

THE USA FREEDOM CORPS' 

# Network of Service

February 2003

## President George W. Bush Celebrates First Year Anniversary of the USA Freedom Corps

On January 30, 2003, President George W. Bush celebrated the first anniversary of the USA Freedom Corps with 500 guests, including young people, their mentors and teachers, and leaders of service organizations at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington. The President marked the anniversary by launching new initiatives that will engage more Americans in service to their neighbors and their Nation:

**★ President's Council on Service and Civic Participation** President Bush announced a new President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, which will oversee a massive nationwide effort to engage more individuals in volunteer service and recognize them for their dedication. ([Click here](#) for a copy of the Executive Order that established the Council.) The President introduced the first members of the 25-member council, including the chair, Darrell Green, former Washington Redskins cornerback and founder of the Darrell Green Youth Life Foundation. For a list of members, [click here](#).

**★ President's Volunteer Service Awards** The Council will oversee the creation of a nationwide recognition program called the President's Volunteer Service Awards. The awards will be given to millions of individuals who have made a sustained commitment to volunteer service during a one year period. This new recognition program represents an excellent

opportunity for organizations to mobilize millions of people in service to their neighbors, our country, and our world. [Click here](#) for guidelines on earning the award.

**★ Volunteer Service Action Priorities** In an effort to mobilize Americans to meet pressing community needs around the country, the USA Freedom Corps has selected "Volunteer Service Action Priorities" for 2003 that will allow us to focus on four areas of need that can be addressed by volunteers: youth achievement, parks and open spaces, healthy communities, and homeland security. In connection with each area, we will develop new federal initiatives to support service and mobilize volunteers. The first area of need to be addressed in 2003 is youth achievement. [Click here](#) for details.

**★ More Than One Million New Mentors** To help meet the needs of young people, President Bush has outlined two new programs that will match disadvantaged middle-school children and children of prisoners with caring mentors. The programs will invest \$450 million in federal funds over the next three years in the nonprofit, community, and faith-based organizations that train volunteer mentors and pair them with youth in need.

**★ New at the USA Freedom Corps** To find out the latest about the USA Freedom Corps, including major announcements, press releases, proclamations, and news, [click here](#).



Darrell Green, chair of the new President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, introduces President George W. Bush on the first year anniversary of the USA Freedom Corps.

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*"Last year, I called on my fellow citizens to participate in the USA Freedom Corps ... Tonight I ask Congress and the American people to focus the spirit of service and the resources of government on the needs of some of our most vulnerable citizens - boys and girls trying to grow up without guidance and attention, and children who have to go through a prison gate to be hugged by their mom or dad."*

*President George W. Bush  
2003 State of the Union*

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### **A Year of Accomplishment**

To view the USA Freedom Corps 2002 Annual Report and learn about what we did to foster a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility during our first year, [click here](#).