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THE USA FREEDOM CORPS'

USA Freedom Corps

# Network of Service

December 2002

## President Thanks Leaders for their Commitment to Service



President Bush addresses the members of Business Strengthening America.

On December 10, President Bush helped Business Strengthening America (BSA) members launch the next stage of their initiative to engage America's businesses in supporting volunteer service as part of their corporate policies and practices. BSA is a self-directed initiative that was launched in June 2002 in response to the President's State of the Union Call to Service and the ongoing efforts of the President's USA Freedom Corps

## Bureau of Labor Statistics Releases New Volunteer Service Indicator

On December 18, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released data that establishes a new baseline for volunteer service activity among individuals living in the United States age 16 and over who volunteer with organizations such as schools, nonprofits, houses of worship, and hospitals. Among the findings is that 27.6 percent of individuals (more than 59 million) over the age of 16 volunteered with a volunteer service

to foster a culture of citizenship, service and responsibility for decades to come.

More than 100 companies representing nearly two million employees are now a part of BSA, and the group has set a goal of recruiting 500 businesses by June 2003. Member companies are committed to using their corporate resources to mobilize employees, customers, and

vendors to engage in service and civic engagement activities, and to report annually on its corporate efforts to support volunteer service.

By joining BSA, the companies have formed a network that will allow them, among other objectives, to assist the nonprofit sector in efforts to expand their capacity to recruit, train and use volunteers effectively by sharing their expertise and resources.

For more information on BSA go to <http://bsa.networkforgood.org/bsa/>.

organization between September 2001 and September 2002. The findings provide comprehensive data on volunteer service, including who is more likely to volunteer and who is likely to volunteer more hours.

The indicator is a new national measurement of volunteer behavior developed by the Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics with the USA Freedom Corps. [Click here](#) for details on the findings.

## National Citizen Corps Council Launched at White House

On December 4, Governor Tom Ridge and FEMA Deputy Director Mike Brown launched the National Citizen Corps Council at the White House. The Council brings together leaders from first responders groups, emergency management agencies, volunteer service organizations, state and local governments, and the private sector to engage citizens in homeland security and promote community and family preparedness across the country. The leadership of these national organizations and their colleagues at the state and local levels will collaborate to create local Citizen Corps Councils and advance the mission of Citizen Corps.

Brown also announced FEMA has awarded \$21 million to states and territories to support the growth of Citizen Corps activities.



President Bush established the Citizen Corps initiative, a component of the USA Freedom Corps, to provide individuals with opportunities to volunteer in efforts to keep their communities safe and prepared for emergencies. We encourage you to go to [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov) to find out if there is a Citizen Corps Council in your community and how your organization can assist in creating safer and stronger communities.

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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.