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Overview

Page 6 - "Studies have shown that service improves academic achievement and builds character and leadership among young people who serve. Service can also bring disaffected or at-risk youth closer to their schools, communities, and other supportive institutions."

"Philadelphia Freedom Schools Junior Leader Evaluation," by S. H. Billig, RMC Research Corporation, Denver, CO, 2002

"Is Service-Learning Really Better Than Community Service? A Study of High School Service," Advances in Service-Learning Research: Vol. 1. Eds., A. Furco & S.H. Billig, Information Age Publishers, Greenwich, CT, 2002

"An Evaluation of K-12 Service-Learning in California: Phase II Final Report," by D. Weiler, A. LaGoy, E. Crane, and A. Rovner, RPP International with the Search Institute, Emeryville, CA, 1998

Page 6 - "Recent economic research suggests that communities with higher levels of trust and cooperation have lower transaction and litigation costs, higher levels of entrepreneurship, and a greater capacity to innovate."

"Does Social Capital Have an Economic Payoff? A Cross-Country Investigation," by S. Knack and P. Keefer, Quarterly Journal of Economics, 1997

Page 6 - "Evidence shows that service and volunteering: Lowers dropout rates among teens; Lowers crime rates in communities with high rates of volunteerism; Lowers costs associated with the aging population; and Improves the health and lowers rates of depression among the elderly."

Lowers dropout rates among teens -- *"Engaging Schools: Fostering High School Students' Motivation to Learn,"* National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council, 2003

Lowers crime rates in communities with high rates of volunteerism -- *"The Community,"* by James Q. Wilson and Joan Petersilia, editors, Crime

Lowers costs associated with the aging population -- "The role and Value of Senior Companions in Their Communities, Research Triangle Institute (RTI) on behalf of the Corporation for National and Community Service, March 2001

Improves the health and lowers rates of depression among the elderly -- *"Differential Benefits of Volunteering Across the Life Course,"* by Marieke Van Willigen, Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences 55:S308-S318, 2000

"Volunteering and Mortality among Older Adults: Findings from a National Sample," by Marc A. Musick, A. Regula Herzog, and James S. House, Journal of Gerontology, 54(3), S173-S180, 1999

"Social Integration and Longevity, Cornell Retirement and Well Being Study," Cornell University, Cornell Applied Gerontology Research Institute, 1998

"Volunteering," by John Wilson, Annual Review Sociology, 26:215-40, 2000

"From Chronic Pain Patient to Peer and Benefits Risks of Volunteering," by Paul Arnstein, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Nursing, Boston College

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“Providing Social Support May Be More Beneficial Than Receiving It: Results from a Prospective Study of Mortality,” by Stephanie Brown, Randolph Nesse, Amiram D. Vinokur, and Dylan M. Smith, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, American Psychological Society, Vol. 14, No. 4, July 6, 2003

“Volunteerism by the Elderly as an Intervention for Promoting Successful Aging,” by Roger King, March 28, 1996

“Volunteerism and Mortality Among the Community-Dwelling Elderly,” by Doug Oman, Kay McMahon, and Carol E. Thoresen, Journal of Sociology, 97(6), 1612-1638, 1992

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Focus Area: Mobilizing More Volunteers

Page 12 - "According to a 2003 study of America's charities and congregations, a large majority of nonprofits reported that volunteers increase quality of service, reduce costs, and increase public support; however, most nonprofits do not have a paid volunteer coordinator to implement the volunteer management practices that have a positive impact on volunteer recruitment, effectiveness, and retention. In fact, more than four out of five charities report using volunteers to meet their goals. Yet over 65 percent report difficulties in recruiting a sufficient number of volunteers, and close to 60 percent lack financial resources to provide appropriate training and supervision to volunteers at their organizations."

"Volunteer Management Capacity in America's Charities and Congregations: A Briefing Report,"
Urban Institute, Washington, D.C., 2004

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Focus Area: Ensuring a Brighter Future for All America's Youth

Page 16 – “A staggering one-third of all public high school students fail to graduate. According to recent research, 3.5 million youth ages 16 to 25 do not have a high school diploma and are not in school. In fact, only 50 percent of Black, Hispanic, and Native American youth graduate from high school. Yet three of every five drop-outs surveyed felt that the presence of a caring adult in their life would have had a positive impact on their ability and interest in obtaining their high school degree.”

“The Silent Epidemic, Perspective of High School Dropouts,” by J. Bridgeland, J. Dilulio Jr., and K. Morison, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, March 2006

Page 16 – “In the United States, more than 2.3 million children have parents incarcerated in prisons or jails, up from 500,000 children in 1991. Studies have shown that these children, especially those already exposed to certain risk factors, are at a greater risk of emotional and behavioral difficulties, poor academic performance, juvenile delinquency, and substance abuse. They are five times more likely than any other children to end up in prison themselves.”

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics website: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

Page 17 – “Currently there are 500,000 children in the U.S. foster care system and each year, approximately 20,000 youth age-out of it. A recent study of foster care alumni found that one-third of those who had been in foster care were living below the poverty level, one-third had no health insurance, half had one or more mental health problems, and the rate of post traumatic stress disorder among a group of youth formerly in foster care was twice that for war veterans.”

Improving Family Foster Care: Findings for the Northwest Foster Care Alumni Study, Casey Family Programs, April, 2005

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Focus Area: Harnessing Baby Boomers' Experience

Page 24 – “While Baby Boomers have a reputation for having a poor rate of volunteering, the Corporation’s research paints a different picture of the Baby Boomer generation. Nearly one-third (25.8 million) of Baby Boomers volunteer; The volunteer rate for Baby Boomers—33.4 percent—is the highest of any age group, more than four percentage points above the national average of 29 percent; With the exception of people over age 65, Boomers volunteer the most, with an average of 51 median hours a year (approximately one hour per week); Baby Boomers are more apt than other cohorts to volunteer with more than one organizations.; and Baby Boomers engage in diverse volunteer opportunities.”

Boomers fact sheet: http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/boomer_vol.pdf

Page 25 – “Beginning in 2020, approximately one in six Americans will be age 65 or older. By 2050, when all of the Baby Boomers will be age 85 and older, there will be over 86 million people age 65+ living in the United States, compared to 35 million today.”

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website: <http://www.hhs.gov/aging/index.shtml>

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Program: Learn and Serve America

Page 48 – “Research from Independent Sector indicates that “...adults who began volunteering as youth are twice as likely to volunteer as those who did not volunteer when they were younger. In addition, in every income and age group, those who volunteered as youth give and volunteer more than those who did not.””

Independent Sector website:

www.independentsector.org/programs/research/engagingyouth.html

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Program: AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps

Page 57 – “The latest results of a Longitudinal Study of NCCC members demonstrates that NCCC members’ experience increases in their work skills compared to a comparison group. This study also finds that participation in NCCC results in positive impacts on members’ connection to community, knowledge about problems facing their community, participation in community-based activities, and personal growth through service.”

“Serving Country and Community: A Longitudinal Study of Service in AmeriCorps: Early Findings,”
Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, D.C., 2004

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Program: AmeriCorps*State and National

Page 63 – “Data from the Corporation’s 2005 National Performance Benchmarking Survey demonstrates the significant impact AmeriCorps*State and National has made in communities, such as: 92 percent of organizations reported that AmeriCorps members helped them to increase the number of persons served to a large or moderate extent; and 90 percent of organizations said that AmeriCorps members helped them to increase their involvement with other organizations in their communities to a large or moderate extent. This survey also demonstrates that participants report having: 81 percent of former members have volunteered since completing their service; 89 percent of former members accepted public service employment (including governmental and nonprofit work) within three years after completing their AmeriCorps service; and 86 percent of former members indicated that their service experience and training helped to a great extent in their job, educational pursuits, or community service activities.”

“National Performance Benchmarking Survey,” Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, D.C., 2005

Page 63 - “Results from the 2004 Longitudinal Study of AmeriCorps*State and National members demonstrate that members experience results in: stronger connections to their community; more knowledge about problems facing their community; higher participation in community-based activities; more neighborhood obligations such as reporting crime and keeping neighborhoods clean; and more grassroots activity, such as starting new programs, than those expressed interest in but did not pursue placement through AmeriCorps.”

“Serving Country and Community: A Longitudinal Study of Service in AmeriCorps: Early Findings,” Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, D.C., 2004

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Program: Senior Corps (RSVP, FGP, and SCP)

Page 91 – “According to a survey of school principals and other school officials conducted by a research firm under contract to the Corporation in 2006: 81 percent of the children served demonstrated improvements in academic performance; 90 percent demonstrated increased self-image; 56 percent were reported to have improved school attendance; and 59 percent were reported to have a reduction in risky behavior.”

“Senior Corps Performance Benchmarking Survey,” Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, D.C., 2006

Page 96 – “Results from the 2006 survey of Senior Companion clients indicated: 88 percent reported that they have a friend or someone who cares for them; 91 percent reported that they are able to maintain peace of mind; 51 percent reported that they are able to maintain their homes as they like it to be; 53 percent reported that necessary errands or services are completed; 68 percent reported that they are able to maintain overall physical health; and 57 percent reported that they are able to continue necessary shopping. In addition, 88 percent of family caregivers reported that the services provided by Senior Companions helped them considerably or moderately to improve their quality of life.”

“Senior Corps Performance Benchmarking Survey,” Corporation for National and Community Service, Washington, D.C., 2006

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Page 105 – “Over the last six years, the Corporation has developed a strong evaluation capability by studying a number of key issues in the volunteer sector and, specifically, in the Corporation’s programs. This research enables the Corporation, national and local nonprofits, and private sector organizations to better focus their resources and achieve greater program impacts, and to identify problem areas and best practices and support improved program management. For example, the Current Population Survey on Volunteering in the United States (CPS-V) provides the only national data on volunteering in America’s nonprofit and charitable organizations. This data enables the Corporation and other national organizations to identify barriers to the expansion of volunteering and develop solutions to help eliminate these barriers.”

“Volunteering in the United States, 2006,” U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006

Page 107 - “The Current Population Survey on Volunteering in the United States (CPS-V) provides the nation’s data on volunteering in America’s nonprofit and charitable organizations. This effort represents an important milestone in building service and volunteering, and is a valuable tool to assist national organizations, State Commissions and communities in developing strategies to build the infrastructure of nonprofits and service organizations to support more volunteer opportunities.”

“Volunteering in the United States, 2006,” U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006