



Ready for Business Launched to Assist in Preparedness Efforts

On September 23, [the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Advertising Council, in conjunction with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, launched Ready for Business](#), an extension of the *Ready America* campaign. *Ready for Business* is specifically designed to help small- and medium-sized businesses safeguard their employees and assets while preparing for business continuity in the event of a disaster. This new government website provides practical steps and easy-to-use templates to help businesses protect their

employees, plan to stay in business, and safeguard their investments. For more information and materials, visit [ready.gov](#) or call 1-800-BE-READY.

The launch of *Ready for Business* is part of National Preparedness Month, an initiative created by a coalition of more than 50 national organizations to help Americans get involved, including learning how to prepare for emergencies, offering volunteer opportunities in preparedness efforts, and receiving training on first aid and CPR.

Mark Your Calendars . . .

October 2 [Business Strengthening America](#) (BSA), with [Hands On Atlanta](#), invites businesses to participate in [Hands on Atlanta Day 2004](#) on October 2. BSA is the business community's self-directed response to the President's Call to Service that seeks to engage more businesses in civic engagement and service activities.

October 12 The [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) will award approximately \$600,000 in grant funds to [help commemorate the 2005 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday with volunteer service projects](#). The deadline for [applications](#) is October 12.

October 18 [Youth Service America](#) and State Farm have announced the [State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Grant competition](#). One hundred \$1,000 grants are available for service-learning projects on National Youth Service Day 2005, April 15-17. Applications are due October 18.

October 19 The White House's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives will hold its next regional conference in Miami, Florida on October 19. Click to [learn more about the President's Initiative](#) to assist faith-based and community groups and to [sign up for the conference](#).

October 23 More than 3 million Americans across the country will participate in [Make A Difference Day](#), one of the nation's largest annual days of community service. Answer the President's Call to Service on October 23 by learning how to get involved, apply for a charitable award, or create your own service project.



White House photo by Eric Draper.

On September 20, upon arriving in New York City, President Bush met with USA Freedom Corps Greeter Caroline Hepner to thank her for her volunteer service. Caroline is the team leader for the Art Smart program for children at the [Urban Family Center Henry Street Settlement](#), a transitional residence for homeless families attempting to acquire permanent housing. [The President has thanked more than 300 outstanding volunteers](#) in local communities across the country over the last two and a half years. The President seeks to encourage more Americans to perform volunteer service by highlighting the work of individuals in the communities to which he travels.

Take Pride in America Honors Outstanding Volunteers

On September 21, in a ceremony at the Department of the Interior, [Secretary Gale Norton presented the 2004 National Take Pride in America Awards to 25 volunteer groups and individuals](#) from across the country in recognition of their outstanding contributions to our public lands.

Presented annually, the [Take Pride in America national awards](#) recognize a variety of volunteer efforts, ranging from enhancing our public parks to protecting wildlife refuges. The awards are open to individuals, groups, and businesses whose volunteer efforts exemplify the mission of Take Pride. The awards to be presented in September 2005 will be based upon efforts between June 1, 2004 and May 31, 2005. Be sure to plan ahead so that you or a group you work with can be recognized.

[Take Pride in America](#), part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative, encourages Americans to volunteer in support of our public lands and recognizes outstanding volunteers for their efforts.

