



eVOLve

technical assistance for
leveraging volunteers

Dear Jeannie ,

Welcome to **eVOLve: technical assistance for leveraging volunteers**. In this electronic technical assistance (eTA) brief, you will find tips and tools to help you leverage volunteers in your community. It is sponsored by HandsOn Network, a training and technical assistance provider for the Corporation for National and Community Service.

This Month's Quote

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.

~ Mother Teresa

Dear HandsOn,

What are some ways I can recognize volunteers during the holiday season?

The Answer Corner

Volunteers always desire to have their efforts to be recognized. What better way of showing recognition to our volunteers than during the holiday season. There are many creative, inexpensive ways to say thank you to volunteers. Volunteers appreciate the smallest gifts of recognition when the most sincere, creative ideas are put into giving it. Here are a few ideas for recognizing your volunteers during the holiday season:

- **Send a holiday card (e-cards are a great budget-friendly option!).** If there is any group that deserves a holiday greeting, it is your volunteers. Put thought into your notes that matches their personality. Depending on the size of your staff, have all the staff sign the holiday greeting card.
- **Host a holiday open house at the organizational office, where volunteers and staff can mingle.** Set up a staff table with treats for volunteers. Have staff to serve volunteers their meals. It's a great opportunity for the organization to show appreciation by serving volunteers. Invite other high-profile community leaders such as your local city councilman.
- **Provide inexpensive yet meaningful gifts.** Some ideas are candy canes or green wrapped peppermint patties with a special note from the Executive Director or the CEO of the agency that states "Your service is worth a mint to us."
- **Give volunteers pictures of themselves volunteering throughout the year.** What a great idea to capture great service moments with pictures! Volunteers can share those pictures with friends and family members for years to come.
- **Create a booklet with staff and clients' quotes about how much volunteers mean to the organization and share it at an event or mail it.** Volunteers spend countless hours serving communities. Ask recipients to write thank you notes or provide a small, inexpensive mementos from the recipients.
- **Acknowledge volunteers on organizational website or newsletter with a holiday heading such as "The**

Quick Links

The Resource Center
CNCS
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Ask Us

Do you have a question about working with volunteers or a topic suggestion for a future issue of eVOLve? Send it to HandsOn Network at:

training@handsonnetwork.org

- **Gift of Service.** List the names of each volunteer who served with the organization during year.
- **Partner with other community agencies to sponsor a volunteer celebration.** During tough economic times, funds are limited. Partnering with another agency will provide more leverage with the supplies and food for the volunteer celebration.
- **Solicit gift cards or discount coupons from local restaurants and businesses.** Start now asking local restaurants and businesses to donate gift cards or discount coupons. Many businesses are looking for the last minute tax write-offs in preparation for next year's taxes.
- **Plan service opportunities throughout the holiday season.** Most likely, organizations have several volunteer projects occurring through the year. Providing service opportunities is a wonderful way for all volunteers to get to know each other and give back to the community at the same time. Create opportunities to give the gift that keeps on giving - service opportunities.

Resources

The Resource Center offers tools and resources to address these new findings and strengthen volunteer management. [New materials are available](#) on the topics of volunteer retention, recruitment, human capital strategies, and cost-effective volunteering.

Other Resources:

Visit [The Resource Center](#) to learn more about working with volunteers. Find resources such as:

- Online learning courses
 - Project Planning
 - Project Development
 - Working with Diverse Volunteers

Other online resources include:

- [Monthly Feature: A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF](#)
- [The King Papers Project](#)
- [The King Center](#)
- [MLKDay.gov](#)
- [Energize, Inc.](#)

Also check out [Volunteering in America](#) (2008) for comprehensive data on volunteering trends and retention - all at a new interactive website: www.volunteeringinAmerica.gov.

HandsOn Network Training Opportunities

As a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service grantee of the Corporation for National and Community Service, HandsOn is pleased to present a webinar series to help HandsOn Action Centers and other organizations prepare to celebrate the MLK Day of Service in January 2009. Click [here](#) to register for these free webinars. All sessions are at 3:00 Eastern.

- Friday, December 12: **Civic Engagement** - facilitated by Malukah Berry
- Wednesday, December 17: **Evaluation** - facilitated by Brandee Menoher of HandsOn Network
- Tuesday, January 13: **Troubleshooting and Technical Assistance**

Download recordings from previous sessions from the following websites:

Project Development: Scoping the Project -

<https://pointsoflight.webex.com/pointsoflight/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=12540987&rKey=EFAEB7542EE6F361&act=pb>

- Project Management -

<https://pointsoflight.webex.com/pointsoflight/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=12638862=DC433C29028FE8E4&act=pb>

Volunteer Leadership and Grassroots Engagement -

<https://pointsoflight.webex.com/pointsoflight/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=12706472&rKey=902CEAA4AD64503E&act=pb>

If you have any questions, please [contact us](#).



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