

## CBO Glossary

**Source: Points of Light Foundation, 2004**

### **America Reads Challenge**

In 1994, 40 percent of our country's fourth graders failed to attain the basic level of reading. The America Reads initiative, launched in August 1996 by President Clinton, aims to ensure that every child in America can read independently by the end of third grade. To learn more, visit [www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov).

**AmeriCorps:** AmeriCorps is the National Service program made possible by the National and Community Service Act of 1993. The National and Community Service Trust Act will enable up to 100,000 AmeriCorps members to engage in needed service and earn education awards in return. The legislation requires that programs fall into four broad areas -- human needs, education, environment, and public safety. Grants are made to non-profit organizations; local, state and federal agencies; Indian tribes; institutions of higher education; local school and police districts. Programs may span a range of models, including professional corps, campus-based programs, and community-based corps. VISTA is also part of AmeriCorps.

### **AmeriCorps Promise Fellows Program**

AmeriCorps Promise Fellows spearhead state and local efforts dedicated to seeing that all children and youth receive the Five Promises set forth at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in 1997. (see also President's Summit for America's Future)

**Campus Compact:** Campus Compact is a coalition of college and university presidents committed to increasing the number of service programs on higher education campuses across the state.

**Community Service:** Community Service is volunteerism that occurs in the community. Programs of all types, like scouts, schools or YMCAs, often perform "community service." At times, this term has been associated with court-ordered service and has been confused to mean only service rendered in response to judicial punishment.

**Corporate Volunteer Council (CVC):** In regions throughout the state workplace volunteer programs network to build corporate volunteer efforts. CVCs are connected to Volunteer Centers.

### **Daily Points Of Light Awards**

Co-sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, the Corporation for National Service and the Knights of Columbus, these awards recognize and honor outstanding service efforts. The award is presented five days a week to help raise the profile and legitimacy for volunteer initiatives and activities, and to call public attention to the contributions that volunteers are making toward solving local and national social problems. A number of states throughout the country that have adopted a local version of the program.

**Domestic Volunteer Service Act (DVSA):** This statute has authorized VISTA and the National Senior Service Corps since 1970.

### **The Extra Mile**

A new memorial is being built in Washington, DC as a mile long pathway to honor our country's greatest volunteers, those who have changed the world by going the extra mile for others. *THE EXTRA MILE* is America's tribute to both well-known individuals like Clara Barton and Martin Luther King, Jr., and to many less celebrated Americans who have left an equally enduring legacy of social achievement.

### **FamilyCares ([www.FamilyCares.org](http://www.FamilyCares.org))**

An on-line resource of the Points of Light Foundation that provides resources for parents, teachers and community leaders who want to support children in volunteer activities.

### **Family Volunteering**

Family volunteering strengthens families, addresses critical social needs, improves employee morale within participating businesses and creates a renewed community spirit. A number of family-oriented volunteer programs and web sites are focused on engaging families in year-round community-oriented volunteer projects. Additionally, National Family Volunteer Day (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) helps raise awareness of the importance of family volunteering.

**Foster Grandparents:** As Foster Grandparents, low income persons age 60 and over provide companionship and guidance to children with mental, physical, or emotional disabilities and children who are abused, neglected, in the juvenile justice system, or who have other special or exceptional needs through this program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

### **International Year of Volunteers 2001**

Proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations to provide tremendous opportunities for mobilizing and inspiring citizens around the world. The IYV 2001 US Steering Committee, co-chaired by the Points of Light Foundation and the Association of Junior Leagues International challenged all Americans to commit and re-commit to volunteering as a unifying force for communities. Americans can meet this challenge by creating awareness about volunteering, engaging more individuals, groups, businesses and organizations in volunteer service and encouraging communities to build sustainable partnerships.

### **Join Hands Day**

Join Hands Day is a day of service that specifically targets youth and adults volunteering together. Sponsored by America's Fraternal Benefit Societies in partnership with the Points of Light Foundation and the National Network of Volunteer Centers. As the world quickly becomes an age-segregated society, the goal of Join Hands Day is to begin making connections and friendships across generations that will continue long after the day is over. Developing these relationships is essential to creating healthy organizations, neighborhoods and communities. No other day on the national calendar targets and develops youth/adult relationships through neighborhood volunteering.

### **Kids Care Clubs ([www.KidsCareClubs.org](http://www.KidsCareClubs.org))**

Kids Care Clubs, an initiative of the Points of Light Foundation, is a program designed to develop compassion and the spirit of service and philanthropy in elementary and middle school aged youth. Local organizations such as schools, YMCAs, Volunteer Centers, scout troops and religious communities, can be registered as clubs. Kids Care Clubs provide ideas, resources and a network to clubs.

### **Make A Difference Day**

A national effort designed to mobilize citizens in communities across the country in volunteer service. More than one million citizens are committed to spending this Saturday *making a difference* within their communities through service projects and activities. As a result, the lives of millions of others are greatly improved. Make a Difference Day is co-sponsored by *USA WEEKEND* magazine and the Points of Light Foundation with the support of Newman's Own and Wal-Mart in collaboration with celebrities, government, nonprofits and businesses.

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Always the third Monday in January, the day focuses the nation on the ideals expressed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who believed that people's worth should not be measured by color, culture, or class but rather by a commitment to making a better life for all. During his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. forged common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together as equals to address important community issues. Each year, The Corporation for National and Community Service, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc., the Points of Light Foundation, United Way of America, Habitat for Humanity International, Youth Service America, America's Promise, Do Something, Best Buy and First Book work together to make service to others the common expectation of all Americans during this national holiday.

**National and Community Service Act of 1990:** Originally passed into law in 1990 to establish the Commission on national Service, the Act was amended significantly by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 to establish the Corporation for National and Community Service.

**The National and Community Service Trust Act (NCSTA):** With bi-partisan support, NCSTA was signed by President Clinton on September 21, 1993. The legislation reauthorizes K-12 and higher education service learning programs from the National and Community Service Act of 1990 and creates AmeriCorps -- which in its first year has involved 20,000 people nationwide to earn educational benefits in exchange for community service.

### **National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service**

An annual conference, hosted by the Points of Light Foundation and the Volunteer Center National Network, in partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service and other organizations. The goals of the nation's premiere conference on volunteering conference are to: increase the diversity, numbers, and effectiveness of those involved in service; incorporate cutting-edge program ideas to increase the impact of service; measure program impact; and inspire others to become agents of change. More than 200 workshops that examine

the tradition of service, diversity of service, innovations in service, and inspirations through service are typically offered.

**National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC):** NCCC is the Corporation's federally-managed residential program which is located in four sites across the country (San Diego, California; Denver, Colorado; and Charleston, South Carolina) and headquartered in Washington, DC. The NCCC utilizes excess military capacity and personnel in the creation of a full-time or part-time service corps.

### **National Family Volunteer Day**

This day of service is designed to showcase the benefits of families working together, to provide a great way to introduce community service, and to encourage those who haven't yet made the commitment to volunteer as a family to begin doing so. The program rests on the powerful principle that a volunteering family benefits itself, the community and the nation at large. National Family Volunteer Day kicks off National Family Week on the Saturday before Thanksgiving as part of an annual public awareness campaign spearheaded by The Points of Light Foundation and the Alliance for Children and Families. "My Family Matters—We Volunteer!" is the theme for the day. The bottom line is that all families can make a difference by volunteering anytime the weekend of National Family Volunteer Day and by staying involved year round.

**National Service Learning Clearinghouse:** This network is federally funded and directed by ETR Associates and offers a toll-free hotline, a national database of programs and resources, referrals to training, and more. The Clearinghouse provides a number of resources for k-12, Higher Education, Community Based Organizations, and Tribal Programs. There is a wealth of information on their website [www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org) or call toll free 866-245-SERV.

**National Senior Volunteer Corps:** The National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 has renamed the Older American Volunteer Programs (OAVP) to become the National Senior Volunteer Corps. This encompasses the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), and the Senior Companion Program (SCP).

### **National Volunteer Week**

Began in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Every President since has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week. Governors, mayors and other elected officials also make public statements and sign proclamations in support of National Volunteer Week (typically held at the end of April). Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and the Volunteer Center National Network, National Volunteer Week has become the official time to recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers at the local, state and national levels.

### **National Youth Service Day**

Brings together more than 13 million people in thousands of communities nationwide during the last decade. Celebrated as part of National Volunteer Week; National Youth Service Day has three primary goals: to recognize the year-round service and volunteering efforts of millions of young people nationwide; to recruit a new generation and cadre of citizens that are both

participants and supporters of youth service organizations; and to promote young people as resources rather than problems in their communities. More than 38 National Partners sponsor national Youth Service Day.

### **Older Adult Volunteering**

Adults over the age of 50 are taking on traditional volunteer roles such as helping to prepare mailings, as well as using their accounting, teaching, consulting, and engineering expertise to help solve serious social problems. With the more and more adults retiring older adults have the skills and experiences necessary to not only transform volunteering but also society itself.

**Peer Helping:** Peer Helping programs began in the early 1970's in response to the great increase in guidance needs among youth. Popular uses of peer helpers within the schools are peer tutoring, cross-age education, mentoring, welcoming new students, parent education, teen theater, and conflict mediation. Such programs almost always involve people helping people, and utilize strong training and reflection components to produce significant gains in both knowledge and skills among the participants. Because of this, peer helping is considered a type of service-learning program.

### **The Points of Light Foundation (P.O.L.F.)**

The Points of Light Foundation, *America's Address for Volunteering*, is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that was founded in 1990 with the mission to engage more people more effectively in volunteer service that solves serious social problems.

### **President's Service Award**

Established in 1982 and co-sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and Corporation for National and Community Service, and presented yearly to individuals, families, organizations, corporations and labor unions for outstanding community service in solving serious social problems. The President of the United States traditionally presents the awards at a White House event during National Volunteer Week.

### **President's Student Service Awards**

Sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service and administered by the American Institute for Public Service, the Points of Light Foundation and Youth Service America, is modeled after the Presidential Physical Fitness Awards. The President's Student Service Awards provide an opportunity for schools, colleges and community organizations to recognize youth for their outstanding community service and to encourage more young people to serve.

### **Presidents' Summit for America's Future**

Created and co-sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National and Community Service, and chaired by General Colin Powell (ret.), attracted more than 4,000 participants in Philadelphia April 27-29, 1997, received widespread national visibility, brought together all living Presidents, and created America's Promise to focus on the challenges facing young people: 1) ongoing relationships with caring adults; 2) safe places and structured activities; 3) a healthy start for a healthy future; 4) marketable skills through effective education; and 5) opportunities to serve.

**Program Development Assistance and Training (PDAT):** Funds provided to State Commissions to support direct training and technical assistance to AmeriCorps\*State/National programs in each state. State Commissions are awarded PDAT funds based on their conducting a needs assessment, providing management capability, and ensuring equity among AmeriCorps\*State and National programs. The size of the PDAT grant are determined by the number of AmeriCorps Members and programs within each state.

**Reflection:** Research by Diane Hedin and Dan Conrad has established that the critical component of successful service-learning programs is “reflection”. The word has become part of the field’s jargon, but is often misunderstood and not easily done. What the term really means is the use of critical thinking skills to prepare for and learn from service experiences.

**Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP):** RSVP offers opportunities for citizens age 55 and up to use their talents and experience in community projects ranging from medication-awareness efforts to tutoring. RSVP operates through grants to private and public non-profits in local communities.

**RFP:** A Request For Proposal is the call for proposals with details of the requirements of a funding program. You write a grant proposal in response to an RFP.

**Senior Companion Program:** Senior Companions are all low-income persons age 60 or older who provide care and companionship to other adults, especially the frail elderly, in an effort to help them achieve and maintain their highest level of independent living.

**Service Learning:** Service Learning is a teaching/learning method that connects meaningful community service experiences with academic learning, personal growth, and civic responsibility.

**State Commission:** The 15-to-25 member, independent, bipartisan commissions appointed by Governors to implement service programs in the states. Each State Commission receives funding from the Corporation and is staffed, at minimum, by an executive director. The State Commission’s duties include administration of a statewide competition for AmeriCorps\*State funds, developing a state plan, and overseeing funded AmeriCorps Programs.

**Student Ownership:** At the very heart of the youth service movement is the notion that students can make important contributions to their schools and communities. Such philosophy requires a strong student-centered approach, where young people identify problems, brainstorm, implement solutions and evaluate their projects, while the teacher takes the role of the facilitator.

**VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America)-AmeriCorps:** VISTA volunteers strive to alleviate poverty in the United States. They are age 18 or older and serve on a full-time, full-year basis at the request of private or public non-profit organizations. Volunteers and those working with stipends assist people in need through locally sponsored projects.

**Volunteer Centers:** A Volunteer Center is a community-based organization that mobilizes people and resources to deliver creative solutions to community problems. While services vary from one Volunteer Center to another, centers in communities around the nation connect people with opportunities to serve, build capacity for effective local volunteering, promote volunteering, and seek collaborative opportunities to involve volunteers in addressing community issues. *1-800-VOLUNTEER* is a national volunteering hotline that connects callers to their local Volunteer Centers.

**Volunteerism:** Volunteerism means performing some formal service for others or one's community without receiving any external rewards. Such programs may or may not involve structured training and reflection.

**Workplace Volunteerism:** Workplace Volunteerism involves service programs by leading companies that have made a significant commitment to company sponsored volunteer programs with the following values: 1) Acknowledge that the corporations' community service involvement and its employee volunteer efforts contribute to the achievement of its business goals; 2) Commit to establish, support, and promote an employee volunteer program that encourages the involvement of every employee and treat it like any other core business function; and 3) Target community service efforts at serious social problems in the community.

**Youth as Resources:** This has become one of the rallying cries of the entire youth service field. Its importance is that youth are typically seen as consumers within our society, and service gives them an opportunity to become valued partners and contributors in their communities.

**Youth Service:** There are currently a vast number of program models, titles, and organizations which share one core attribute: the utilization of youth to provide service to their schools and/or communities. The term "youth service" serves as an umbrella to identify this entire field. The term should not be confused with "youth services," which typically refer to programs that serve youth.