

STATE OF ILLINOIS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Proclamation

WHEREAS service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and throughout our history citizens have stepped up to meet our challenges by volunteering in their communities; and

WHEREAS the current economic downturn means more Americans are facing hardships, and volunteering is needed more than ever; and

WHEREAS Illinois is blessed with men and women who selflessly dedicate their time and energy to performing acts of good will and improving the quality of life for all people; and

WHEREAS last year, nearly 2.8 million Illinoisans gave back over 378.5 million hours to their communities; which led to over \$8.4 billion dollars in impact; and

WHEREAS since 1994, more than 775,000 men and women across the nation, including more than 28,000 from Illinois, have taken the AmeriCorps pledge to "get things done for America" by becoming AmeriCorps Members; and

WHEREAS in Illinois, the Serve Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service strives to improve our communities by supporting volunteer and community service efforts throughout the state; and

WHEREAS in 1974, President Nixon established National Volunteer Week for the celebration of volunteers; and

WHEREAS President Obama has reaffirmed that April 15 through April 21 be known across the nation as National Volunteer Week; and

WHEREAS during National Volunteer Week, service projects and special events will take place throughout Illinois and across the national; and

WHEREAS the annual observance of National Volunteer Week sets aside an entire week to encourage everyone to serve others in need as well as honor those who volunteer all year; and,

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 15-21, 2012 as **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK** in Illinois, and encourage all citizens to promote the spirit of volunteerism in our families and communities across the state. To find a volunteer opportunity or to learn more about how to recognize your volunteers, visit the Serve Illinois Commission website at www.Serve.Illinois.gov or call 800-592-9896.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this TWELFTH day of APRIL, in
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
TWELVE, and of the State of Illinois
the one hundred and NINETY-FOURTH

Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR