

THE USA FREEDOM CORPS' 

# Network of Service

May 2003

## "We the People" Forum Supports Teaching of American History and Civics



Laura Bush addresses the Forum.

On May 1, the USA Freedom Corps with the U.S. Department of Education, Corporation for National and Community Service, and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) co-hosted the "We the People Forum on American History, Civics, and Service" to call attention to the need to improve the teaching of American history and civics and make national treasures more accessible to teachers and students.

The Forum, held at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., is one component of a multi-agency effort that President Bush announced last fall to support the teaching of American history and civics. [Click here](#) for a summary of the initiatives.

At the Forum, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige announced that his department is accepting applications for nearly \$100 million in grants for "Teaching American History" ([click here](#) for details). In addition, the President will ask Congress to provide \$100 million over three years to support the NEH's "We the People" initiative ([click here](#) for details).

For a fact sheet on the Forum, [click here](#).

## President Bush Launches "Volunteers for Prosperity"

On May 21, in his commencement address at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, President George W. Bush announced "Volunteers for Prosperity," a new volunteer-based initiative to support major U.S. development initiatives using the talents of highly-skilled Americans to work with nongovernmental and voluntary service organizations in countries around the world.

Volunteers for Prosperity, an initiative of the USA Freedom Corps, encourages American professionals to volunteer for a flexible period of time in developing countries and emerging economies.

Working with federal government agencies that administer foreign aid programs, the USA Freedom Corps will match doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, economists, computer specialists, and others with organizations working on specific

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*"Like generations before us, this generation of citizens will show the world the energy and idealism of the United States of America."*

*President George W. Bush*

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U.S. development initiatives including: the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Millennium Challenge Initiative, the Trade for Africa Development and Enterprise Initiative, the Water for the Poor Initiative, the Digital Freedom Initiative, and the Middle East Partnership Initiative.

For more details on Volunteers for Prosperity and these U.S. development initiatives, [click here](#).

If your organization would like to offer its international volunteer service opportunities through the USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network, [click here](#).

## Grants Available for Mentoring Children of Prisoners

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has announced that \$9.5 million in grants is available for "Mentoring Children of Prisoners."

An important first step in fulfilling President Bush's vision to match more disadvantaged youth with caring mentors, these grants will work as a pilot for a program to follow next year. In his 2003 State of the Union address, the President proposed a three-year,

\$450 million initiative to recruit and train mentors for more than one million disadvantaged youth, with a special emphasis on matching children of prisoners with mentors.

Community and faith-based organizations, state and local governments, tribes and consortia are eligible to apply for the pilot funding. Grant awards will range from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000. [Click here](#) for details.

**"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 Address*

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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.