



## AmeriCorps and Habitat for Humanity Celebrate 10 Years of National Service Together in "Blitz Build" Service Project

Earlier this month [AmeriCorps](#) and [Habitat for Humanity International](#) celebrated ten years of national service together by building 22 houses in just nine days. From May 15-23, more than 300 AmeriCorps members working with Habitat for Humanity affiliates around the country joined Habitat's Dallas chapter in a "[blitz build](#)" in the city's [Pinebrook neighborhood](#). The AmeriCorps members played a key role in training and managing 3,000 Dallas-area residents who volunteered to help

strengthen their community by building homes for those in need.

The "blitz build" was organized in recognition of AmeriCorps' decade of service to America and the program's long-standing collaboration with Habitat for Humanity to work together to build affordable homes and help eliminate substandard housing. Since 1994, AmeriCorps members have helped Habitat for Humanity build more than 6,000 homes and manage more than one million volunteers.



President Bush helped build a house to celebrate Habitat for Humanity's 25th anniversary. Photo by Eric Draper.

*"...Laura and I are so honored to thank the volunteers who are here. And to remind our fellow Americans that if we're interested in a decent tomorrow for every citizen, if we want the American Dream to extend its reach in every community, that all of us must work hard in our communities to help a neighbor in need."*

*President George W. Bush  
Habitat for Humanity Service Project  
August 8, 2001*

## Answer the President's Call to Service on National Hunger Awareness Day

On June 3, the third annual [National Hunger Awareness Day](#) will bring together thousands of volunteers, hunger-relief organizations, businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations in local events across the country to raise awareness about hunger and to donate time, money, and other resources to help alleviate hunger in their communities.

Although the economy is growing stronger, food banks around the country report that cash and food donations are down while demands for hunger relief are rising. And during the summer, special

demands will be placed on food programs. For example, the 16 million children who receive a free or reduced-price meal through the National School Lunch Program during the school year need to find an alternative during the summer.

Individuals, organizations, and businesses who wish to help can find a wide variety of service opportunities at [National Hunger Awareness Day](#), the USA Freedom Corp's [Call to Summer Service](#), and [America's Second Harvest](#), the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization.

## May Highlights

★ On May 25, [Take Pride In America](#), a national partnership program aimed at increasing volunteer service to restore and improve America's public lands, announced that Clint Eastwood is reprising his role as its national spokesman. The program, part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative, encourages more Americans to take part in environmental volunteer service opportunities and recognize outstanding volunteers for their efforts. Take Pride in America ran successfully from 1989 to 1993, during which time Clint Eastwood helped to promote the national program. Secretary of the Interior Gail Norton re-launched the initiative in 2003.

★ The [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) made two funding announcements during May: [Challenge Grants](#): Approximately \$2.6 million in grants is available for nonprofit organizations to expand or initiate new programs to engage volunteers in meeting community needs. Application deadline is June 8. [Presidential Freedom Scholarships](#):

Two students from every high school in the country are eligible to receive \$1,000 college scholarships in recognition of outstanding volunteer service. Application deadline is July 16.

★ USA Freedom Corps launched [A Call to Summer Service](#), a website initiative designed to encourage more Americans to spend a part of their summer in volunteer service. Among the website features is information on important community needs that increase during the summer as well as ideas for how young people, families, seniors, and groups can help meet those needs through volunteer service.