



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MOBILIZING CALIFORNIA'S GREATEST RESOURCE

"Californians who donate their time to selflessly serve others exemplify the spirit that our great state stands for." – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, [Statement](#), 1/11/07

Governor Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver have always stressed that the Golden State's greatest resource is its people. No matter what the challenge—a natural disaster, a struggling community, or simply a neighbor in need—Californians consistently rise to the occasion. Over the past year, the state's volunteers showed that government responds best to both disasters and everyday challenges with the people's help. Whether it was assisting those displaced by the October firestorms, helping wildlife hurt by the San Francisco Bay oil spill, or tutoring disadvantaged youth, time and time again volunteers met the challenges facing California with the question, "How can I help?"

To encourage volunteerism in California and to improve coordination of volunteer efforts between the state's departments and agencies, Governor Schwarzenegger will take nation-leading action, signing an Executive Order to establish the new position of Secretary of Service and Volunteering. The Secretary will be a member of the Governor's Cabinet.

The Governor's action will raise the profile of service in the Golden State to a national level; improve coordination of vital volunteer activities statewide and support local service efforts; encourage more Californians to become involved with service and volunteerism; help California respond to natural disasters and emergencies; and give California's volunteers a voice at the highest levels of state government, all without adding any new net costs to the state budget.

The Governor will join the First Lady to discuss this action at CSU Northridge today at 1:00 p.m. This event will be webcast live at www.gov.ca.gov. For more information on service and volunteerism in California visit: www.californiavolunteers.org.

California's volunteers have a positive multi-billion dollar impact on the state's economy every year. There is no better time than now to raise the profile of volunteerism in California.

- In 2006, volunteers contributed 858 million hours of service to the California economy—a value of more than \$17.4 billion. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, 6.5 million Californians (approximately 24 percent) over the age of sixteen volunteered in 2006; their hours represent a value of \$17.4 billion.
- A one percent increase in the number of Californians who volunteer could have a \$1 billion impact. A one percent increase in the number of Californians who volunteer would equal approximately 365,000 new volunteers contributing 48 million hours—equal to nearly \$1 billion in service to the state.
- This Governor's action will cost the state no additional money.

This Executive Order will make California even better equipped to respond to residents' everyday needs, as well as wildfires, floods, heat waves, winter freezes, mudslides and earthquakes.

- Elevating volunteerism will help California strengthen its already robust volunteer force, increase volunteer opportunities and improve state government coordination.
- The Executive Order will:
 - Build a robust volunteer and service force by establishing the Cabinet position of the Secretary of Service and Volunteering. This action gives volunteerism a stronger voice, greater visibility and will encourage millions of Californians to make their valuable skills available.
 - Improve state support and coordination of local volunteer efforts in times of disaster.
 - Encourage the development of public-private partnerships to boost investment and participation in volunteerism.

- Improve coordination between state agencies and departments to better mobilize volunteers and increase volunteer opportunities within state government.
- Improve donation management in times of disaster by designating CaliforniaVolunteers as the lead state office for managing donations.
- Achieve all of this without adding new net costs to the state's budget.

This action builds on the Governor and First Lady's longstanding commitment to strengthening California's volunteer force. Under their leadership, CaliforniaVolunteers has:

- Secured nearly \$2 million to launch CaliforniaVolunteers.org, which features the largest and most sophisticated statewide online volunteer matching system in the nation.
 - Local CaliforniaVolunteers partners provide on-the-ground presence in 42 counties and web-based coverage for the entire state.
 - Since the launch, the number of monthly web-based referrals of volunteers from CaliforniaVolunteers' local partners to non-profits has increased by nearly 500 percent.
- Launched 77 Cesar E. Chavez afterschool service clubs in Title 1 middle schools in California 38 cities serving nearly 1,500 kids.
- Built 12 new playgrounds in 9 counties with nearly 4,000 volunteers which will serve more than 100,000 children in California.
- Secured more than \$2 million in federal grant funding and launched a community preparedness initiative to improve the disaster and emergency readiness of Californians.
- Increased the number of Citizen Corps programs by the following percentages since 2004:
 - Fire Corps – 60 percent (26 new programs)
 - Medical Reserve Corps – 37 percent (14 new programs)
 - Community Emergency Response Teams – 38 percent (64 new programs)
 - Volunteers in Police Service – 24 percent (60 new programs)
- Increased the amount of new competitive AmeriCorps federal funding by \$4.6 million from fiscal year 2006-07 to fiscal year 2007-08.
 - Increased the number of volunteers recruited by California AmeriCorps members from 18,986 per year (contributing 218,206 volunteer hours) in fiscal year 2003-04 to 37,554 (contributing 437,271 volunteer hours) in fiscal year 2005-06.

On The Record:

Senator John McCain – “I’m Impressed And Applaud California For Working To Harness And Spotlight The Selfless Time And Energy Given By Its Volunteers”: “Service to one’s country and community is the most noble of things an American can give. For a state the size and influence of California to elevate service and volunteering to such a prominent position in government says a lot about the state’s people and about the priorities of Governor Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver. I’m impressed and applaud California for working to harness and spotlight the selfless time and energy given by its volunteers.” (Governor’s Press Office, “Gov. Schwarzenegger Announces First-in-the-Nation Cabinet Position for Service and Volunteering,” Press Release, 2/26/08)

Senator Hillary Clinton – “I Commend California For Taking Civic Engagement And Volunteerism To A New Level”: “I commend California for taking civic engagement and volunteerism to a new level by announcing a cabinet level secretary of service and volunteerism. AmeriCorps and other service programs provide a wonderful avenue for strengthening our communities while addressing our pressing needs in education, environmental protection, public health, and the environment. This new position will help to ensure that California’s volunteers are fully integrated at the highest levels into the state’s efforts to build a better California.” (Governor’s Press Office, “Gov. Schwarzenegger Announces First-in-the-Nation Cabinet Position for Service and Volunteering,” Press Release, 2/26/08)

Senator Barack Obama – “The Governor's Decision To Elevate Civic Engagement To Such An Important Level Reminds Us That The Call To Serve Is One That Transcends Partisanship”: “America is a great nation precisely because Americans have been willing to stand up when it was hard, to serve on stages both great and small, and to rise above moments of great challenge and terrible trial. At this defining moment in our history, the Governor's decision to elevate civic engagement to such an important level reminds us that the call to serve is one that transcends partisanship and has the power to unite this generation around a common purpose.” (Governor’s Press Office, “Gov. Schwarzenegger Announces First-in-the-Nation Cabinet Position for Service and Volunteering,” Press Release, 2/26/08)

Independent Sector President and Chief Executive Officer Diana Aviv – Government’s Value Is “Enhanced By Its Collaboration With Business And The Nonprofit Sector”: “Government’s essential value is enhanced by its collaboration with business and the nonprofit sector – weaving together strands of the social safety net, educating and enriching our communities, creating opportunities, protecting individuals and our natural ecosystem, and strengthening the structures and bonds that hold the elements of our society together.” (Independent Sector, “What Do We Stand For?,” [Annual Conference Remarks](#), 10/ 21/07)

Corporation For National And Community Service Director Of Research And Policy Development Robert T. Grimm, Jr. – Volunteering Is “Vital To A Healthy Society”: “A growing body of research demonstrates that volunteering and other community activities lead to better health, more happiness and greater prosperity in neighborhoods and states. When people volunteer, they not only spread good will, they also solve tough problems and create tangible benefits for their communities. The evidence confirms that volunteering and high levels of civic participation are vital to a healthy society.” (Corporation for National and Community Service, “New Federal Report Shows Volunteering Strong in America, But 1 in 3 Volunteers Dropped Out In 2006,” [Press Release](#), 4/16/07)

Corporation For National And Community Service Chief Executive Officer David Eisner – Service And Volunteering Are “Cost-Effective Ways To Improve Lives And Strengthen Communities”: “Indeed, these events have helped build Americans’ understanding that service and volunteering aren’t just nice things to do but are necessary parts of how our nation deals with its challenges...As the nation continues to face competing social needs, service and volunteering—as well as an increasingly engaged and active citizenry—are cost-effective ways to improve lives and strengthen communities.” (Corporation for National and Community Service, “Message from David Eisner on Release of Volunteering in America Report,” [Press Release](#), 4/16/07)

Research Shows That Volunteers Have Lower Mortality Rates, Greater Functional Ability, And Lower Rates Of Depression Later In Life Than Those Who Do Not Volunteer. “Volunteering provides individual health benefits in addition to social benefits. This research has established a strong relationship between volunteering and health: those who volunteer have lower mortality rates, greater functional ability, and lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer.” (Corporation for National and Community Service, “The Health Benefits of Volunteering,” [Report](#), 4/07)