



May 2009

Dear Jennifer,		Quick Links
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.		The Resource Center CNCS HandsOn Network Points of Light Institute
This Month's Quote		Join Our Mailing List!
"Be of service. Whether you make yourself available to a friend or co-worker, or you make time every month to do volunteer work, there is nothing that harvests more of a feeling of empowerment than being of service to someone in need."		Ask Us
Gillian Anderson		Do you have a question about working with volunteers or a suggestion for a future issue of eVOLve? Send it to HandsOn Network: training@handsonnetwork.org
Dear HandsOn,		
My volunteers have expressed interest in working in local public schools. My organization has no experience in schools. How do we get started?		
The Answer Corner		
HandsOn Schools, a program of HandsOn Network, strives to make schools the hub of vibrant communities by giving students, parents, teachers, and other community members the necessary resources to become driving forces of that positive change.		
Founded on the belief that communities can make a positive change, HandsOn Schools applies an innovative approach to school revitalization. By uniting the collective resources of parents, communities, and corporations, HandsOn Schools aims to re-establish schools as the focal point of the community. Research indicates that schools with broad-based community involvement provide more dynamic learning experiences, resulting in higher student achievement. HandsOn Schools seeks to cultivate community, school, and civic collaboration to transform schools into dynamic learning centers that foster student achievement and community engagement.		

One way HandsOn Schools engages community volunteers in the school is through one-day service events. These tips can help you build a successful partnership with your local school for a one-day service project.

Here are some tips to launch your partnership:

Identifying a School - Identify the strengths and resources that your organization brings to the table; this will help you identify a school that can benefit from your partnership. If you're planning to engage volunteers in a renovation-style project, for instance, look for a school that has clear physical needs. We recommend reaching out to schools that serve low-income children and communities. This site provides Title I and free/reduced lunch information for all public schools:

[National Center for Education Statistics](#)

Building a Relationship with a School - Setting up a strong communication system with your partner school will prove absolutely vital. Provide clarity about your vision and goals for the partnership as well as concerns and questions. Meet with the school administration and/or supporting staff on a regular basis. Work with the administration to identify one teacher who can serve as a key contact; if you're planning to do a painting or renovation-style project, the custodial/maintenance staff can be your best friend!

Community Design Event - In order to execute a successful and meaningful project, it is important to hear from all key stakeholders. Invite a group of students, teachers, parents, and others together to brainstorm ideas. What types of improvements would they like to see for their school? Do they need a new library? Do the teachers want fresh, bright paint to enliven their classroom? Think about needed resources, as well. Besides volunteers, what other resources might be required? Invite local businesses and other corporate partners to join the meeting; they can be great sources of volunteers and potential donors. Please visit the Resource Center for more information on [Community Design Event](#).

Project Design/Planning - Develop a detailed work plan outlining all needs in terms of personnel, infrastructure and physical materials for your project. Prioritize what steps should come before others; create a timeline and follow through on deadlines. Clearly outline each person's role and responsibilities, determine budgeting needs and opportunities for volunteers.

Garnering Community Support - Reach out to area businesses, faith organizations, and other groups in the school community. These groups can not only help fund your project, they can also be a great source of volunteers. Publicize the project. Send out a media release to let your local media know about the project and your partnership with the school.

Volunteer Recruitment - Projects at schools tend to be very popular among volunteers, so this is a great opportunity to expand your existing volunteer base. Challenge the students that participated in the Community Design Event to recruit two friends each to join them on project day. Are you working in an elementary school? Recruit additional student volunteers from the middle school in the same neighborhood. Reach out to parents and other family members; again, students are often the best recruiters. Are there any community centers, faith-based organizations, or businesses nearby? People with natural connections to the school can make committed, long-term volunteers. Amidst the recruitment, be sure to identify and train volunteers that can serve as volunteer leaders on

the day of the project. This will greatly ease the burden on you and your team.

Project Execution - The planning is done and the volunteers are recruited; project day has arrived! Make sure all of your tasks are prepared and organized ahead of time. Will volunteers be painting classrooms? Place the needed paint and other supplies in the rooms ahead of time. Will volunteers be rebuilding a library? Have all necessary furniture, tools, and other materials in the appropriate space. As your volunteers arrive, have them sign-in and receive their volunteer assignment. Place a volunteer leader or other staff member in each area of the school where volunteers will be working to help answer questions and guide the volunteers. Be sure to have plenty of food and beverages on hand to keep the volunteers energetic and happy!

This issue is written in partnership with HandsOn Schools, a program of HandsOn Network. HandsOn Schools implements a powerful tool that effectively engages community and corporate volunteers in schools. To learn more about HandsOn Schools and how to work with schools in your community, check out the webinar on Thursday, May 28. "Essentials for Successful School-Community Collaboration: A Beginner's Guide" is a session for anyone who is interested in cultivating active partnerships with their local schools with the goal of engaging community members as volunteers.

Vote Once a Day until May 25: Help us Revitalize America's Schools!

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From May 10 to 25 Target, has put its charitable giving in YOUR hands. You get to vote where the money goes. So join the campaign and VOTE HandsOn. Because more votes = more money = more volunteers helping to revitalize schools in communities across America. Vote today and every day!

VOTE TODAY and every day for HandsOn Network at:

http://www.facebook.com/target?v=app_74787998079&canvas=true

Vote and You Can Win

Earn a chance to win two free tickets to anywhere Delta flies in the US.

After you vote:

1. Click the "view profile" link under HandsOn Network
2. Become a fan on our Facebook page

If you don't have a Facebook account, signing up is easy. [Click here](#). Once you have created a profile, join the "Target Bullseye Gives" campaign and vote for HandsOn Network.

Vote HandsOn now at:

http://www.facebook.com/target?v=app_74787998079&canvas=true

The Impact of Your Vote

Every dollar raised through this campaign will go to improving the lives of students and their schools in communities across America. The money will go to help volunteers create new libraries and literacy programs, renovate student classrooms, expand access to the arts, and build the next generation of civic leaders.

Resources

The Resource Center offers tools and resources such as the resources listed below. Go directly to the [Resource Center](#), click on the search icon, and enter planning service projects in the search box. You will find information such as planning service project best practices and creating community partnerships.

[Community Design Event \(CDE\)](#)

[Title I and Free/Reduced Lunch Information](#)

[The School Box](#)

The Hands On School Box is a comprehensive resource designed to empower and equip people everywhere with the know-how and tools necessary to renew and reestablish their local school as the focal point of the community.

Please contact [Sederia Badgett](#) if you would like a complimentary school box sent to your organization!

[Effective Best Practices - Leveraging Volunteers](#)

Visit the the Resource Center to review [archive eVOLve briefs](#).

HandsOn Network Training Opportunities

Please join us for our upcoming webinar on *Essentials for Successful School-Community Collaboration*. HON will conduct the webinar on the **Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern**. During this session, participants will learn valuable information on partnership-building, engaging and recruiting volunteers, garnering community support, as well as project design, execution, and evaluation. The facilitator are Bob Young, Associate Director, Hands On Charlotte; Adam Orlavich, Acting Senior Manager, Chicago Cares; and Meghan Morse, Project Manager, HandsOn Twin Cities.

Click [here](#) to register for this free webinar.

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

Advanced Volunteer Management Institute

Advanced Volunteer Management Institute

June 21-22, 2009

Hilton San Francisco

Cost: \$150

(\$125 for HandsOn Network members)



Are you equipped to lead your volunteer program into the future?

Are you looking for a high-level professional development experience?

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- Explore cutting-edge approaches for effective volunteer engagement
- Focus on the challenges facing volunteer programs in our rapidly changing world
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This is a unique professional development opportunity that allows you to explore the trends of today's volunteers. The AVMI offers 23 workshops on some of today's hottest topics, including:

- Creating Exotically New Volunteer Positions - *Steve McCurley*
- Change! Don't Just Talk About It - *Martin J. Cowling*
- Empowering and Mentoring the Next Generation of Leaders in the Field - *Betty Stallings and Susan Ellis*
- The Language of Leadership - *Rick Lynch*
- Risk Proof Your Volunteer Program - *Linda Graff*

Learn more and register [here](#).

Please [e-mail](#) HandsOn Network if you have any questions.



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