

THE USA FREEDOM CORPS' 

Network of Service

November 2002

Answering the President's Call to Service

Non-profit organizations are continuing to answer the President's Call to Service by making important commitments to engage more Americans in volunteer service. Among the commitments already made:

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) is collaborating with the Peace Corps to greatly expand the placement of Peace Corps volunteers working directly with HFHI programs. The organizations are partnering in up to 40 countries in various capacities, including community and youth development, family education, and the construction of houses.

Jumpstart will grow to an additional 20 communities next year and will train and support 2,000 college students to deliver a preschool enrichment program to 7,500 children via 700,000 hours of service. Jumpstart is a national organization that engages young people in service to work toward the day every child in America enters school prepared to succeed.

The U.S. Junior Chamber (Jaycees), a national service organization of 70,000 young adults, has called upon its chapters to play a vital role in supporting Citizen Corps by assisting in the formation of Citizen Corps Councils in their communities.

Please let us know what your organization is doing or planning to do in response to the President's Call to Service. Contact Therese Lyons, Director of Public Liaison, at therese_lyons@who.eop.gov.

HHS and USA Freedom Corps Launch Medical Reserve Corps

On November 1, HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson announced 42 demonstration grants totaling \$2 million to community-based organizations to begin building local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units that will help local communities prepare and respond in the event of a public health emergency.

The local MRC units are comprised of community-based, community-led volunteers who are trained to respond to health crises. Volunteers will assist with emergency response, logistical planning, records keeping, public health and awareness campaigns, and public communications. In addition to playing an important role during a large-scale local emergency, MRC volunteers will also help promote the public health of their communities.

"The Medical Reserve Corps gives Americans an opportunity to help out in their community. All of us have talents and skills and there is no better place to use those talents than in service to the local community," Secretary Thompson said.



President Bush thanks Kathleen Eid-Heberle for her 18 years of volunteer service with the American Red Cross. She serves as the chairperson of disaster health services for her local Red Cross chapter.

The Medical Reserve Corps is led by the Office of the Surgeon General in HHS. For more information, including the MRC guidance document, log onto www.medicalreservecorps.gov.

The Medical Reserve Corps is a Citizen Corps program, and is part of the USA Freedom Corps.

President Bush Calls for a Season of Service

On November 28, NBC will broadcast a greeting from President George W. Bush wishing Americans a Happy Thanksgiving during the first hour of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The President will use this time to encourage all Americans to engage in volunteer service in their communities and make this holiday the start of a season of service.

In the greeting, President Bush encourages Americans to find volunteer opportunities through the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network. Your organization can gain access to millions of individuals responding to the President's Call to Service by becoming part of the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network. [Click here](#) to join.

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The "Network of Service" is intended to help you answer President Bush's Call to Service. This newsletter should be used for informational purposes only.