher, North Olmstead High School
Ohio

Diana Lam

Superintendent, San Antonio
Independent School District

Juanita Lavadie

Teacher, Taos Pueblo Day School
New Mexico

Leslie Lenkowsky

Professor of Philanthropic Studies
and Public Policy, Indiana University
and Purdue University
Board Member, Corporation for
National Service

Robert Mahaffey

Director, Communications and
Marketing, National Association of
Secondary School Principals

Nancy Miller

Program Consultant, American
Association of School Administrators

Frank Newman

President, Education Commission of
the States

Terry Pickeral

President, Cascade Educational
Consultants, Bellingham, Washington

Stan Potts

School Administration Consultant
Wisconsin Department of Public
Instruction

Judge William Quarles

Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Maryland

Phyllis Renniger

National Service Fellow and
Administrator, Clay County School
District, Orange Park, Florida

Shirley Sagawa

Vice-Chair Liaison, Goal 5 Task Force
America's Promise, Washington, DC

Paul Schwarz

Principal in Residence
U.S. Department of Education
Washington, DC

Nancy Sizer

Educator, Author and
Working Group Co-Chair
Harvard, Massachusetts

Ted Sizer

Chairman, Coalition of Essential
Schools and *Working Group Co-Chair*
Harvard, Massachusetts

Tom Wilson

Director, Business Development and
Quality, Communities in Schools
Alexandria, Virginia

Shanekah Young

College Student and
1997 National Service Scholar
Springfield, Massachusetts
Western New England College

Marilyn W. Smith

Director
Department of Service-Learning
Corporation for National Service

Keeping alive the spirit of national service

By Richard North Patterson, 08/01/99

I doubt that many of us are nostalgic for the Great Depression, global warfare, or the military draft. But one need not wish to reprise history to notice what has been lost to America's young people - a common experience, a chance to serve, which cuts across the barriers of race, class, and education.

In the 1930s, thousands joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, undertaking scores of needed projects while trading their adverse circumstances for a broader experience of the country's needs and promise. The compelling need to wage World War II reinforced the belief that common sacrifice for the common good is an incident of citizenship. It was this spirit which led many to join the Peace Corps - a governmental call to action - or to respond to the moral call of the civil rights movement. And, in the process, their vision of America and the world became less parochial and more compassionate.

But somewhere in the last few decades, we mislaid the idea that national service is either obligatory or enriching. As with many shifts in social attitudes, Vietnam serves as a fault line. One of the ugliest truths of the Vietnam draft - with its class biases and small corruptions - is that Americans who served (and died) were disproportionately poor, black, and less educated. And one of its ugliest legacies is the elitist notion that (the officer corps aside) military service is not for everyone but is a job and training program for those without a better place to go.

The result is that all too often, we offer young people a vision of community which extends to the nearest shopping mall.

One byproduct is to exacerbate our growing division - the America of the inner city, the worst schools, the least hope versus the America of the designer label, the gated community, the best (and, sometimes, most isolated) education money can buy.

Yet anyone who spends time with the new generation is struck by how many - while corrosively cynical about politics and politicians - are passionate about and committed to helping others. From tutoring children to building houses through Habitat for Humanity, these young people eagerly seek chances to serve. All of which makes the recent proposal to expand AmeriCorps so refreshing.

This "domestic peace corps" engaged more than 40,000 people in intense service to communities around the country. It is not a wasteful bureaucracy, a program to redistribute dollars in return for a year of civic basketweaving and singing folk songs around the campfire.

Two-thirds of its money passes through governors to grass-roots community groups; the rest goes to traditional nonprofits. Volunteers spend a year living and working wherever they're needed. They mentor, tutor, and teach, ensuring that kids stay in school.

They help build housing. They augment neighborhood safety programs. They combat drug abuse. They assist disaster relief efforts: In Oklahoma, more than 60 are now working with victims of the recent tornadoes.

In short, they fulfill Robert Kennedy's vision of the original VISTA program: that Americans "invest a year of their lives ... under Spartan conditions, to help millions of their fellow citizens who, through no fault of their own, are denied the essentials of a decent life." And, at the end of their service, they receive a maximum stipend of \$4,725 to pay off student loans or for graduate or post-graduate education.

Politicians across the political spectrum have recognized that this has been a good investment. Now, five years after its inception, AmeriCorps requires congressional reauthorization.

Those of us who believe in national service hope to make the program a continuing call to service that transcends the politics of the moment and that offers up to 100,000 Americans every year a focus for their energy and idealism.

This may fall short of a universal commitment to national service. But it's an important step in keeping alive something of universal value: the chance for our young to make their best contribution to a stronger country and a better society. We should take it.

Richard North Patterson is the author of "No Safe Place," a novel of presidential politics in the year 2000.

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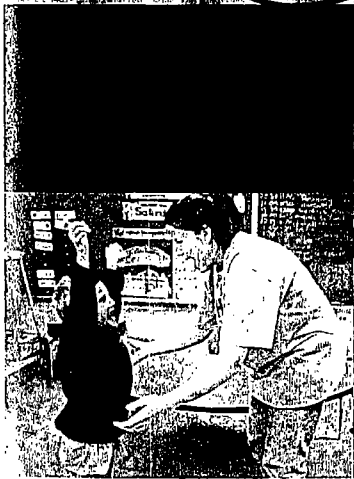


PRESIDENT'S

Student Service Challenge



Student



Scholarship and Award Information and Applications



PRESIDENT'S STUDENT SERVICE CHALLENGE

Millions of students volunteer every day — improving communities and making America stronger. Launched this year, the President's Student Service Challenge is an opportunity for schools, colleges, and community organizations to recognize these young people for their outstanding community service and to encourage more young people to serve.

President's Student Service Scholarships

Each high school in the country may select one junior or senior to receive a \$1,000 scholarship for outstanding service to the community. The Corporation for National Service provides \$500 for each scholarship matched with \$500 from the community. Scholarship recipients must have served at least 100 hours within a 12-month period. In addition to the scholarship, students receive the President's Student Service Award gold pin, as well as a presidential certificate and a letter from the President.

President's Student Service Awards

Youth ages 5 to 25 who contribute at least 100 hours of service to the community in a 12-month period are eligible for the President's Student Service Award. Students may be certified by schools, colleges, or community organizations and will receive a specially designed gold pin with the presidential seal, a presidential certificate, and a letter from the President. Youth ages 5 to 14 who perform 50 hours of community service within a 12-month period may receive a silver pin with the presidential seal, as well as a presidential certificate and a letter from the President.

For more information about the President's Student Service Challenge, contact:

PRESIDENT'S STUDENT SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS

1505 Riverview Road
P.O. Box 68
St. Peter, MN 56082
888-275-5018 (phone)
507-931-9168 (fax)
RDCSFA@aol.com (e-mail)
www.student-service-awards.org

PRESIDENT'S STUDENT SERVICE AWARDS

P.O. Box 189
Wilmington, DE 19899-0189
302-622-9107 (phone)
302-622-9106 (fax)
info@aips.org (e-mail)
www.student-service-awards.org

The President's Student Service Challenge is sponsored by the Corporation for National Service and administered by American Institute for Public Service, Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America, The Points of Light Foundation, and Youth Service America.

**Prepared Remarks of Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National Service
National Press Club Luncheon
Tuesday, April 27, 1999**

In his Sunday in the Loop column, Al Kamen wondered what the billing meant when your invitation promised a "joint speech on the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps: Serving Our Country and the World."

"Will they read it together?" Al asked. Or "alternate lines?" Or "Mark might play the piano" – which Al says he does quite well – "while Wofford talks."

Well, if I were to choose a song for Mark to use as our joint theme, I'd start with Bob Dylan's old refrain for the Sixties, "something's happening here, but you don't know what it is, do you, Mr. Jones?"

Because there is so much happening in the Peace Corps as it moves to new frontiers in the former Soviet Empire, China, Eastern Europe, and South Africa – some places we couldn't get passports to in the Sixties. And because there is so much happening with the domestic Peace Corps – AmeriCorps – and the new patriotism of the home front.

Nearly four decades ago, as he sent the first Peace Corps Volunteers off to Asia, Africa, and Latin America, President Kennedy turned to Sargent Shriver – and those of us helping Sarge – and said, "Someday we must bring this idea home to America."

Later President Johnson as part of the War on Poverty that Sargent Shriver also led, urged Americans to apply the principle of the Peace Corps on a large scale in America. At the University of Kentucky in 1965, President Johnson proposed that the nation "search for new ways" through which "every young American will have the opportunity – and feel the obligation – to give at least a few years of his life or her life to service in the nation or the world."

One of those new ways was VISTA, the first domestic Peace Corps that Sarge started. Robert Kennedy put it to Congress in testifying for the forerunner bill for VISTA: "Every sixth citizen in the United States needs our help; there are five of us who should help him." He urged that Americans be asked "to invest a year of their lives, at no salary and under Spartan conditions, to help millions of their fellow citizens who, through no fault of their own, are denied the essentials of a decent life."

Those were years of high hopes, great goals, and terrible disappointments. We then envisioned large armies of Americans in citizen service to overcome poverty at home and abroad. But instead of moving up from 15,000 volunteers when Sarge left the Peace Corps toward the goal of 100,000 volunteers a year, the Peace Corps fell back to 5,000 and stayed there. VISTA never got much beyond 5,000 volunteers per year.

Today, after a quarter of a century of lost opportunities, the history of citizen service is being written again-- bigger, stronger, bolder. With President Clinton's leadership, and with growing bipartisan support in Congress, we're moving ahead on both fronts, at home and abroad.

The Peace Corps, under Mark's good direction, is reaching so many new countries and is well on the way to doubling the number of Peace Corps Volunteers. And national service at home is also on the move. In just four years, more than 100,000 Americans have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done for America." And Sarge, you must be pleased to know that as a revived and vital part of AmeriCorps, VISTA has virtually doubled in the last two years in appropriations and volunteers.

This spring, President Clinton called on Congress to expand the number of AmeriCorps positions to nearly 70,000 in 2001, and to 100,000 a year in 2003. This is a bold request -- what scientists would call a quantum leap -- but what we have learned in the first five years of AmeriCorps tells us that this expansion is just right for our time, for our young people, and for our country.

First, we have learned that if you ask them, they will serve.

When a journalist asked one of the first volunteers why he joined the Peace Corps he said, "Nobody ever asked me to do something patriotic, unselfish and for the common good before; Kennedy asked."

Three decades later, I asked one of the members of a Philadelphia youth corps who had dropped out of high school and had been a member of a street gang why he had joined AmeriCorps. He first said he thought it might be a better gang with different types and that he might not get killed in the end. A short while later he said: "It was because -- all my life I have had people come into the housing project where I lived to help me. I got tired of people doing good against me. This was the first time anyone asked me to do something good."

AmeriCorps is asking young people to take responsibility and to take a leadership role in their communities. Our experience tells us that those who call this the "do-nothing" "slacker" generation are flat wrong. The fact that during this time of unprecedented prosperity and economic opportunity, 100,000 young people have signed on to spend a year living and working in the toughest communities, receiving near poverty-level living allowance and a post-service education award is evidence that the idealism and energy of youth is strong today -- as it proved to be when the so-called silent, self-centered generation responded so enthusiastically to the Peace Corps.

But -- I must add -- the focus of the idealism and the energy of young people has changed. Survey after survey tells us that young people are turned off by Washington. (I wonder why?) They aren't voting in high enough numbers, and they don't count many, if any, politicians among their heroes. At the same time we find more young people are volunteering, taking responsibility in their communities. Surveys, like those by Peter Hart for Public Allies, tell us that young people are more interested in solving problems in their own backyards than in what's happening in Washington.

The growing interest in AmeriCorps is a sign of this new patriotism -- a patriotism that is focused on the home front. As Colin Powell says in his current Promise Letter to campaigners for America's Promise across the country: "For some of our young people, preserving our democratic way of life means shouldering a rifle or climbing into a cockpit, or weighing anchor and setting out to sea. For others it means helping a child to read, or helping that child to secure needed vaccinations or health care. Or it means building a park, or helping to bring peace to troubled neighborhoods, or helping communities recover from natural disasters, or reclaiming the environment."

Our country needs more of both kinds of patriotism. AmeriCorps encourages and inspires the patriotism of the home front. So do the other key parts of the Corporation for National Service -- our nationwide student service-learning program and the senior service programs -- Senior Companions, Foster Grandparents (another of Sarge's lasting social inventions), and the 450,000 strong volunteers in RSVP.

Second, we have learned that service helps solve critical problems.

The era of big government may be over, but big challenges remain. More than ever, we need citizens who are willing to step up to the plate. Through the service of AmeriCorps members themselves and the volunteers whom they recruit and mobilize, AmeriCorps is helping solve problems in hundreds of communities.

Whether it is increasing reading scores in Washington state, or helping Habitat for Humanity eliminate poverty housing in Sumter County, Georgia; or working with local police and community residents to bring down crime rates in Buffalo; or restoring hundreds of acres of barrier beach in Florida, AmeriCorps members are getting things done that vitally need doing.

One of the most vital things it does is to ask young people to serve -- not only full-time in AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps, but as volunteers while in school or on summer vacation. More than a million students are engaged in service-learning in their communities in programs assisted by our Corporation. And the President has just announced the President's Student Service Awards to encourage such student initiative -- an award for 100 hours or more of community service, to parallel the President's Physical Fitness Awards. Believing that civic fitness is as important as physical fitness, AmeriCorps members will be working to spread this award to every school in the country.

Third, we have learned that devolution works.

Few people realize the extent to which AmeriCorps is a decentralized, locally-driven program. That is why one of AmeriCorps' great supporters, Connecticut Congressman Chris Shays -- a former Peace Corps Volunteer -- calls AmeriCorps a Republican idea. Unlike the Peace Corps which quite rightly for an international operation recruits, selects, trains and deploys its volunteers, the vast majority of AmeriCorps members are recruited, selected, and deployed by the more than 600 local non-profit, educational, civic and religious groups in which they serve. This decentralized system is what makes AmeriCorps so popular with the civic sector.

The AmeriCorps experiment, in which our federal government agency serves as a junior partner to the civic sector, has proven to be an important catalyst for that sector. By giving local non-profits, religious and civic organizations the people power to do more of what they do best, AmeriCorps has strengthened these organizations, expanded their scope, and improved the effectiveness of their programs.

Another little known fact about AmeriCorps is the role that Governors have in administering the program. Two-thirds of AmeriCorps positions go directly to governor appointed-state commissions (3/5 of whom are Republicans). These commissions are responsible for deciding which programs get AmeriCorps positions, and what the priorities are for those programs.

This structure has helped AmeriCorps win the support of Republican governors and members of Congress, as well as civic leaders like Elizabeth Dole who sought and got AmeriCorps members for the American Red Cross; Colin Powell, who now has close to 500 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows in the front lines of the campaign for America's Promise; Millard Fuller -- the head of Habitat for Humanity and onetime skeptic of the program who now has 600 AmeriCorps members serving in Habitat; and leaders of religious and faith-based organizations that have 6,000 AmeriCorps members.

Each of these lessons is borne out by an independent study we are releasing today by Aguirre International. After studying survey data from AmeriCorps programs and examining 60 programs from 1994 to 1996, Aguirre International concluded that:

- AmeriCorps effectively prepares young Americans for the future;
- AmeriCorps strengthens communities and nonprofits;
- And the benefits of AmeriCorps far outweigh the costs.

Taken together, these lessons from the past five years and the findings of this new report make a powerful case for the bold growth that President Clinton's budget proposes.

In the end, the heart of the Peace Corps' and AmeriCorps' significance and their appeal are the young people who accept the challenge and the responsibility. The real story of both the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps lies not here in Washington, but in the talent and energy and idealism of the volunteers and members.

Over the past two months, I have been in more than a dozen states, at colleges and high schools to recruit new AmeriCorps members. At each stop, I have been joined by past and current AmeriCorps members who told their own stories. Their stories are not only the story of AmeriCorps but the story of the next generation of America's leaders.

So Mark and I, and the Peace Corps Volunteers and AmeriCorps Members and student and senior volunteers we represent, are part of the antidote this country needs for the toxic culture of violence and alienation that fed the horror at Littleton. The tragedy at Columbine High School gives ever more reason why we must invest in our young people, why we must ignite their

imaginations, why we must engage their minds and bodies in working along side people of different racial, economic, and religious backgrounds to solve problems and achieve common goals. We must see young people as resources – and help them see themselves as resources – not as problems and victims. We must ask them to take responsibility, work hard, and become leaders. Our experience in the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps tells us that service can bring out the best in our people and the best of America.

Vaclav Havel put it simply in his meditations on our complicated time: “the dormant goodwill in people needs to be stirred. People need to hear that it makes sense to behave decently or to help others, to place common interests above their own, to respect the elementary rules of human co-existence. Goodwill longs to be recognized and cultivated.”

AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps are in the business of recognizing and cultivating that goodwill. Mark and I are here because we need your help in doing that.

PROMISE FIVE: TAPPING THE POWER AND TALENT OF YOUTH SERVICE

The Philosophy

The historic Presidents' Summit for America's Future – held in Philadelphia in April 1997 – was designed to unleash a new level of energy, organizational commitment and citizen power to help turn the tide for millions of children and youth who lack five basic promises: (1) an ongoing relationship with a caring adult as mentor, tutor, coach; (2) safe places with structured activities to learn and grow during non-school hours; (3) a healthy start and a healthy future; (4) a marketable skill through effective education; and (5) an opportunity to give back through their own service to the community. The goal of America's Promise is to mobilize millions of citizens and thousands of organizations to ensure that every young person in our country has access to these resources. Its recently released two-year report shows it has made good, strong progress. But there is more work to be done.

Every young person needs all five basic promises, and there must be a common strategy for delivering all five. But none of the goals is more important than the fifth one – that all young people be challenged, inspired, and given opportunities to serve.

Much attention is paid to what's wrong with today's children and youth – the problems of isolation, despair, and recklessness. The common response is to look to adults to help children. But much more attention must be given to the role young people themselves can play in delivering the five promises to their peers, to younger children, and to themselves.

Youth service – tapping into the talents and energies of young people – is part of the antidote this country needs for our toxic culture of violence, apathy, and alienation. Recent tragedies give ever more reason why we must invest in our young people, why we must ignite their imaginations, why we must engage their minds and bodies in working along side people of different racial, economic, and religious backgrounds to solve problems and achieve common goals. Young people must be seen – and see themselves – as resources and solutions, not as problems and victims. They must be asked to take responsibility, work hard, and become leaders.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve." To fulfill America's Promise, every young person must be challenged and inspired to realize this greatness. We must challenge families, schools, colleges and universities, communities of faith, national service and youth corps, and community organizations to create more high quality opportunities for young people to serve America.

Most importantly, we must ask. We must ask more of young people – to demonstrate their power to lead, to serve, to deliver America's Promise to their peers and themselves. A Gallup Poll showed that teens were nearly four times more likely to volunteer if they were asked than if they were not. So we must ask all young people to become active-duty citizens—and to discover their own potential through service.

The Targets

History shows that great goals galvanize. The five goals of America's Promise have this same potential. To gauge our progress on achieving Goal Five, a board of advisors, comprised of Tim Shriver of Special Olympics International; Rosabeth Moss Kanter of Harvard Business School; Alan Khazei of City Year; and Shirley Sagawa then with the Corporation for National Service, helped set the specific milestones we're striving toward:

- (1) that youth service of 100 hours per year, through service-learning in the curriculum of K-12 schools and colleges and universities and extracurricular service, grow to universal scale, and be completed by at least two million additional young people by the year 2000.
- (2) that at least 100,000 of those two million young people will become service-leaders, providing more than 1,000 hours of service per year.
- (3) that at least half of the one million college students paying for college costs through the federal work-study program serve in the community, rather than in campus jobs.

These are part of the vision to make citizen service the common expectation and common experience of all Americans. Raising people's sights to this vision is one of the nation's greatest needs.

What follows is a collection of some of the specific initiatives, program ideas, and general strategies that are proving successful in moving us closer to achieving Goal Five. They're offered as examples in hope that, like a pilot does in a furnace, they can light the whole of the national and community service field and quicken our progress. We celebrate these successes, and encourage you to find ways to bring them home to your communities.

Service-Learning: Since all Americans are in school for a crucial stage of their lives, the schools – public and private – are the most promising place to engage them in service. Service-learning and high-quality student service can be a key part of educational reform, including civic and character education and learning-by-doing in a number of academic subjects. In 1998, the Learn and Serve America Program of the Corporation for National Service invested more than \$43 million in service-learning programs. Assisted through 207 grants – with 3,021 subgrants – these programs engaged more than one million students in service-learning projects.

Many school systems, including a high proportion of religious and private schools, already require some form of service to the community as part of the curriculum. This is the most far-reaching way to achieve Goal 5, and General Powell and President Clinton have been encouraging this course. Students in districts requiring less than 100 hours can be challenged to go beyond the call of duty to reach or surpass the 100-hour target. A few of many promising developments are:

- Following the lead, in recent times, of the State of Maryland, the school districts of Philadelphia and Chicago have made service a requirement for high school graduation – joining a number of others such as the District of Columbia that instituted such requirements in earlier years.
- Governor Gray Davis of California has called for community service to become a requirement for graduation from all California State public colleges and universities.

President's Student Service Awards: The President's Student Service Awards – paralleling the Physical Fitness Awards – honor youth ages 5 to 25 who perform at least 100 hours of service to the community in a 12-month period – to show that civic fitness is as important as physical fitness. Students who have served 100 hours or more may be certified by schools, colleges, or community organizations and receive a specially designed gold pin with the presidential seal. Youth ages 5 to 14 who perform 50 hours of community service within a 12-month period may receive a silver pin with the presidential seal. All award winners receive a presidential certificate and a letter from the President.

Nonprofit organizations, schools, and higher education institutions may become sponsoring organizations for the President's Student Service Award, making the Awards available to young people in their communities. National and statewide organizations – including nonprofits, businesses, state agencies, and faith-based institutions – may become national or state sponsors of the President's Student Service Awards.

As of June 1, 1999, 51 national partners and 14 state partners have signed on and more than 11,500 young people have been nominated for a President's Student Service Award, which is sponsored by the Corporation for National Service and managed by a joint venture of the American Institute of Public Service, Points of Light Foundation, and Youth Service America. For more information, please contact (302) 622-9107, info@aips.org, or www.student-service-awards.org.

President's Student Service Scholarships: Each high school in the country may select one junior or senior to receive a \$1,000 President's Student Service Scholarship for outstanding service to the community. The Corporation for National Service provides \$500, which is matched with \$500 from the local community. Scholarship recipients must have served at least 100 hours within a 12-month period, which will also earn them a President's Student Service Award.

Several organizations have arranged for impressive and innovative matching opportunities:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of America has agreed to match \$1 million for the Scholarships so that more than 2,000 Boys & Girls Clubs members may be recognized this year.
- In Minnesota, the state legislature made funds available to match each scholarship given in the state for use at state institutions.
- In Texas, SERVE HOUSTON secured local corporate and foundation sponsors to enable it to provide the match in more than 50 area high schools.
- In the District of Columbia, Community IMPACT!, a nonprofit organization engaged in school improvement – and an AmeriCorps*VISTA sponsor – has matched a scholarship for a student in each of the District's high schools.
- The Youth Service Alliance of Greater Kansas City, founded by Tom and Mary Bloch of the H&R Block family, are strongly promoting the President's Student Service Awards and have pledged to match the scholarships for 30 high school students next year.

The Scholarships are managed by the Citizens' Scholarship Foundation of America. As of June 25, 1999, nearly 3,000 Scholarships have been awarded.

National Service-Learning Leader Schools: This presidential school recognition program rewards schools for their exemplary efforts to integrate student service into the curriculum and life of the school. Leader Schools will help other schools start or improve service-learning programs. In its inaugural year, seventy schools – located in 41 states from Maine to Hawaii – have been honored. Representatives from each school were invited to an awards ceremony, Congressional reception, and educational workshops held the end of June. Middle schools will be selected as Leader Schools next spring.

Work-Study: In recent months, two clarion calls have further pushed the target of half of work-study positions in community service. Both the Democratic Leadership Council's weekly bulletin and a *Blueprint* article by Tom Ehrlich, Corporation for National Service Board member and a senior scholar at the Carnegie Foundation, made the strong case for returning the Federal Work-Study program to its original mission by reserving half of the one million annual work-study slots for positions serving the community rather than providing labor to colleges themselves. Community-serving agencies around the country are finding success when they approach local colleges and universities to ask for work-study slots to be assigned to them.

America Reads & America Counts Challenges: The main initiative underway to move toward the third target of engaging half of work-study students in service has been in connection with the Presidential America Reads and America Counts Challenges – launched to help every child learn to read well and independently and master the fundamentals of mathematics to get on track to college and a good job. In response to the America Reads Challenge, a Steering Committee of 21 college and university presidents, chaired by Robert Corrigan, President of San Francisco State University, and backed by major organizations of higher education, is working to secure 100,000 college work-study positions for college student tutors. Over 1,100 colleges and

universities have committed themselves to using work-study funds to enable college students to tutor elementary students. Another 145 have already signed on to the newer America Counts Challenge. College students not eligible for work-study are also being organized on many campuses to become volunteer tutors.

AmeriCorps: With one of the largest number of opportunities for young people to become service leaders who serve more than 1,000 hours during a 12-month period – AmeriCorps has engaged more than 100,000 since it was launched in 1994. The President has asked for support in his current budget request to Congress to enable AmeriCorps to grow to 100,000 members per year by 2003.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows: Last June, the President announced the availability of more than 500 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, a cadre of full-time national service leaders devoted to delivering the five basic promises to America's children and youth. These AmeriCorps Promise Fellows – serving through national, state, and local non-profit organizations – are a resource for communities trying to point young people in the right direction, including giving these young people a chance to serve the communities themselves. An AmeriCorps Promise Fellow serving with City Cares of America in Los Angeles has developed the Youth Action Corps to link 20 students, ages 14 to 18, in a one-on-one mentoring relationship with adult volunteers to design and implement youth service projects.

City Year's Young Heroes: This past year, the Young Heroes program engaged more than 750 middle school students, organized into teams led by City Year Corpsmembers, in Saturdays of service. Four AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are helping City Year to expand the program to a year-round initiative with an after-school component that combines tutoring, recreation, and community service.

Do Something's Community Coaches: A community coach is a committed and caring adult, usually a teacher, who works with students in developing the attitudes, skills, and knowledge to measurably change their communities. Community Coaches work with a year-long curriculum through the Do Something League. The League piloted its curriculum with 30 coaches in 25 school systems this year, and is projecting more than 300 coaches next year.

Martin Luther King Day: The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change Inc., the Corporation for National Service, the Points of Light Foundation, the United Way of America, First Book, and Do Something joined forces to make the national Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday on January 18, 1999 a day of service. The King Holiday and Service Act of 1994 aims to transform the observance of Martin Luther King's birthday into a day of action that reflects King's life and teaching—bringing people together, breaking down barriers that divide us, and working to solve our problems through citizen service. Schools across the nation also celebrated the King Holiday by participating in the national Kindness & Justice Challenge organized by Do Something. In the two weeks leading up to the holiday, an estimated 16,000 educators led more than two million students in performing Acts of Kindness (helping others) and Acts of Justice (standing up for what is right) which were registered on the Internet. The next King holiday falls on January 17, 2000. Service programs, churches, companies, universities, and individuals will perform service-oriented celebrations on the holiday.

National Youth Service Day: April 16-17, 1999 marked the eleventh anniversary of National Youth Service Day, a national celebration and mobilization to show the positive ways in which young people are improving their communities through service. Youth Service America sponsors the day with many other national partners. A Tool Kit for planning a service project, recognition event or special project is available from Youth Service America. National organizations signing on to this national day of service can result in significant participation by their members. For example, more than 20,000 B'nai B'rith Youth Organization members throughout North America were registered to serve in 1999.

Make a Difference Day: Since 1992, millions of Americans have volunteered on Make a Difference Day, an annual day of service sponsored by USA Weekend magazine and the Points of Light Foundation. Held the fourth Saturday of October, Make a Difference Day has grown to two million volunteers, half of whom are young people. In 1998, one million young people volunteered through National 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs, Girl Scouts, Campfire Boys and Girls, KaBoom!, and AmeriCorps.

Media & Corporate Leadership: A variety of national corporate leaders have made commitments to mobilize their resources to support and encourage young people's service activities. Nickelodeon, the children's cable television network, supports the "Big Help" campaign, a multifaceted effort to promote youth service. It commits ten percent of its promotional airtime to encourage volunteerism – reaching approximately 27.5 million kids, ages 2 to 11, every month. Best Buy Company, Inc. will provide "Now That's A Great Idea" Community Service Grants to young people, ages 8 to 14, in conjunction with new store opening events for the next three years. For every new store, Best Buy will award one \$2,500 award and two \$500 awards in community service grants.

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC): In many high schools, the JROTC is engaged in substantial service to the community. Through a partnership with the Corporation for National Service, AmeriCorps*NCCC teams from the DC Campus will help organize and supervise several hundred Petersburg and Richmond, Virginia JROTC students on community service projects in those two communities this summer. The projects – sponsored through the Petersburg School Board and the Maggie Walker Foundation of Richmond – will engage the JROTC students in tutoring and mentoring younger children and maintaining and renovating community facilities.

Youth Service America: Youth Service America is bringing service by young people to the forefront in many different ways – and especially through a variety of social marketing and awareness initiatives. Through partnerships with *Parade Magazine* for National Youth Service Day and with MTV for the Fight the Violence Campaign, and its award-winning internet site *SERVEnet*, Youth Service America is building interest in and awareness of the field. YSA commits to have volunteer opportunities focusing on the five basic promises posted on *SERVEnet* for every zip code in America by the end of the year 2000.

This Goal Five paper is a work in progress. It can become more valuable as it adds information from the field. So send us your best practices and model efforts in giving young people the opportunity to serve their communities – to be resources, leaders, and solutions. Tell us about your successes. E-mail them to kminor@cns.gov or fax them to (202) 565-2784. Give us more pilots to light the whole.

BY DAVID GERGEN / EDITOR AT LARGE



Keeping faith in kids

Despite gloomy headlines, generation Y is better than you think

All across the country, people are rattled about teenagers. A national survey by Public Agenda, published early this month, found that 74 percent of parents described kids these days as "rude," "irresponsible," and "wild." Only 40 percent said these children will grow up to make America a better place. And this survey was taken even before kids began cutting down their classmates at Littleton and Conyers.

Are we really raising a nation of hellions? What's wrong with the Y generation?

The truth is that most kids these days are not the problem we think. If anything, they will one day prove to be the answer—because this generation is much healthier than the gloomy headlines in recent weeks would suggest.

In the *New Republic* earlier this year, Gregg Easterbrook pointed out some encouraging trends. In 1980, 72 percent of high school seniors said they had been drinking alcohol recently; by 1998, that figure had dropped to 52 percent. Drug usage, especially marijuana, is down as well. Teen pregnancy rates have been falling since 1991 and most recently were at the same level as in 1980. Homicides remain historically high among teens, but striking improvements have come in big cities like New York, Boston, and Los Angeles.

Creating a crusade. Meanwhile, young people by the droves are signing up as volunteers in their communities. In the past five years alone, 100,000 have enlisted in AmeriCorps—more than the Peace Corps had in its first 20 years. Last week, in his annual report on "America's Promise," Gen. Colin Powell spoke glowingly about the number of teenagers as well as adults who are volunteering to work with children. He thinks the country can create not just a movement but a crusade.

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold may have seared their images into our imagination after killing classmates at Columbine High. But the more representative member of their generation, now hailed by churches everywhere, was Cassie Bernall. She was the young lady sought out by

one of the killers, who put a gun to her head while she was praying and asked if she still believed in God. "Yes," said Cassie, knowing she would die for her answer.

America does have a serious problem, but it's not the younger generation. It's the sickness that has crept into our soul. We have a culture that leaves many people feeling estranged, their dignity destroyed, and this can lead to extreme antisocial behavior by those who can't find solace in their friends or family.

Every generation, no matter how good, has had its share of loners, misfits, and plain old wackos. When many of us were growing up, these social outcasts vented their frustrations with fists or knives. Now they can break into gun arsenals their folks keep at home; their heads are filled with violent pictures they have seen on television and in movies; their hard drives are filled with pornography that floods across the Internet.

If there is a silver lining in Littleton and Conyers, maybe it will come because we change our minds about

the way we should live together. Congress, at least, finally seems to understand that guns are like cars: Adults should have a right to them, but society has a right to protect itself against their dangers and to keep them strictly out of the hands of kids. With luck, we will apply the same kind of common sense to the violence and pornography that pollute our popular entertainment.

Three quarters of teenagers say they don't belong to outside clubs and just "hang around" after school. That, too, should change. Powell said last week about the killers at Columbine: "If only we had gotten them involved in something else where their talent and their energy could have been directed to helping others, perhaps this tragedy could have been avoided." Right on.

It's time to see our kids for who they truly are. Most of them are not rude, wild, and irresponsible; in fact, most of them could one day make this country an immensely better place. But all of them still need a caring, compassionate adult in daily life, helping them grow up to become all they can be.

"Every generation, no matter how good, has had its share of loners, misfits, and plain old wackos."

A Tribute

A longtime family friend, now leader of the Corporation for National Service, remembers John and argues that the best memorial is not to retreat but to go forward and give more. BY HARRIS WOFFORD

THIS WORLD DEMANDS THE QUALITIES of youth," said John's uncle Robert to students in South Africa: "not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease." Beyond his charm, the appeal of John F. Kennedy Jr. came largely from those very qualities. He was not a daredevil but daring—paddling a kayak, rappelling down a mountain wall, flying a plane, founding a magazine. America was born of daring, by people who crossed an ocean and pioneers who went west. That is a spirit we need to stir again.

Yet his hold on the public's imagination grew out of two other qualities that Robert Kennedy didn't list. They were key to why those who saw some of him wanted more. Like his father, John had an irrepressible sense of humor. And like his mother, he was curious about life beyond politics: sports, the arts, business, the private realm of family and friends. Americans yearn for leaders who are not obsessed with office-seeking or the privileges of power; who want government to be self-government, including citizen initiatives of many kinds; who will bring into politics what John Adams and Thomas Jefferson called "the Public Happiness."

My own memories of the young John Kennedy Jr. are still fresh. He came to ask me, an old Africa hand from the Peace Corps, for tips on what to do during a summer in South Africa before college. He was serious, idealistic, open. On another extended trip he traveled through India with the same eagerness and lack of pretense. After college he worked with teenagers in the South Bronx, so his interest in national service came naturally. Last summer he led a lively George session with me in which he probed the possibilities of service on a larger scale.

With less delight I remember the conversation in which he explained, at careful length, why he would not cam-

paign for me in my Senate race in Pennsylvania. He felt that if he made any exception to his rule against campaigning for non-family members, the flood of requests would be unstoppable. It was a deep determination, he explained, to break out of being just his father's son.

Later, I joked that he owed me one because he couldn't've brought in the votes I needed. Still, I said I hoped to live long enough to campaign for him for president. He laughed. As he told Tom Brokaw, "Fortunately, I have some years to decide." He—and we—didn't have those years.

Will any of his cousins or the generation after them have the same spark, the same breadth, the same ability to grab the public mind? Don't count them out. Some already demonstrate outstanding leadership in public office. Others offer the different kinds of service that John so respected: the Special Olympics and Best Buddies, environmental groups like the Watershed Institute and River Watch and the work of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation. They

all represent the kind of patriotism that this country most needs. One who practices it, too, in her scholarship and public works is Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg. Now out in front, she will represent a new breed of leader, and her own profile in courage will be our last direct link to President Kennedy and Jacqueline.

John said that every time his spirits were low, he listened to the blues sung by Bessie Smith, who also died tragically. "And then I get cured by her sadness." The cure to our sadness may be to share—and learn from—the Kennedys' losses: not by retreating but by going forward and giving even more. So instead of thinking of a curse on the Kennedys, we should think of the gifts they have given—and ask ourselves what we can give back to the country we all share.

WOFFORD is author of *"Of Kennedys & Kings: Making Sense of the Sixties."*



David S. Broder

Colin Powell's 'Promise'

Colin Powell would not run for president in 1996, and he is equally adamant about the election of 2000. You could argue that the retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is a little selfish, putting personal and family considerations ahead of the vast public esteem in which he is held and the opportunity he might have to improve public trust in politics and to heal some of the racial divisions in our society.

But after listening to him last week, I'm persuaded that what he's doing may be more important than running for the White House.

The general is chairman of "America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth," a two-year-old organization committed to the idea, as he said last week, that "it's time to stop building jails and get back to building up our children."

The goal of America's Promise is to mobilize communities, businesses, civic, religious and nonprofit organizations and governments to focus their efforts on helping young people get off on the right foot—and stay there.

"Most of our kids are doing fine," Powell said, "but there may be up to 15 million who are not on the right path."

Powell, whose leadership skills include a remarkable capacity to boil complex challenges down to their essentials and express them in clearly understandable language, says there are five things every youngster should be guaranteed. They are:

"An ongoing relationship with a caring adult; a safe place with structured activities during nonschool hours; a healthy start; a marketable skill through effective education; and an opportunity to give back through community service."

It is an agenda that Powell has persuaded thousands of groups—many of them already working on parallel paths themselves—to endorse and support. At first, he told me, established organizations viewed his effort as a threat. "But I think I persuaded them that I wanted to be a Johnny Appleseed, raising awareness, so they could scale up their programs." Deliberately, he has kept his own operation small—50 people with an annual budget of \$6 million from private donations.

His evangelism works. Among those who turned for Powell's National Press Club luncheon speech were Steve Case, the chairman of America Online; Bishop Roger Schwietz, the head of the youth subcommittee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops; Michelle Engler, the wife of the governor of Michigan; Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton of Minneapolis; and Harris Wofford, the head of the Corporation for National Service. All are heavily involved with the program.

When I asked Wofford, a notably hard-nosed humanitarian who has worked with two generations of socially conscious reformers, if Powell's organization "really added value" to existing youth service efforts, he said, "Absolutely. Just as in the civil rights movement, you need great goals to galvanize great efforts."

Powell spoke with his usual eloquence of the importance of those five goals. How much it means to young people to have a mentor who says, over and over, "I believe in you, and I am going to demand you meet the expectations I have for someone of your talents." How important it is to have a place where youngsters can go after school, rather than being alone at home "watching Jerry Springer and learning violent solutions to your problems."

He reinforced what many others have said about the necessity of seeing that youngsters come to school well-nourished, inoculated against disease, with their hearing and vision problems remedied. And in a computer age, he stressed, "there can be no digital apartheid," or segregation of economic opportunity based on access to those electronic tools.

Finally, he said, youngsters must be given an opportunity to give back to their communities with service of their own, whether it be tutoring kids or helping in a hospice.

At the end of the lunch, reporters picked up a volume that spoke even more forcefully than Powell about this effort—a 643-page, cross-indexed directory of programs being conducted by states, cities and a welter of private organizations all across the country.

There you can read about and learn how to reach anyone from the folks running 38 "Critical Hours" after-school program sites in San Diego, to the Volunteer Action Center in Wood County, W. Va., where, director Jennifer Keup told me, the businesses and civic groups and government agencies involved have pledged to see that more than 5,000 youths receive all five of the "America's Promise" guarantees within three years.

You can plug into America's Promise and your local effort by phoning 1-888-55YOUTH.

Margaret Carlson

Once Again on the March

Colin Powell fixed his crusade by working harder and altering his alliances

COLIN POWELL CAN DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING HE WANTS. He could run for President, run a FORTUNE 500 corporation, a university or a foundation. The publisher of his best-selling autobiography, *My American Journey*, is begging him to write another. The crate of mail he gets each day is heavy with offers. My favorite is an offer to make a quick million by penning *Chicken Soup for the Black Soul*.

He assures me he won't be turning out an instant chicken-soup book or throwing his name into the presidential or vice-presidential ring. What Powell chooses to do instead is continue to run America's Promise, his "crusade" to enlist corporations, government, nonprofit organizations and millions of citizens into giving every child at risk five things: an ongoing relationship with a caring adult, a safe place to go after school (most juveniles get in trouble between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m.), as well as a healthy start, a marketable skill and a chance to serve others.

But isn't this what everyone wants? The difference is that Powell decided to use his credibility and celebrity to bring it about, to come up with one plan for how 400 different groups should "take the hill." Celebrating its second anniversary, America's Promise is on its way. Media gush over him, but it's kids, like these at Minneapolis South High School, who fight him up

to surpassing its pledge to help "2 million kids by 2000." It's hard to measure the bottom line of an activity that doesn't have a traditional balance sheet. But to get away from the mushy anecdotal indices of success, Powell got the accounting firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers (it volunteered) to evaluate the second year's effort. The firm sampled 91 of the 441 commitments made in 14,000 places and found that 10.3 million children had been "touched," which means served by a "promise partner." The dollar value of the commitments was \$295.5 million.

Not a bad showing for someone operating on a shoeshine and a smile, moral suasion and optimism. I was among the skeptics who thought America's Promise couldn't live up to its opening day, when the President, Vice President, all the former Presidents except Ronald Reagan, along with 38 Governors and 100 mayors and celebs like Oprah Winfrey, gathered at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Was volunteerism going to be cool? Not just little old ladies with time on their hands but also people in their prime taking precious moments away from their cell phones and Stairmasters?

That was the plan, but America's Promise hit a few bumps. For weeks the phones were on the fritz, and there were too few people to handle too many offers to



help. More hands came on board, thanks to grants from the Pew Charitable Trusts and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, but Powell discovered something else: he is America's Promise. To paraphrase Woody Allen, 80% of success is showing up, and Powell saw that he would need to increase his showing up from a quarter of his time to well over half. He keeps the schedule of a candidate: his campaign trail is made up of "promise partners"—the schools, Junior Achievement programs and Rotary Clubs that are part of the 441 groups and 447 cities, states, counties and towns that have made pledges.

Wherever he goes, corporate moguls drool all over him (and pay dearly—upward of \$50,000 per speech—for the opportunity), but it is kids who get him for free who really light him up. They get brighter, chattier, taller when he's around. As he sings along with a heartrendingly mangled rendition of *America the Beautiful* by students playing with instruments donated by VH-1, the unsentimental general gets misty-eyed. At Colin Powell Elementary School in Grand Prairie, Texas, the kids wanted to talk about the mystery of how those two boys at Columbine with their BMW and pampered, obstacle-free days could have become so hopeless. A child asked the general if he ever got sad. "Something makes me sad every day," he answered, and said that helping others is the best way to work yourself out of it, that if those two lost souls in Littleton had coached a soccer team, visited a hospital, come face-to-face with someone else's little miseries, they might not have "descended into hell." He said, "I don't know a 16-year-old who doesn't have something to give a 9-year-old."

Powell learned another important thing that first year, which is "not to jump into bed with just anyone as a promise partner," but to link up with established groups already on the ground. That means tapping into existing organizations, from Catholic Charities to the VFW to the YMCA, all of which have deep roots in their communities. Powell is especially fond of the Boys & Girls Clubs because they know how to deliver the services. They have received a huge infusion of cash. As a result, they have increased their original commitment to America's Promise: they plan to serve a million kids by 2002, instead of 500,000 by 2000.

But Powell also likes to discover unconventional partners. For instance, he gratefully accepted the American Trucking Associations' \$100,000 but enjoyed even more kicking off Trucker Buddies, which pairs long-haul drivers with classrooms so that kids learn geography and math by tracking Macks across the country. In launching the partnership from an 18-wheeler, Powell flattened only two red cones.

So why would these groups want to sign up with Powell? First, he's careful "not to reinvent what already is thriving" but to bring his "force multiplier" to bear. He has things the

fragmented world of nonprofits needs: focus (the five goals), accountability ("I'm not shy about holding people's feet to the fire"), progress reports (people like to know their efforts are working) and his own tireless cheerleading. As worthy as they are, the heads of the United Way and the Salvation Army don't trail Governors, mayors, sports stars and cameras in their wake wherever they go. Last week he stopped in Minneapolis, Minn., on his way to Denver to deliver an Up with People speech, and joined Governor Jesse Ventura and Minnesota Vikings coach



A retired soldier teaches the fine points of cleanup detail

Dennis Green to pump up Minneapolis South High School's dropout-prevention program and give an award from the Citizens Scholarship Foundation. That evening he spoke at a dinner to raise money for the same foundation.

As a journalist, I want to find something, anything, to quibble over. Just when I think Powell might be all work and no play, he takes off his standard dark suit for a black T-shirt, a white sport coat and shades and sings *Yakety Yak* at the annual fund raiser of Best Friends, which tries to keep young girls from drugs and sex with special classes and after-school activities. (His wife Alma is on the board.) Spend time with Colin Powell and you can't help thinking: Shouldn't someone this energetic, this smart, this decent be running for President or some other office?

This is how persuasive he is: I got myself down to the District Building to get my police clearance (it took two days; there must be a Margaret Carlson with a rap sheet) so that I could become a volunteer at the local Boys & Girls Club. It's the Powell Doctrine of overwhelming force, conquering one couch potato at a time.

Making A Difference With America's Promise

AMERICA NEEDS YOU

AmeriCorps needs you because America needs you. That's the slogan for our cross-country recruiting drive to help some 600 nonprofit, educational, and civic organizations recruit 50,000 AmeriCorps members.

To General Powell, I say the same: the Corporation for National Service needs the campaign to fulfill America's Promise for children and youth because America needs that campaign.

If America's Promise – The Alliance for Youth didn't exist, we would need to invent it—and to find someone like General Powell to lead it.

We did invent it in Philadelphia. And General Powell accepted the call from President Clinton and President Bush to chair the Summit and the continuing post-Summit campaign.

The historic opportunity in our hands is to answer General Powell's call to arms.

The Corporation for National Service is doing so, heart and soul. The state service commissions and our three main programs—AmeriCorps, the Senior Corps of some 500,000 volunteers, and more than a million student volunteers in service-learning—are contributing most effectively because they are part of a larger crusade to turn the tide for America's youth. Recently, in partnership with America's Promise, we added the leadership cadre of AmeriCorps Promise Fellows.

Great goals galvanize. In World War II, our whole country pulled together to win the war. Then in the Civil Rights movement, there was an alliance of forces that finally won the right to vote and ended public segregation.

Now, what greater goal is there—morally and strategically—than at last to take all-out action to see that no young American lacks the five basic promises set forth at the Presidents' Summit in Philadelphia?

By asking not what's good for the Corporation but what's good for the country, we are gaining the strength that comes from a common strategy and focused purpose.

In giving ourselves to this larger cause, we are finding ourselves. In the Summit's goals for children and youth, we are finding our most vital roles.



Former Senator Harris Wofford (second from left) participates in an AmeriCorps service program.

Harris Wofford
CEO
The Corporation for National Service

Powell touts success of children's program

Alliance for Youth in 2 years benefits 10 million by mobilizing volunteers

By Cheryl Wetzstein
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

More than 10 million children have benefited from a 2-year-old campaign to mobilize volunteers, a private study has found.

"I think we've caught the wind with this crusade," said retired Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth, a nonprofit group created after the April 1997 Presidents' Summit on America's Future.

The alliance, which is symbolized by a child's red wagon, recruits volunteers and donations of time, talent and services. It connects them with schools, communities and neighborhoods where about 15 million at-risk youth reside.

The campaign's five goals are to give at-risk children adult mentoring, health services and safe places, especially after school. The campaign also seeks to give children marketable skills through education, internships and apprenticeships, and provide opportunities for them to return the favors through public service.

America's Promise is all about "mobilizing the nation ... to get into the lives of all of our youngsters," Mr. Powell told a National Press Club audience yesterday.

"We either get back to the task

of building all of our children or we're just going to keep building jails in America," said the highly decorated general, a veteran of the successful Panama and Desert Storm military campaigns.

Without hope, help or skills to defeat enemies like drugs, lax parental supervision or self-defeatist attitudes, children can "slip into a total well of despair, such as those two young men out in Littleton who brought us the tragedy at Columbine High School," Mr. Powell said.

According to a PricewaterhouseCoopers review of 441 public and private commitments to the alliance, at least 10 million children have been reached and \$295 million in contributions have been raised.

America's Promise, which is based in Alexandria, has attracted support from the nation's leading service groups, such as Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the YMCA of the USA, as well as Fortune 500 businesses; religious groups; government agencies; community groups; fraternities; trade associations; sports groups; colleges and media companies.

Locally:

- The Children and Youth Investment Partnership in the District has promised to provide 47,000 young persons with one or more of the basic promises over three years.. Oracle Corp. has



Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell describes the power of volunteerism to aid America's youth at a National Press Club briefing. AP

donated 100 new computers and Internet access to MacFarland Middle School, while Howard University will place mentors and tutors in seven charter schools.

- The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism in Maryland has pledged to serve more than 9,500 young people by 2000. There are also campaign offices set up to serve Baltimore; Calvert, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Dorchester and

Frederick counties; the city of Salisbury; the Bowling Brook Preparatory School in Keymar and the Muncaster school in Gaithersburg.

- Richmond's Promise in Richmond, has a \$4 million grant from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to attract more than 1,000 mentors. There are also campaigns in Alexandria; Fairfax County; the Lynchburg, Va., area; and Hampton, South Hampton Roads and the Greater Williamsburg areas.

WASHINGTON

Powell keeps Promise for America's youth

Two years ago President Clinton, former presidents Bush, Ford and Carter and former first lady Nancy Reagan launched a national volunteerism push to help disadvantaged children. They called the effort America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth.

Retired general Colin Powell, who is chairman of America's Promise, will report on its progress today at the National Press Club in Washington.

The organization says it has mobilized mil-

lions of volunteers and contributed \$295 million to programs helping 10 million children.

In an interview with USA TODAY's Mimi Hall, Powell spoke of the state of America's youth, the progress of his work and the recent shootings in Littleton, Colo. Powell — former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who considered running for president in 1996 — also talked about presidential politics and the war in Yugoslavia. His comments have been edited for clarity and length.



By Tyler Maloney, AP

Powell's work: Former Joint Chiefs chairman Colin Powell reads to children July 7, 1998, in Washington. Powell is the chairman of America's Promise.

lition, and people want gun control, more cops, more magnetometers. But these are all defensive measures. These are all putting guards around schools.

The offensive measures are keeping youngsters from ever moving in this direction in the first place by giving them a sense of worth, a sense of purpose and a reason to believe in themselves.

I've also started to get a little more stringent in my message to kids. I say to kids, "You know, what's the point of my life if all you kids are going to fail? If you all don't take advantage of what we've done? What's the point of me being the first black this and the first black that if all the other young black kids coming along don't get the educa-

tion and the skills they need to take advantage of it? So what did I do it for? What did Dr. King do it for?" And it's not just a message for minority audiences, it's a message for all youngsters: "We have expectations for you. Shape up. Stand up. Pick your head up, and look me straight in the eye. You know what's right, and you know

what's wrong."

Q: Are you in this for the long haul?

A: It's been two years... and I don't have the slightest regrets because I think what we're doing is important. And I think it's been successful and will continue to be successful.

Powell on Kosovo

Q: What do you think of how it's going in Kosovo?

A: We have a very inconclusive situation at the moment. One would think that eventually they (the Serbs) would have to blink under such punishment. But the decision is in Mr. Milosevic's hands. That's the nature of an air campaign. The initiative is in the hands of your opponent because you are not going in to take the initiative away by putting ground troops in.

And I understand the politics that went into that decision, with 19 countries having to be brought along. But as a result, we are essentially waiting for Mr. Milosevic to decide when air power has worked.... His goal was to cleanse Kosovo, and he's done it. Remember what winning means right now in NATO terms. It means we get to negotiate with him. It's not running him out of town. Winning is you sit at the table with Hitler. We negotiate the terms under which these people return to their homes. Winter is not that far away, and you're talking about 700,000 to 800,000 people and hundreds of villages destroyed and thousands of homes no longer there and livestock not there and farms that haven't been plowed and tilled. So phase two of this is going to be an extremely demanding and daunting humanitarian and military task, and I hope a lot of people are thinking about that.

Q: Have you been informally advising the president or (Defense) Secretary Cohen?

A: No. I had my turn at bat.

Q: After two years, do you feel more or less optimistic about the state of America's youth?

A: I always have been optimistic for several reasons. Most kids are growing up in value-defined family settings with quality adults in their lives. They're being protected from the pathology of the streets. They're not being turned into terrible people by television and the Internet. They're going to churches and they're going to clubs and they're joining the YMCAs and they're joining scouting groups.

But my concern has always been that there are those kids who don't have these assets in their lives, and I'm convinced that if they had these assets in their lives, they wouldn't be kids at risk, they'd be kids with promise.

Q: Do you think the government ought to be doing more? Should some of the federal budget surplus be used for kids?

A: Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Sen. (Edward) Kennedy (D-Mass.), my two Teds, have got a bill moving now, and they're going to hold hearings on it to divert \$10 billion to family

support programs, youth programs, safety-for-youth programs. We were able to double the appropriation out of the Justice Department of Boys and Girls Clubs last year, from \$20 million to \$40 million, and I kind of nagged the congressmen last fall, "Let's make it \$100 million." If you can spend \$300 million doing television ads telling kids not to do drugs, then let's spend about just as much to put things in their lives that will keep the thought away from them in the first place.

So I think the government can do more.

In the first year of America's Promise, I didn't ask for any money at all (from Congress), because I didn't want it to look like I was just another advocacy agent that was going to the government for a handout. I wanted America's Promise to be seen as a crusade that is going out across the country and not marching up the hill to Washington.

Having done that now for two years, I have no reluctance now to start talking to Congress about how they can start moving resources in this direction, because you go to Lit-

The Washington Post

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1999

FINAL

Inside: Health
 Today's Countdown on Page A1

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THE WASHINGTON POST

THE FEDERAL PAGE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1999 A1



BY JOEL RICHARDSON—THE WASHINGTON POST

Hank Oltmann, left, of the Corporation for National Service, tutors Steven Mosby at Drew Elementary School.

See the Federal Workers Tutor

1,000 Employees From 30 Agencies Help D.C. Students Read

By NATHAN ABSE
 Special to The Washington Post

At 2 p.m. on a blazing hot afternoon recently, an unlikely group of federal employees and school children paired up in a third-floor classroom at Drew Elementary School, in a poor neighborhood of Northeast Washington.

In a classroom humming with the sounds of an air conditioner and syllables being puzzled out, Steven Mosby, 8, reached for "Oh John The Rabbit" and read aloud to his partner, Hank Oltmann, a senior program officer at the Corporation for National Service (CNS).

"My sweet tomatoes," Steven began, hesitantly, his eyes locked on the red orbs scattered across the page, rather than the long word at the end of the sentence.

"Sometimes looking at the picture doesn't help so much," Oltmann coached gently, pointing at the final word.

"P-p-p," Steven said, finally breaking triumphantly into, "Potatoes!"

"Yessir," Oltmann praised a beaming Steven.

Another small victory.

Once a week, Oltmann carpools to the school with colleagues from his office downtown as part of a federal initiative that so far this summer has allowed more than 1,000 federal employees from 30 agencies to volunteer as reading tutors, helping more than 1,500 children at 24 D.C. public schools and five other sites. All of the children read below grade level and are in danger of being held back from third grade.

The program allows federal employees to take an hour plus commuting time off once a week to participate, though they must make the time up later.

The federal initiative was conceived by Paul Glastria, a speechwriter at the White House, as a complement to an AmeriCorps program called "D.C. Reads." Since 1997, the program has brought in thousands of college students from local

schools to tutor to first, second and third graders.

"The problem is that in the summer [college students] go home," said Karen Hallerman, coordinator of the program at the CNS. "Who could we turn to for help? In New York, it would be business people. Here, it's federal workers."

According to Hallerman, the White House, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs have produced the most volunteers, while CNS, which oversees AmeriCorps, probably has the highest percentage of workers who volunteer.

At the end of the hour at Drew, as the children and their tutors straggled out of the reading room, Steven stopped to announce proudly, "I read three books today."

Federal employees and others interested in tutoring may contact Karen Hallerman at CNS at 202-606-5000, ext. 485.

Weather
Today: Mostly sunny, less humid. High 87. Low 66.
Wednesday: Partly sunny. High 87. Low 68.
Details, Page B8

The Washington Post

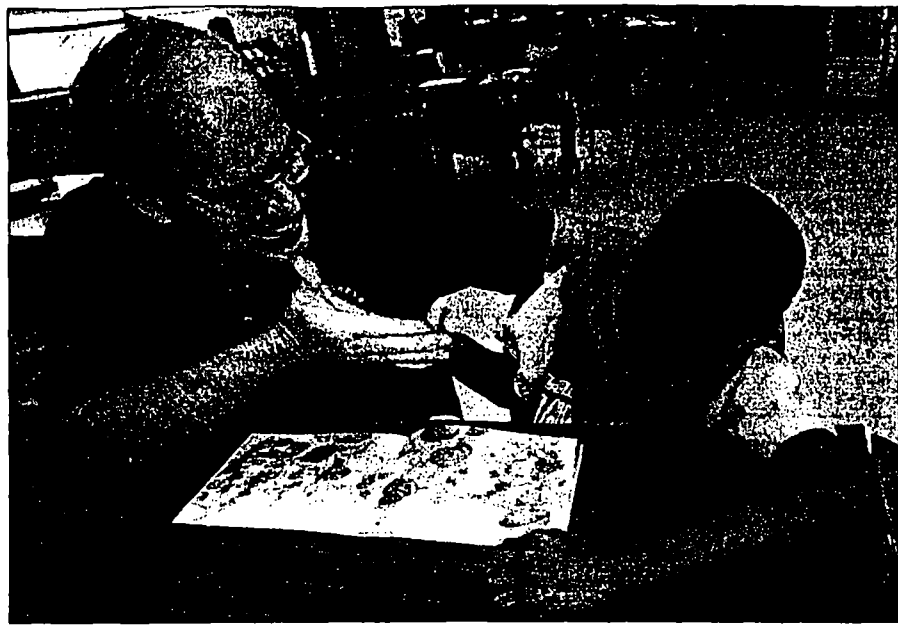
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Printed at the Washington Post Building, 1100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

122ND YEAR No. 241 TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1999

THE WASHINGTON POST

THE FEDERAL PAGE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1999 **A13**



Hank Oltmann, left, of the Corporation for National Service, tutors Steven Mosby at Drew Elementary School.

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Remarks of Harris Wofford
Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National Service
Celebration of City Year's cyzygy '99
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

It's good to be back again – back on the bus with you – your bus of idealism and action and citizen service. Most of you arrived yesterday by bus – probably tired. But remember Martin Luther King's favorite story from the Montgomery Bus Boycott about the old Alabama woman walking to work who was asked by a reporter: "Aren't your feet tired?" She replied: "My feet are tired but my soul is rested."

Don't let your soul rest – yet. This week is supposed to rejuvenate us and inspire us to return to our work with sights lifted once again to the great goals set at the Philadelphia Summit – with what Martin Luther King called "the fierce urgency of now."

And none of those goals set at Philadelphia is more urgent or more important than your goal – our goal – General Powell's goal in the America's Promise campaign that all young Americans have the opportunity – and be inspired – themselves to serve. And that goal has specific milestones we're striving toward:

- (1) that opportunities for a year or more of service in AmeriCorps, through its affiliated programs such as City Year, be increased (as President Clinton has proposed) to at least 100,000 each year
- (2) that student service, through service-learning in the curriculum of K-12 schools and colleges and universities and extracurricular service through Young Heroes or the equivalent thereof, grow to universal scale, to be registered through the President's Student Service Awards that will now parallel the Presidential Physical Fitness awards
- (3) that at least half of the one million college students paying for college costs through the federal work-study program serve in the community, rather than in campus jobs.

Those are part of the vision to make citizen service the common expectation and common experience of all Americans. Raising people's sights to that vision is one of the greatest needs of this nation. It's one of the best answers to the Trenchcoat Mafias and the other kind of gangs that plague our schools and streets, including the gang that makes it dangerous to wear a red City Year jacket on their turf.

Without vision, people perish – and people are perishing today, some literally – physically – in the streets and even in schools. Far more are perishing educationally, morally, spiritually.

But you already have – together we have – the right vision. What I want to emphasize tonight is power – the power to reach the goals set in Philadelphia at the Summit and turn vision into reality. Power is said to corrupt, but lack of power is another, probably worse kind of corruption. Powerlessness, or a sense of powerlessness, paralyzes a democracy.

So if you are going to be a leading part of the answer – the antidote – to the poison of isolation, alienation and cynicism in the air around us, you need to recognize and use your power – your full power – to lead.

Look at what young people have done in this century that is closing:

My generation, growing up during World War II, had a big, very clear mission: National Service of the military kind – for as long as it took – to win a war we had to win. In high school we were proud to save gasoline and go places on bicycles. We were proud of our older classmates who enlisted right after Pearl Harbor – and proud beyond measure of those who began to fall in battle. That was a defining time when we discovered that together as a nation we could get great and difficult things done. We not only cracked the atom of the physical universe to get the bomb before Hitler did. We cracked the atom of civic power and harnessed it to win the war. We proved the power of the whole American community, and, very importantly, the power of young Americans.

It wasn't easy. Adolf Hitler was sure the youth of America and the other democracies had gone soft and could not stop his armies. In his book *D-Day*, the historian Stephen Ambrose describes the mood of the country just before the war:

“The literature they read as youngsters was antiwar, cynical, portraying patriots as suckers, slackers as heroes. None of them wanted to be part of another war. They wanted to be throwing baseballs, not hand grenades, shooting .22s at rabbits, not M-1s at other young men. But when the test came, when freedom had to be fought for or abandoned, they fought. They were soldiers of democracy. They were the men of D-Day, and to them we owe our freedom.”

There was a second defining time in which I was lucky to live: the Civil Rights movement in the decade of Martin Luther King. Again the young were in the forefront. Martin himself was 26 years old when he launched the Montgomery Bus Boycott – when he and 50,000 other black Americans stayed off the bus for good reason. College students, like John Lewis – now Congressman Lewis from Atlanta – led the lunch counter sit-ins. Later John was knocked unconscious on the bridge at Selma and it was black high school students of Selma who led us as we marched to Montgomery.

David Halberstam has written a book you should read called The Children. It's about the young who risked their lives – like the Freedom Riders on the buses that were burned. Some of the young lost their lives, on American soil, fighting non-violently – and in the end successfully – to end racial segregation and win the right to vote.

Forming the Peace Corps was another creative hour in which the young took the lead. In the middle of the night from the steps of the student union at the University of Michigan presidential candidate John Kennedy, unplanned and extemporaneously, asked ten thousand waiting students: “Are you willing to volunteer – are you ready to serve, in Asia, Africa, and Latin America?” The students applauded and cheered and afterwards took the initiative. Kennedy decided to propose a Peace Corps in a major address just before the election only after he learned that more than a thousand of those Michigan students had signed a scroll, saying that if he formed a volunteer corps, they would go. If those students had not responded so enthusiastically to his question, the Peace Corps might never have come into being.

And in the world of technology, it has once again been the young who have led the way. You – Steve Case – and your peers Bill Gates, Marc Andreessen, Jerry Yang, to name four pioneers of the information frontier – you have remade the world of communications and the economy.

So it's your turn now. What you City Year / AmeriCorps members and your student Young Hero colleagues are doing in ten cities – soon to be eleven, then twelve and more – with help from people like Steve Case and Jeff Swartz – is no less important. What you do every day is local – it touches individual lives – but you are part of something very big, something national, something historic. You are showing the country the power of National Service, and especially the power of the young to lead through service.

You are showing that we are all on the bus. And we're on a journey to the day when the most common question asked by an 18 year old is indeed. . . “Where am I going to do my service year?”

This ought to be a wonderful week starting with our country's commander-in-chief, President Clinton, and now tonight a leader of the communications revolution Steve Case, then next Supreme Court Justice Bryer, Congressional leaders Ted Kennedy, John Chafee, and John Lewis among others, and closing with General Powell – our commander for the campaign to fulfill America's Promise – on Friday. A pretty good bus ride for one week!

I hope you will exercise and enjoy your power. I know you'll be exercising tomorrow morning on the Capitol steps. But that's only one very visible way to exercise your power, one and all, to communicate to the people of the nation's capital and to the whole country what you stand for. In all you do this week, you will be showing others – including the Doubting Thomases – the intelligence, the values, the talent, the energy, the idealism, and the power of young people to lead the way to a better country.

Remember you are representing not only yourselves, but also 40,000 other AmeriCorps members, and in a vital sense you are ambassadors for your whole generation.

Best of all it ought to be fun for you to discover each other and the power of not just one, but of one thousand. God knows the power of one or two to kill has been demonstrated in bullets and bombs. You are demonstrating the other kind of power our nation needs to see and feel, the power to build.

You are City Year. You are AmeriCorps. You are the ones Robert Kennedy was challenging in his talk at Berkeley in 1966. To the University of California students he said – what I want to say to you:

“History will judge you, and, as the years pass, you will ultimately judge yourself, on the extent to which you have used your gifts to lighten and enrich the lives of your fellow man. In your hands, not with presidents or leaders, is the future of your world and the fulfillment of the best qualities of your own spirit.”

Your hands. Your spirit.

Go to it.

ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann:

We have all read and heard a great deal about the recent tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Please inform your readers of the importance of youth involvement in community service. It is a fine way to help reduce violent behavior and build healthy communities.

Research shows that young people who are involved in service programs are less likely to be engaged in destructive social behavior. Teens who help others are 50 percent less likely to use drugs, join gangs or get pregnant. Their dropout rate is lower, and they achieve higher grades throughout high school. Youth service is an effective teaching method in thousands of school districts and universities. Through service, students learn tolerance for others as well as an empathy for environmental and social issues.

Young people often say they do not volunteer because they don't know where to go or what to do. Please, Ann, let your readers know they can find or post volunteer opportunities in their area by calling 1-800-VOLUNTEER (1-800-865-8683) or by writing to us at Youth Service America, 1101 15th St. N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20005-5002 (www.serve.net).

What happened at Columbine was a tragedy, but it should not distort the picture of what our young people are like today. The truth is, they are smarter, more religious, more inclined to volunteer and possibly the finest generation of Americans in our history.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." Isolation and intolerance are a terrible burden for too many adolescents, and every teenager deserves to experience greatness. Please help me point them in the right direction.

*Steven A. Culbertson,
president and CEO, Youth Service America*

Your message is a splendid one, and it comes at a time when we all need to hear it. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share it.

The Washington Post

SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1999

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Corporation for National Service



Kasich changes tune about AmeriCorps

By Jonathan Riskind
Dispatch Washington Bureau

MUSCATINE, Iowa — When Rep. John R. Kasich visited an AmeriCorps office Friday during a campaign stop for his presidential bid, he revealed that he has changed his mind about the federal program.

The Westerville Republican and House Budget Committee chairman said he has been transformed in recent months from a foe to a fan.

Kasich in the past joined many other Republicans trying unsuccessfully to eliminate the Clinton administration program. AmeriCorps provides a stipend and educational scholarships to those who spend a year in public service jobs.

Critics have said AmeriCorps isn't a true volunteer effort because participants are paid. Some questioned whether the benefits are worth the cost.

But AmeriCorps has stopped calling its participants volunteers, and Kasich said he has witnessed AmeriCorps making valuable public-service contributions.

"I have seen them do some amazing things in Harlem ... I know that AmeriCorps workers were involved in a number of the homeless programs," he said. "I would like to spend some time trying to refocus pieces of it and trying to make it more of a public/private situation, but I don't think I would cast a vote anymore that would eliminate it."

Kasich said the program can be made more effective, "but they've done some really great work, and I'm impressed with them."

Tina Dunphy, a slightly surprised AmeriCorps project director who greeted Kasich when he entered her storefront office in this eastern Iowa town, said 20 "members" work here on such projects as tutoring and mentoring elementary-school students.

Clinton has requested \$585 million for AmeriCorps in his 2000 budget proposal, a \$113 million increase over current funding.

The increase would add 20,000 participants to the program, for a total of 70,000. Clinton has proposed funding 100,000 members in 2002.

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Preserve the Citizen Service Tradition

By STEPHEN E. AMBROSE

It is the nature of youth to want to explore. Youngsters yearn for challenge and new experiences and the sense of belonging to something larger than themselves. They are idealistic and want to advance their ideals through service.

It is one of the principle misfortunes of our time that we do not provide our 18- and 19-year-olds with enough opportunity to do these things, and it is one of the chief differences between America today and America a half-century ago. Then, service of some sort to the nation by the young was taken for granted, along with the notion that society would provide them with a place to serve.

In the Depression, it was the Civilian Conservation Corps, universally praised for the projects it undertook and completed and for the way it provided impoverished youngsters with a chance to serve, to travel, to get to know other young Americans from different backgrounds and parts of the country. In the Second World War and during much of the Cold War it was the armed forces, where millions of young Americans served. President John F. Kennedy tapped the same vein to create the Peace Corps. Today AmeriCorps is extending that tradition of citizen service, giving young people opportunity to serve their country here at home.

The generation of Americans now in retirement faced and overcame great challenges, starting with the Depression and including the Nazis, the Japanese militarists, and the Communists in Korea, Vietnam, and the Soviet Union. The challenges of today are not so clear, or terrifying, or dramatic. Nor are they as unifying: During World War II, a popular saying, used to respond to a complaint about this or that shortage, was "We are all in this together." Today's youth have never had that feeling. They have missed the experience of work-

ing together for a common goal as much as they have missed the chance to serve others.

It seems to me that one of the great things that came out of World War II, and to a lesser extent out of Korea and even Vietnam, was the way in which millions of young men learned to work together, to take responsibility, to become part of a team. They learned, too, to savor deferred



CCC workers near Camp Au Sable, Mich.

gratification, and to take pride in contributing to their fellow man.

Today, too often, our youngsters hardly know one another. Middle class kids have little or no contact with inner-city kids. As we become a more diverse society, it is critical that we provide our youth with experiences that bring Hispanic-Americans and European-Americans, Jewish-Americans and Muslim Americans, Asian-Americans and African-Americans together, working, living, serving side-by-side. Lord knows there are plenty of challenges out there and much to be done, improving educa-

tion, fighting poverty, and protecting the environment.

In Europe, several nations require that, at 18, young people give a year of service to their country. In the U.S. it is not required, but AmeriCorps provides a voluntary opportunity to make a similar commitment. Instead of fighting enemies abroad these young Americans battle against the everyday enemies of illiteracy, poverty, and violence that plague our nation. In four years, AmeriCorps members have taught, tutored and mentored more than 2.2 million children, provided after-school programs to more than a million at-risk youth, removed close to 70,000 tons of trash from neighborhoods, and recruited more than 1.8 million volunteers to assist in these and other efforts.

AmeriCorps members, most of whom are between the ages of 18 and 24, receive a loan living allowance, and after a year of service a stipend of almost \$4,800 to help pay for college. This is similar to the 1944 GI Bill of Rights, which was the best piece of legislation Congress ever enacted. The GI bill sent hundreds of thousands of GIs to college—guys who never dreamed it would be possible for them to get a higher education—and after earning their degrees they went out and built modern America. They were part of the best educated, best disciplined, hardest working, most innovative generation of Americans ever. Today's young people, through AmeriCorps and other volunteer groups, can emulate them.

Our young people are our future. Our very soul as a nation is at stake. I cannot imagine a better investment than in youth who want to work for others and then go on with their education, taking a hand up rather than a hand out. Since 1994, more than 100,000 young men and women have pledged to "get things done" for America. This month, as AmeriCorps celebrates this milestone, let us congratulate them for their service to our country—and hope that future generations have the opportunity to follow in their footsteps.

Mr. Ambrose is author, most recently, of "Citizen Soldiers" (Simon & Schuster, 1997).

BY DAVID GERGEN / EDITOR AT LARGE



The nation's new patriots

A generation of idealists shuns politics and turns instead to volunteering

The news these days suggests that America is now raising a generation of hellions: Two young men stand accused of brutally murdering a college kid in Wyoming because he was gay; a 20-year-old girl is found guilty of inducing her boyfriend, a cadet at the Air Force Academy, to kill another young woman whom she detested; Eric Rudolph, hiding out in the Appalachian Mountains, is accused of planting that bomb at the Atlanta Olympics when he was 30; young punks show up on morning television shows with the damndest personal stories. And on and on.

But as is so often the case, the real news is contained in the stories that aren't snatching headlines. Last week, for example, the four-year-old AmeriCorps program inducted its 100,000th volunteer. Nearly all the young men and women are giving at least a year of service to their country. It's a remarkable feat: The Peace Corps took 20 years to reach the same milestone.

More to the point, almost every one of these AmeriCorps volunteers has been weaving an important thread into the fabric of community life. In Clearwater, Fla., a young woman named Sherry Thomas, who was living in the streets at the age of 14, helps to build community playgrounds and assists in neighborhood cleanups as she prepares for a career in law enforcement. Serving with Habitat for Humanity, Army veteran Phillip Wu and 22 other members on his team recruited 1,500 college students to come to Miami over a spring break to complete 50 new homes for working families. Monisha Poudyal, a Yale graduate from an immigrant family, worked for a year in California on HIV and substance-abuse issues with at-risk kids. She is now pursuing a career in nonprofit management. A graduate of Notre Dame, Robert Peters, joined the Sisters of Notre Dame AmeriCorps program and tutored migrant farm children and illiterate adults.

Doing something good. "We are tapping into a new patriotism among young people," says Harris Wofford, the former U.S. senator who now heads the Corporation for National Service, which runs AmeriCorps. "They have a

tremendous cynicism about politics but not for doing something for their neighborhood or for children."

Wofford's opinions are borne out by recent survey data. UCLA's mammoth survey of college freshmen found that last year's incoming class demonstrated the lowest levels of political interest in the 32-year history of the poll, even as volunteer work was at record levels. A recent survey for Public Allies, a multicultural group supporting civic service, found that today's young people are very public spirited, but they are "actively looking for new and distinctive ways to connect to the people and issues surrounding them."

Contrary to myths
that they are
slackers, gen X-ers
are actually brimming
with idealism.

AmeriCorps is not the only organization experiencing a surge in interest. Teach for America, the volunteer program started nearly 10 years ago by Wendy Kopp after she graduated from Princeton, receives 3,000 applications a year for 500 slots. Some 10,000 apply to the Peace Corps for 3,500 places, and young people often wait up to two years to gain a coveted spot.

Each of these programs has its critics but is building wider support. Republicans once bashed AmeriCorps as President Clinton's pet project, but Senate conservatives like Rick Santorum and Charles Grassley now back it. Millard Fuller, the inspirational figure behind Habitat for Humanity, was once a skeptic, too, but, after seeing volunteers in action on Habitat sites, has written enthusiastically about national-service programs to House Speaker Newt Gingrich. With 1 in 7 AmeriCorps members now serving in faith-based projects, support for the program among religious leaders has risen, too.

None of this, however, should obscure the central point: Contrary to myths that they are slackers, generation X-ers are actually brimming with idealism, far outstripping what we saw only a decade ago. Instead of knocking young men and women, we ought to be providing more opportunities for them to give back. The day is not far off when a year or more of service to the country will once again be enshrined as an essential part of becoming an American citizen. ■

NOTEBOOK



SUCCESS STORY

Clinton's Pet Program Makes Many Friends

AT LEAST ONE GROUP IN WASHINGTON HAS escaped the long arm of the **LEWINSKY** scandal: AmeriCorps. The national service program is a favorite of **PRESIDENT CLINTON'S**, and its supporters were worried that it might be a target for his congressional critics. But the four-year-old program has won over skeptics by emphasizing its grass-roots structure and its alliance with respected



Santorum

nonprofit organizations around the country. Members are selected by and work for such groups as Boys and Girls Clubs of America and Habitat for Humanity.

AmeriCorps prevailed on a key Senate funding vote in July by 58 to 37, winning over such former Republican critics as **RICK SANTORUM** of Pennsylvania and Daniel Coats of Indiana. On Friday, Clinton will preside at a White House swearing-in ceremony marking the program's 100,000th member—a benchmark the Peace Corps took more than 20 years to reach. —By Adam Cohen/New York

ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann:

I write to encourage the many young people who read your column to consider something that will greatly enrich their lives: service to others. So much gets written about the many difficulties facing young people today and not enough about the remarkable opportunities that exist for them. In the more than 40 years I have served as a teacher and educational leader, I have learned that education is indeed a good in itself. But combined with service, learning can be an even more fulfilling human experience.

Young people today lead amazingly active lives. They are engaged in all kinds of dynamic learning activities beyond the classroom. Participation in sports and social organizations and everyday involvement with friends teach them vital lessons of responsibility, self-discipline and commitment. I applaud all these endeavors. But I want to emphasize another invaluable opportunity: the opportunity young people have to learn by helping others and sharing their lives.

The mathematics student who excels in algebra or statistics will learn still more by tutoring a second-grader in basic arithmetic. A class on language and literature that encourages students to help children in reading and writing offers students more than academic enrichment. High school students can learn conflict resolution techniques and a deeper appreciation of our legal system by becoming peer mediators to resolve disputes among their classmates.

Service opportunities like these offer students the chance to learn the great value, and the great joy, of sharing their lives with others. So I urge our young people, as they move forward in their education, always to consider ways of helping others. They will surely learn that education fosters a lifelong love of knowledge and an enduring love for humanity.

Leo J. O'Donovan, S.J., president, Georgetown University

This year the Chicago public school system, under CEO Paul Vallas, is coming out with the mandate that students complete 40 hours of community service in order to graduate from high school. The hope is to help our students live up to their civic responsibilities through volunteering in tutorial programs, local churches, nursing homes, centers for the disabled and nonprofit community organizations. This is another reason I love Chicago. Our civic leaders care about our city.

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Community service that works

By Marc Racicot

Governors meet together and routinely stake out areas of broad bipartisan agreement that transcend the partisan struggles that have become synonymous with election-year politics. One issue that enjoys strong support from governors of both parties is national and community service. The support for service is based on a simple conviction that I share with many other governors: that every generation of young people needs to accept responsibility for its country and its community.

As a first-term Republican governor in January, 1993, I asked, and our legislature approved, a proposal to create a Governor's Office of Community Service intended to enhance the ethic of service and elevate the importance of "community," particularly among our young people. Meaningful service, we believed, would nurture productive young citizens committed to the future of our state because they had invested their sweat and labor in that future. Here in Montana, we sought to encourage service as a life-long "habit of the heart."

When the National Community Service Act of 1993 was passed, Montana was in an ideal position to move forward with the opportunities offered through AmeriCorps. The Office of Community Service's mission and the mission of AmeriCorps was one and the same: to develop opportunities for young people to provide meaningful, direct and demonstrable service to their communities. It was our hope that AmeriCorps would help us to build unique partnerships with public and private agencies by engaging young people in productive and

meaningful service to their communities. These partnership would serve as clear examples of how we could work together in Montana to improve how we, as fellow citizens, respond to pressing needs.

Now in its fourth year, AmeriCorps offers a creative, effective, and non-bureaucratic means of addressing the unmet education, human, public safety and environmental needs of our state — and our country. Indeed, AmeriCorps has become a model of devolution, where real authority and ownership for a federal initiative is delegated to the states. Through governor-appointed bipartisan state commissions, priorities are established and projects are selected to receive AmeriCorps funding.

The results are impressive. Last year alone, our locally-run AmeriCorps programs generated nearly 51,000 hours of service to Montana communities. Their service directly benefits 50,000 children and families in Montana, and indirectly almost one-third of our state population. Nationally, similar results abound. This year, some 40,000 AmeriCorps members will get things done for more than 1,200 communities across the country.

When AmeriCorps was created, some feared it might replay the worst of the welfare state — an entrenched, expensive, Washington-run program. Many feared, even more, that it would undermine traditional volunteers with yet another federal program. I can say from experience that the fears were misplaced. As a governor who tries very hard to be careful with tax dollars, I have witnessed time and again the fruits of this prudent investment in Montana.

Now, after more than five years, we have seen a tremendous rekindling of a sense of public service and civic duty, in many ways,

through the programs and opportunities generated through the National Community Service Act. I am convinced national and community service promotes core values — hard work, self-discipline, civic duty, personal responsibility, the cherishing of human life — that we too often sadly find lacking. If the era of big government is finally over, certainly the era of big citizenship must begin.

I have joined twelve of my fellow governors in urging not only continued federal funding of AmeriCorps, but also reauthorization of the Act, increasing the partnership with states and the authority of directing these programs at the state level. We join with our peers from the New England Governors' Conference in urging Congress to support reauthorizing the National Community Service Amendments Act, in order to improve the law's current language. As their resolution notes, we support the bill's "devolution provisions that add authority and flexibility to states . . . [to] provide Governor-appointed state commissions more control over program selection."

Community service is a vital element in the chemistry of our existence as a society, renewing our sense of community and civic initiative. It is the glue that bonds free peoples together. We in Montana have seen how vitally important this is, recently having completed our state Governors' Summit on Youth, and witnessing the real necessity of promoting opportunities for young people to give back to others. Through community service they learn what it's like to belong to something good and solid and decent. AmeriCorps helps provide that opportunity and truly puts the states in the driver's seat, which translates into meaningful ownership, and impact, at the state and local level.

Marc Racicot, a Republican, is governor of Montana.

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The White House Bulletin

February 10, 1999

LENGTH: 95 words

HEADLINE: Clinton Calls For AmeriCorps Expansion, Announces Recruitment Drive.

BODY:

Today, at the University of Maryland, President Clinton called on Congress to approve his FY2000 budget request for a \$106 million increase to \$533 million for his AmeriCorps program in order for AmeriCorps to expand to 100,000 members by 2002. Clinton also announced the AmeriCorps Call To Service campaign, which will be the largest recruitment drive ever for AmeriCorps. The campaign includes an MTV public service announcement, visits to high-school and college campuses, print advertisements as well as other local recruitment efforts.

2ND STORY of Focus printed in FULL format.

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Federal News Service

FEBRUARY 10, 1999, WEDNESDAY

SECTION: WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

LENGTH: 2475 words

HEADLINE: PRESIDENT CLINTON REMARKS AT
AMERICORPS CALL TO SERVICE EVENT
RICHIE COLISEUM
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

BODY:

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Ladies and gentlemen, when I was listening to Stephen and Leslie and Justin and Pepe talk, I was reminded of why I wanted to be President -- so that I could give young people like them the chance to make America a better place. (Applause.)

I want to thank all those who are here today who have supported our efforts. I thank Harris Wofford for his outstanding leadership of the Corporation of National Service. (Applause.) Deb Jospin and John Gomperts of AmeriCorps. I thank Governor Glendening and Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend for making Maryland America's leading state for citizen service. They have really done -- (applause.) I thank my good friend, Prince George's County Executive Wayne Curry; Senator Mike Miller, my longtime friend; and Mayor Jacobs, thank you for making us welcome. Carson Dailey, thank you for the work MTV did on those wonderful spots, the PSAs.

I would like to thank also the mother of the Lt. Governor, my good friend, Ethel Kennedy, for being here today. (Applause.) And I thank Mark Gearan, our Peace Corps Director, and I'll say a little more about the Peace Corps in a minute and its relationship to AmeriCorps.

I'd like to thank one person who is not here today, but who was on the front lines of creating AmeriCorps, Senator Barbara Mikulski, your United States Senator from Maryland. I thank her. (Applause.) I want to thank the President of the University of Maryland, on my right; and the President of the Student Government of the University of Maryland, on my left -- (applause) -- for making me welcome. Avery and Dr. Mote, thank you. (Applause.)

You have already heard from Dr. Mote and others that six years ago I came here to celebrate the end of the Summer of Service, which was our dry run for this national service program. We wanted to work out the kinks and see whether we could make this idea go. There were three people who are here who were instrumental on that day; I would like to thank them: Georgia Sorensen, Marilyn Smith and my former White House staffer, whom I miss very much, Bill Galstone. Thank you all very much for what you have done. (Applause.)

And I thank the University of Maryland for the College Park Scholars, the Team Maryland Athletes -- (applause) -- the work-study students that are tutoring,

and the others from the students and faculty who demonstrate the power of citizen service.

Let me say to all of you, when I ran for President in 1992 I wanted to get America working again and moving again, but I also wanted to bring America together again. It seemed to me that we had two great problems. One is that our economy was not functioning very well and we seemed to be getting weaker, but also that we seemed to be letting our divisions overcome what we have in common.

Martin Luther King once said that the old law of an eye for an eye sooner or later leaves everyone blind. I always believed that America's differences could be the source of our strength if we respected and we celebrated our differences, but we understood that, underneath it all, there was something that bound us together that was more important.

So, as I look back on the last six years, I think we can all take a great deal of pride in what our country has achieved together -- economically, the longest peacetime expansion in history; the lowest peacetime unemployment rate since 1957, 42 years ago -- (applause) -- welfare rolls cut nearly in half; the lowest crime rate in over a quarter-century. I think those are great things.

But I think we can also celebrate the evidence that we are coming together -- over 90 percent of our children across all racial and ethnic lines immunized against serious childhood diseases for the first time in history; the doors of college literally open to all with the HOPE scholarship, the lifetime learning tax credit, the more generous Pell grant, more affordable student loans, more work-study slots. Those things matter.

But maybe most of all, those of you here in Americorps, and those in citizen service -- whether in the Peace Corps, serving our country in the military, or serving in some other way -- embody the determination of America to draw closer together as we grow more diverse. And that, I think, is terribly important. When you saw the four Americorps volunteers up here speaking, and each of you identifying with them in turn -- if they worked in your project or you knew them -- you know they were a picture of America, of the changing face of America, and the best of America that never changes.

If you look around the world today, at many of the challenges that I face as your President and that the United States faces -- the sad trip that the First Lady and I recently took to Jordan for the funeral of our friend, the King of Jordan, who survived decades of assassination attempts -- literally decades of assassination attempts, probably 50 in all -- to stand as a symbol of peace among people in a very tough neighborhood, who use religion as a reason to find their differences more important than their common humanity. All over the world today you see that. If the United States wants to lead the world toward peace and freedom and prosperity in a new century in a new millennium, it is actually quite an advantage for us to have within our borders people from all races, all religions, all ethnic groups, all cultural backgrounds doing all kinds of different things.

But we cannot do good around the world unless we are good at home. And, therefore, we have to find this magical balance, being honest about our differences of opinion on matters from the serious to the mundane -- and I'll leave it to you to decide whether it was serious or mundane when the President asked me take sides in the basketball game. (Laughter.) You've got a great team here, though, I'll tell you that, I've watched it. (Applause.) We have to find a way to do that, to say, this is what I believe, this is where I stand, this is what I'm for -- and also to say how lucky we are to stand on the verge of a new millennium in a totally global society, where people are being brought closer

together than ever before, and we are finding ways to relish, to celebrate, to honor our differences in a way to bring us closer together, instead of driving us apart.

AmeriCorps is the living, breathing symbol of the answer to that. Where we do not ask people to check their differences at the door, but we do ask them to reaffirm our common humanity. We do not ask for a handout, but we do ask for a hand up for everyone who needs it, and we say we are going forward together. That is what you represent. That is my fondest hope for America. And I thank you for your service. (Applause.)

You know, all during the 20th century, the tradition of citizen service grew stronger in America.

In the great Depression I remember my parents telling me about the chance President Roosevelt gave able-bodied, unemployed people to work in the Civilian Conservation Corps -- the CCC. They cleared trails, they fought fires, they planted trees. They built whole state parks -- the Appalachian Trail, Skyline Drive in Virginia; parks in my home state that Hillary and I have stayed in, with rather interesting names like Petit Jean, and Devil's Den. I have in the back office of the White House an old CCC cap -- a cap that one of the volunteers wore in the '30s, that I found wedged in between a chimney and a wall, in a cabin in a state park in the mountains of north Arkansas. And I have kept it with me all these long years, to remember the unifying power of citizen service in one of the most difficult moments of the 20th century for the United States.

President Kennedy in the 1960s asked young people to serve in the Peace Corps -- to teach English, to provide health care, to bring running water and electricity to some of the most remote villages in Africa, Asia and South America. My brother-in-law served in the Peace Corps in Colombia. And the other night, he was getting together with some of the people who served there with him. When we were getting ready to come out here today, and Senator Wofford came in with Mark Gearan, the present Peace Corps Director, we were celebrating the fact that, if our new budget passes, we will have more people serving in the Peace Corps in the next two years than have ever served in any given year. We'll be back at an all-time high.

And we were lamenting the fact that we just had to withdraw our Peace Corps volunteers from Eritrea and Ethiopia, two countries that I have felt particularly close to in the last couple of years, because of the trouble the two countries are having -- the threat to go to war. And the Peace Corps volunteers, going all the way back for decades, have volunteered to try to come in and solve the conflict and deal with the disputed area of land. I don't know if they will accept it, but think of that. All these years later, people that were there years and years and years ago remember what it was like -- not to give a handout, but to give a hand up, and to ask people to understand that their differences are not as important as what they have in common.

So I thank our Peace Corps volunteers, I thank Mark Gearan, and I thank all of you in AmeriCorps, because you are in the rich tradition of America's citizen service, from the CCC to the Peace Corps to AmeriCorps. Now, six summers after I first came here, AmeriCorps is thriving. There now have been over 100,000 people serve in AmeriCorps in just four years of the full-time program. Everywhere I go around the country I see you -- I see you in all kinds of different contexts. I was in San Jose right before the election and there were a lot of -- the Peace Corps volunteers had just come to start their mission, and so I saw them standing on the street as I pulled into the hotel. And I asked them all to come see me and we took a little picture -- and they were from

everywhere.

And then when I went home to Arkansas after the terrible tornadoes a couple of weeks ago, in both the communities I visited there were AmeriCorps volunteers there and there were people there who, believe me, would never have come to Arkansas in their lives if they hadn't been in AmeriCorps. (Laughter.) I know it was good for the people they were helping and I think it was pretty good for them.

This has been an astonishing encounter for tens of thousands of people. Now, all of you know what it's like -- I love talking to people who have been in AmeriCorps because I always hear two things -- number one, they're proud of what they did to help people -- teaching a child to read, or immunizing a child, or having a playground that's safe in an area that used to be dominated by gangs, or cleaning up some polluted site, or doing something to preserve the environment. I love that.

The second thing I always hear is, "I like the people with whom I serve;" "I met people I never would have met;" "I got to know people I never would have gotten to know;" "we were all so different and, yet, when we worked together, we grew together, and it made my life different and better." That is what AmeriCorps needs to do -- and that is what America needs to do.

America needs to think of itself as sort of a giant AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps at home, getting things done together. Getting things done together.

(Applause.) If our budget passes this fall, we can boost the number of AmeriCorps volunteers by one quarter, to 50,000 members. In our new budget we want to keep expanding AmeriCorps every year so that by the year 2003, and there forward, every year 100,000 young people will be serving in AmeriCorps.

(Applause.)

But I want to challenge the young people of this country -- and the not so young who are willing to do it -- to sign up for AmeriCorps, to see for yourselves what you can do to solve America's problems and reap America's promise. I want to challenge high school students, as well. Maryland has done a wonderful job as the Governor and the Lt. Governor said, being the only state in the country to actually require community service as a part of a public education. In our balanced budget we propose to allow high schoolers for the very first time to join AmeriCorps by serving part-time during the school year and full-time in the summers.

And I want to challenge, again, the young people beyond this room, to dedicate a year or two of your lives to a cause larger than yourselves. It may be your best chance to change the lives of others for the better, and to enrich your own life in the process.

Today, so many young people have the time and freedom and energy they will never have in the future, to tackle the kind of challenge AmeriCorps represents -- to pack a bag at a moment's notice, to fight a forest fire, or move into our most remote towns or Native American reservations to teach children, or work with churches in some of our toughest neighborhoods. At the end of your service, as all of you know, AmeriCorps will provide help to pay for college or pay off student loans. So I ask you all to help me reach others -- to take advantage of this opportunity, to use this moment to prove that this generation of young people, far from being a generation of cynics and slackers, is instead a generation of doers and patriots. (Applause.)

Lt. Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend quoted something her father said. I would like to close with a quotation from Senator Robert Kennedy, in a speech he gave to college students in South Africa when I was a young man. It resonated around the world, and every person my age, which was then your age now -- every young person I knew, without regard to their party or their opinions or anything

else, was riveted by the notion that a United States Senator could go to South Africa and talk to the young people about building a different future, a long time before, for the first time in over 300 years, all South Africans had a chance to choose their future.

This is what he said: "Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

That is still true today. For those in AmeriCorps, I thank you for sending forth those ripples of hope. I thank you for bringing out the best in yourselves and others.

For those who could still yet serve, I ask you to join the rest of your fellow citizens in building that bridge to the 21st century that all can walk across, arm-in-arm, to the best days of America.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 11, 1999

A Nation of Service: AmeriCorps Crosses 100,000 Mark

Today, at the White House, the President will celebrate the success of AmeriCorps in reaching the 100,000th member mark and swear in a new class of AmeriCorps members. This event coincides with celebrations and swearing-ins of AmeriCorps members taking place across the country, including in Philadelphia; Chicago; San Francisco; Charleston, SC; Madison WI; and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

100,000 AmeriCorps Members: A Track Record of Growth and Accomplishment. In September 1993, President Clinton signed into law the act creating AmeriCorps, a national service program to allow students to pay for college with community service. Just four years later, AmeriCorps is celebrating its 100,000th member -- a milestone it took the Peace Corps over two decades reach. Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have served more than 4,000 communities, mobilized nearly 2 million volunteers, tutored and mentored more than 2 million children, organized after-school programs for more than a half million youth, and built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes. This year alone, more than 40,000 AmeriCorps members will engage in full-time service to more than 2,500 communities. AmeriCorps members, most between the ages of 18 to 25, devote a year or more to help strengthen local communities by tackling the nation's most serious problems, including illiteracy, poverty, health care, and crime. In exchange for a year of full-time service, AmeriCorps members receive \$4,725 to pay for college or pay back student loans.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows. President Clinton will announce a new collaboration between AmeriCorps and America's Promise, headed by General Colin Powell. As part of the partnership, AmeriCorps is releasing grants to fund more than 500 fellowships to improve the lives of the nation's more than 15 million at-risk youth. The AmeriCorps Promise Fellowships will provide full-time leaders to work in local communities to carry out the promises made to the nation's youth at the 1997 Presidents' Summit For America's Future. Each fellow will serve one year in organizations providing at-risk youth with fundamental resources identified at the Summit -- a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill and a chance to serve.

President's Student Service Award. President Clinton will launch the President's Students Service Awards to help schools and community organizations recognize young people for their outstanding community service and encourage more young people to serve. Youth ages 5 to 25 who contribute at least 100 hours of service to the community in a 12-month period will be eligible for the gold President's Student Service Award. Youth ages 5 to 14 who perform 50 hours of community service within a 12-month period will receive a silver President's Student Service Award.

President's Service Awards. President Clinton will recognize the winners of the President's Service Awards, presented earlier that day to eighteen of the nation's most outstanding community service volunteers. More than 3,500 nominations were received in four categories -- education, environment, human needs and public safety -- the same four areas in which AmeriCorps works. The 1998 award recipients include volunteers from organizations that keep young people out of gangs and in school, run free SAT preparation courses for low-income students, and provide care to people with AIDS and Alzheimer's disease. These awards are sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service with support from the Aid Association for Lutherans, the Ford Motor Company, the W.K Kellogg Foundation, and Lens Crafters.

AmeriCorps at 100,000 Q&A

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AmeriCorps

What do AmeriCorps members do?

AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, gives citizens the opportunity to engage in full-time service to their community. Working through a grassroots network of more than 1,000 national and local non-profit and faith-based organizations, AmeriCorps members tutor and mentor at-risk children; work with police and community groups to make schools and neighborhoods safer; clean rivers and restore parks; provide health care in underserved rural and Native American communities, build and rehabilitate homes, and undertake other activities that make communities stronger.

Where do AmeriCorps members serve?

Since it was established, AmeriCorps members have served in more than 4,000 communities. AmeriCorps members work with national nonprofits like the American Red Cross, Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, Teach for America, Habitat for Humanity, and faith-based organizations like Lutheran Social Services, the Catholic Network of Volunteer-Services and the National Council of Churches and with hundreds of smaller community-based organizations. Today, President Clinton is announcing the release of grants to provide 500 AmeriCorps members to local communities to serve as AmeriCorps Promise Fellows, in the America's Promise campaign led by General Colin Powell to achieve the goals for children and youth set at the 1997 Presidents' Summit for America's Future.

What has AmeriCorps accomplished?

In four years, AmeriCorps members have taught, tutored or mentored more than 2 million youth; organized after-school programs for more than 500,000 at-risk youth; established 4,000 safety patrols; built or rehabilitated more than 25,000 homes; planted more than 52 million trees; arranged immunizations for nearly half-million people; and recruited, trained or supervised nearly 2 million volunteers.

How many people are part of AmeriCorps?

Since it was launched four years ago, more than 100,000 men and women have served in AmeriCorps. This year alone, more than 40,000 AmeriCorps members are working with more than 600 organizations to serve more than 2,500 communities.

What is the average cost per AmeriCorps member?

The average cost per member is \$16,000. This includes a living allowance, an education award and costs associated with program administration. As part of a bipartisan agreement reached in March 1996, with Senator Grassley, AmeriCorps is cutting costs significantly. The cost of

AmeriCorps has been but by \$1000 per member each year. The Corporation for National Service has already successfully lowered the costs per member to \$16,000 in the current grant year and is on track to cut the cost per member to \$15,000 next year.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows

What will AmeriCorps Promise Fellows do?

Among the projects that AmeriCorps Promise Fellows will manage are:

- Recruiting and managing volunteer to run an after-school program
- Implementing a curriculum coordinating service and education in elementary schools
- Coordinating a community's Summit follow-up activities, and
- Building private sector support for projects supporting children and youth.

How are they different from AmeriCorps members?

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows are providing leaders to communities specifically to carry out the promises made to the nation's youth at the 1997 Presidents' Summit For America's Future.

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows will assist with state and local efforts to provide young people with the five America's future held last year in Philadelphia - a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, a marketable skill and a chance to serve. AmeriCorps members also engage in full-time service to the community, but it is service that is directed to all age groups and in a broader range of areas, including to assist senior citizens, provide housing, and care for the environment.

How many AmeriCorps Promise Fellows will be sent to states? Where will AmeriCorps Promise Fellows serve?

Representing a total commitment of nearly \$7 million, the 548 AmeriCorps Promise Fellows will work in more than 42 states and one U.S. territory. In addition, 10 Fellows will work with two American Indian tribes and others will work with 16 national organizations that deliver community services on a local basis.

President's Service Awards

What is the history of these awards?

The President's Service Awards were created in 1982 to honor outstanding individuals and organizations engaged in volunteer service directed at solving serious social problems. The awards program is sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service, with support from the Aid Association for Lutherans, the Ford Motor Company, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and LensCrafters.

How were the winners selected?

This year more than 3,500 nominations were submitted by organizations and individuals and reviewed in four categories --- education, environment, human needs, and public safety -- the same four areas in which AmeriCorps works. Reviewing and judging of the nominations is a three step process. A group of distinguished Americans served as the final judges choosing the 1998 award recipients.

President's Student Service Awards

Who will be eligible for these awards?

Youth ages 5 to 25 who contribute at least 100 hours of service to the community in a 12-month period will be eligible for the gold President's Student Service Award. Youth ages 5 to 14 who perform 50 hours of community service within a 12-month period will receive a silver President's Student Service Award. Award winners will receive a letter from the President, a certificate and a gold or silver pin with a specially-designed seal. Modeled on the President's physical fitness award, all students who meet the award criteria may have a school or community organization certify them to receive this award.

What types of schools, colleges and community organization may participate?

All schools, colleges, nonprofit organizations, civic groups, religious organizations, unions or businesses may certify students for the President's Student Service Awards.

What types of service qualify?

The President's Student Service Award is intended to reward and encourage activities that have a significant impact in meeting the needs of local communities. Types of service could include: service with community or religious organizations; service through school- or community-based service learning projects; or individual efforts to help others and improve the local community. Fundraising, lobbying, proselytizing and paid or stipended service do not qualify for these awards.

Why 100 hours?

Recent research indicates that students benefit much more from sustained service activities than a one-time service project. The 100-hour award level was established to encourage ongoing community service by youth. Some schools an organization discourage counting hours as part of service-learning projects and place greater emphasis on the outcomes of the projects. In this case, local selection committees may estimate the number of hours students have devoted to service-learning activities. Younger students, ages 5-14 are eligible for the silver President's Student Service Award for 50 hours of service in a 12-month period.