



National Preparedness Month to be Launched in September

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, The America Prepared Campaign, the American Red Cross, the National Association of Broadcasters, and the U.S. Department of Education have joined a coalition of more than 50 national organizations to engage Americans in emergency preparedness by launching National Preparedness Month on September 9. The launch event at the U.S. Capitol will be co-chaired by a bi-partisan group of Senators and Representatives. And, all 56 state and territorial governors have pledged to mark National Preparedness Month with local events.

National Preparedness Month will provide Americans with a variety of opportunities to get involved, including learning how to prepare for emergencies, offering volunteer opportunities in preparedness efforts, and receiving training on first aid and CPR.

[Click here for details](#), including a list of participating organizations. In addition, visit www.ready.gov or call 1-800-BE-READY for information on the Ready Campaign, which is designed to educate and empower American citizens to prepare for and respond to potential terrorist attacks and other emergencies.

★ More than 160 [AmeriCorps members](#) are directly assisting in the recovery effort to Hurricane Charley through FEMA and other national emergency management organizations, with additional [AmeriCorps](#), [VISTA](#), and [RSVP](#) members assisting in a variety of [local response efforts](#) through the American Red Cross and other organizations. In addition, [AmeriCorps*NCCC](#) members are helping to battle forest fires in California. National service members are being utilized by various organizations because they are valuable resources in response and recovery efforts around the country.

President Announces Mentoring Grants for Children of Prisoners

On August 3, [President Bush announced \\$45.6 million in grants to faith-based and community organizations to provide mentors to children of prisoners](#). These grants are part of a three-year \$150 million initiative put forth by President Bush in his [2003 State of the Union address to help provide 100,000 new mentors for some of the two million children with one or more parents in prison](#). Studies show that children who have one or more parents in jail are 70 percent more likely to end up in jail themselves.

The grants, administered through the [Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families](#), will provide 33,000 additional children of prisoners with mentoring support. Local programs that receive Federal funds ensure that volunteer mentors are screened, trained, supported, and monitored, and pair them with children in need. [Click here](#) to search the list of grant recipients and contact them to learn how you can volunteer to make a positive impact on a young person's life.



"Imagine what a tough life it is for a young boy or girl to go see his or her mom or dad behind prison bars. These are children who need help. They're vulnerable to gangs and crime and despair. They're desperate for responsible adults in their life who can give them what many of them long for, which is love and tenderness. The best way to do that is to encourage all groups, including faith-based groups, to provide mentors."

President George W. Bush gives remarks in Dallas, Texas, during which he announces mentoring grants for children of prisoners. August 3, 2004

★ [One Day's Pay](#) is bringing together nonprofit service organizations, private businesses, and groups representing the families of victims of September 11 to help mobilize Americans to serve others. Their goal is to make September 11 a national day of volunteer service, charity, and compassion. In 2003, the initiative drew an estimated one million people; they hope to double it this year. To find service projects or recruit volunteers for your organization's activities in honor of September 11, click on [USA Freedom Corps Volunteer Network](#).

★ [National Neighborhood Day](#) is a non-profit initiative, [in collaboration with a variety of nonprofit service organizations](#), that helps to strengthen our country's communities by promoting neighborhood gatherings and volunteer service projects across the country each year on the second Sunday in September. This year's National Neighborhood Day, which falls on September 12, is expected to engage one million people in 25,000 neighborhoods across America.