



State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor



Department of Human Services
Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary

SERVE Illinois

N E W S L E T T E R

A Prevention First publication

Fall 2006

Ground-Breaking New Study Shows 29.7% of Illinois Residents Volunteer

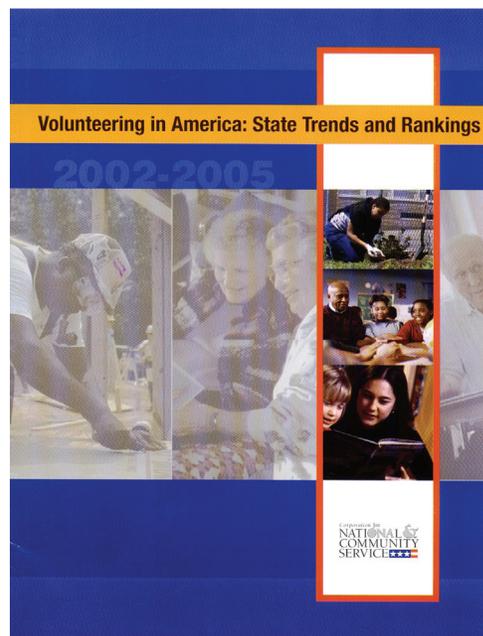
Illinois Exceeds Nation, Lags Midwest in Volunteerism Rate

Approximately 29.7 percent of Illinois residents volunteer, according to *Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings*, a ground-breaking study recently released by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Illinois ranks 28th nationwide among states for volunteering activities, exceeding the national volunteerism rate of 28.8 percent. The volunteerism rate for the Midwest region was 33.3 percent.

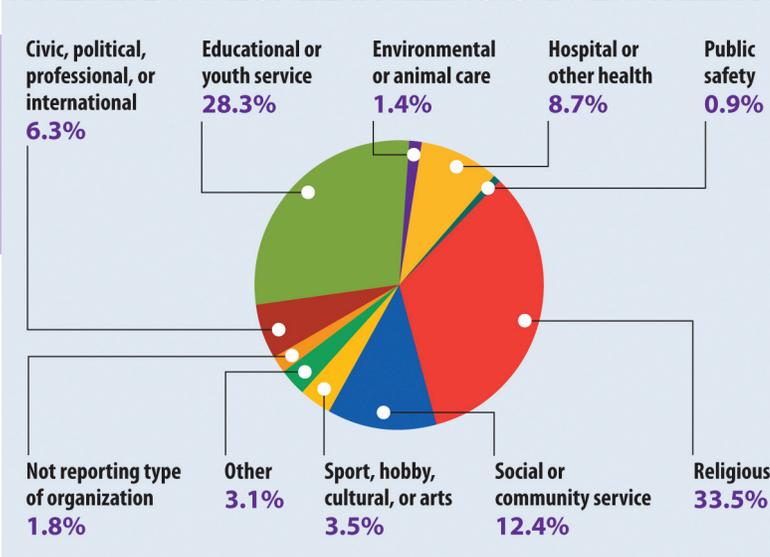
The study analyzed data collected over the past four years by the U.S. Census Bureau. It is the first study to break down volunteering habits and patterns by state and region. To view the full report, which features a two-page profile for each state, go to www.nationalservice.gov/about/volunteering/index.asp.

The data show that volunteers in Illinois have given an average of more than 333 million hours of volunteer service each year since 2002. Using an estimate of \$18.04 an hour for the value of a volunteer's time, the annual value of volunteering by Illinois residents is more than \$6 billion. See our new "Numbers You Should Know" section on page 4 for more information about the characteristics of Illinois volunteers.

To maximize its impact and to take advantage of the upward trend in volunteering in America over the past four years, the Corporation, as part of its new five-year Strategic Plan released in February, is working with nonprofit, government, and business groups to increase the number of Americans who volunteer. This new initiative called, "10 By 10," seeks to raise the number of volunteers in America by 10 million by 2010 - from the current 65.4 million up to 75 million. The ICVCS has pledged to contribute to that goal by working to bring up Illinois' ranking from 28th nationwide to among the top 15 states by 2009, an estimated increase of 400,000 volunteers statewide.



WHERE DO PEOPLE IN ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER?



For more information, go to
www.nationalservice.gov
www.pointsoflight.org
www.illinois.gov/volunteer.

*These statistics come from *Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings*, released by the Corporation for National and Community Service in June 2006. Data in the report were obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics through a "volunteering supplement" to the Current Population Survey (CPS) from 2002 to 2005. The volunteer supplement to the CPS is administered annually to approximately 60,000 households nationwide.*

From the Secretary



At the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS), we are excited about kicking off the new program year with the annual AmeriCorps Opening Day Ceremonies in Bloomington, Illinois, on October 25. This year's theme is "Inspire By Example," and we will be swearing-in approximately 500 AmeriCorps members from across the state. We will also be welcoming some new programs to Illinois' AmeriCorps portfolio, and, of course, we'll welcome back the programs that were re-funded for the 2006-2007 program year as well. Take a look at page 5 of this newsletter for information on Illinois' 2006-2007 AmeriCorps portfolio.

As noted in the cover story of this issue, volunteerism in Illinois is strong – but not as strong as it should be. With your help, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the ICVCS plan to increase our volunteerism rates and numbers. One of the goals of the ICVCS' State Service Plan is to rise from 28th nationally to rank within the top 15 states within the next three years. We hope you will contact us, or a volunteer agency near you, to get involved. You may wish to call 800.592.9896 to request the ICVCS publication *Finding the Right Volunteer*

Opportunities for You, or visit www.1-800-volunteer.org in order to get involved in your community. If you are a volunteer coordinator, you may also wish to request the booklet *A Guide to Managing Successful Volunteer Programs*, or attend one of the upcoming training and professional development opportunities listed on page 7 of this newsletter.

Arnold Hiatt, Chairman of the Stride Rite Foundation, once said, "Our nation will succeed or fail to the degree that all of us – citizens and businesses alike – are active participants in building strong, sustainable, and enriching communities." IDHS and ICVCS look forward to working with our *SERVE* Illinois readers to ensure that Illinois does its part to make this country, and our respective communities, "strong, sustainable, and enriching." Let's begin by getting involved this October 28th, a National Day of Service called "Make A Difference Day." (See: www.makeadifferenceday.com.)

Sincerely,

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

From the Chair



First, let me extend a warm welcome to Scott McFarland, another new staff member at the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) through the Graduate Public Service Internship program at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Scott's time and effort at ICVCS will help ensure our continual progress and improved services at the Commission.

As I mentioned in our last issue, the ICVCS has been in the process of formulating its State Service Plan for the next program year. The purpose of the State Service Plan is to: 1) Make communities stronger through volunteer programs; 2) Improve community-based organizations' ability to maximize their volunteer resources; and 3) Increase the number of individuals volunteering and involved in their communities. With the plan now complete, I would like to point out a few of our ongoing and new initiatives for the coming year:

1) It is the Commission's goal to minimize the reporting burden on both our sub-grantee programs and our staff, while at the same time maintaining strong oversight capabilities with timely and accurate reporting, resulting in high-quality, high-impact AmeriCorps programs that "get things done" throughout Illinois.

2) The Commission will attempt to leverage national resources to improve Illinois' ranking in rates of volunteerism from 28th in the nation in 2006 to a position among the top 15 states by 2009.

3) New Commission initiatives will include increased outreach to special needs populations, as well as a new Illinois AmeriCorps "LeaderCorps" program. (*More information about the Disability Outreach Project is available by calling 217.522.5687 and about the LeaderCorps program on page 4 of this newsletter.*)

The Commission will support the efforts of various organizations and collaborations throughout the state and the efforts of its national service partners to engage a growing involvement of resources from business, universities, faith communities, social and service organizations in achieving the goals outlined in the State Service Plan.

Stay tuned to *SERVE* Illinois for continuing information about these and other ICVCS initiatives.

All the best,

Dave Lawrence, Chairman

Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

National Conference on Volunteering and Service

Representatives from the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) attended the annual National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Seattle June 18 - 20. The conference, sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation (POLF) and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), focused on increasing the number of nationwide volunteers by 10 million by 2010. Attending from ICVCS were Commission Chair Dave Lawrence, Commissioner Dorothy Miaso, Executive Director Scott Kimmel, and AmeriCorps Program Manager Deborah McCarrel.



A State Farm representative receives the Corporate "Spirit of Service" Award award from David Eisner, CEO of CNCS.

At the event, more than 2,400 volunteer and national service leaders were inspired by stories of volunteers contributing to hurricane relief and recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast, the music

of Sister Sledge, and the personal story of "Good Morning America" co-anchor Robin Roberts, a native of Pass Christian, Mississippi.

Recruiting more Americans to address social needs through volunteering and national service is the focus of a new initiative of the CNCS, according to CEO David Eisner. He issued a challenge to conference participants: "Let us commit to grow the number of volunteers by 10 million by 2010. It's an ambitious but achievable goal." (See Illinois' similar pledge on pages 1 and 2 of this newsletter).

Jennifer Shutt of Chicago, a second-year AmeriCorps member focused on disaster response with the American Red Cross' National Preparedness and Response Corps, received an AmeriCorps*State and National Spirit of Service Award – one of only four awards given out nationally. Jen has responded to nearly 200 incidents, including Hurricane Katrina the very day it occurred. Her AmeriCorps program describes her as consistently going above and beyond in order to provide compassionate service to clients and support to teammates. On the scene and off, Jen is calm, collected, organized and efficient, and does all of her work with good judgment, resourcefulness, and an upbeat attitude. She has completed her AmeriCorps term of service and is now employed with the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago.



State Farm Insurance of Bloomington, Illinois was a Corporate "Spirit of Service" Award winner for its pioneering leadership and support of service learning programs nationwide.

The mission of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

is to improve Illinois communities by supporting and enhancing volunteerism and community service. Commissioners, appointed by the governor, represent experience in local government, labor, education, older adults, public health, non-profits, business, volunteerism and national service. www.illinois.gov/volunteer



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- Brenda Letcher, Disability Outreach Coordinator
- Scott Niermann, Training Coordinator
- Scott McFarland, Graduate Public Service Intern

IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT DHS

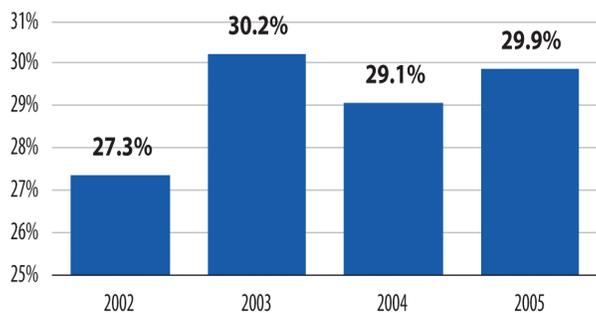
- Steven Guerra, Director, Division of Community Health and Prevention
- Kim Fornero, Chief, Bureau of Community-Based and Primary Prevention

you should know

Illinois Volunteering

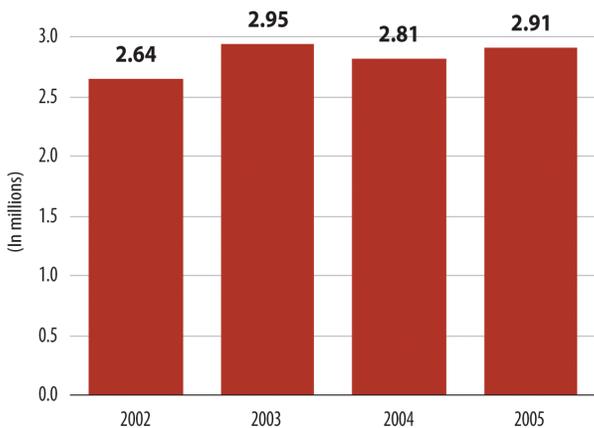
- The rate of volunteering for 2003 to 2005 in Illinois (29.7%) was lower than the three-year rate for the Midwest (33.2%) and higher than the three-year rate for the nation (28.8%).

ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERING RATE



- Illinois had the highest number of volunteers each year in the Midwest during 2002 to 2005.

VOLUNTEERS IN ILLINOIS



Graphs provided by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Office of Research and Policy Development, *Volunteering in America: State Trends and Rankings*, Washington, DC., 2006

On average, residents of Illinois contribute 333,508,375 hours of volunteer service each year, totaling \$6,016,491,093 worth of service to the state.

Illinois LeaderCorps is a member-organized council that connects AmeriCorps programs and acts as a liaison between Members and the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS).

Mission: The mission of LeaderCorps is to connect AmeriCorps programs in Illinois through state, national and global days of service and to promote continued AmeriCorps alumni involvement.

Vision: The vision of LeaderCorps is to foster effective cross-program communication and collaboration among AmeriCorps programs in Illinois.

History: LeaderCorps began with a brainstorming session at the 2005 Leaders Conference. At the conclusion of the conference, the AmeriCorps Leaders in attendance

were asked to generate ideas to help sustain the connections and collaboration forged at the conference. The idea was put forth to form a member council that would keep members from across the state in contact throughout their terms of service. During the 2005-2006 program year, members worked together to get the organization off the ground. At the 2006 Leaders Conference in April, Illinois LeaderCorps was officially born, and a formal application process was developed during the summer. As a part of this application process, all LeaderCorps members serve at the discretion of their program director.

The first meeting of the 2006-2007 LeaderCorps will be held at AmeriCorps Opening Day. This year, the annual training will be held November 17 and 18 in Springfield. LeaderCorps members will enhance their

communication and leadership skills and begin planning activities for upcoming Days of Service. (See page 8 for upcoming state, national and international days of service.)

“I’m looking forward to the collaboration and community service LeaderCorps can help facilitate this year among AmeriCorps programs in

Illinois,” said Lauren Nichols, newly elected LeaderCorps President and a second-year AmeriCorps Member at Project YES! in Chicago. “With the support of the ICVCS, LeaderCorps will help ‘get things done’ in Illinois communities.”



NEW PROGRAMS in the Americorps Portfolio

The organizations and programs listed below were recently awarded AmeriCorps*State program grants by the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) and the federal Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). These programs, along with 15 previously funded programs, were successful in a grant competition earlier this year and joined the Illinois AmeriCorps portfolio of programs administered by ICVCS. All will serve an important purpose in their communities, as described below.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Quad Cities

Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) of the Quad Cities is one of the fastest-growing BBBS chapters in the country. This national youth mentoring program is currently expanding into 13 counties in northwest Illinois. The program's 13 AmeriCorps Members will help in capacity-building activities such as recruiting volunteers from under-represented populations and extending services into more communities.



Asian Human Services

Asian Human Services' (AHS) AmeriCorps program will provide a unique support system for social service programs on the north side of Chicago. AHS serves more than 4,400 clients each year in the Uptown, West Rogers Park, and Lakeview neighborhoods, including many Asians and other low-income, immigrant populations. Many AHS clients receive public assistance, lack health care, lack English skills, and lack employment sufficient to support their families. Nine AmeriCorps Members will work to make connections among the programs of AHS and to create a referral network for clients to gain access to AHS services.

McHenry County Mental Health Board

With an emphasis on prevention, the McHenry County Mental Health Board and its partners will host an AmeriCorps program focused on helping low-income Latino youth and youth who have a serious emotional disturbance to overcome academic failure and social isolation. Fourteen AmeriCorps Members will help facilitate tutoring/mentoring and service-learning groups in after-school centers in three communities. Members will also provide volunteer recruitment presentations to a wide variety of county organizations, with the goal of meeting the challenging needs of these very at-risk children so that they are able to attain academic success and be productively connected with their communities.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

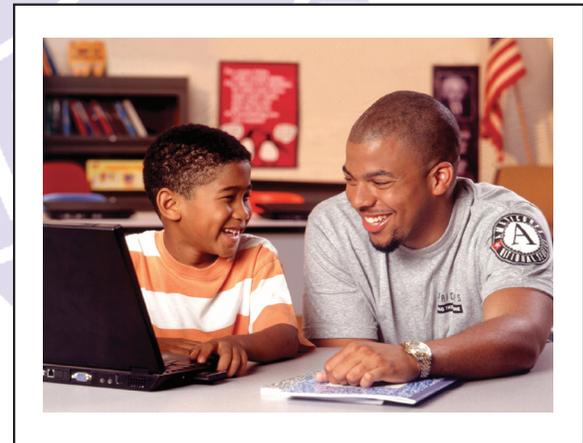
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), with 25 years of experience implementing programs serving prisoners and their families, exists to support families, strengthen relationships and involve the community in restoring all people affected by crime. In order to serve a growing number of incarcerated men and women and to meet community needs for prison ministry services, LSSI's 16 AmeriCorps Members will help expand the "Storybook Project" in Dixon, Marion and Springfield for incarcerated parents to record storybooks on tape for their children; expand "Visits to Mom and Dad" in Chicago, a transportation program for visiting parents in prison; launch a men's re-entry program in Chicago and Marion; and assess community needs and implement programs in Rockford.

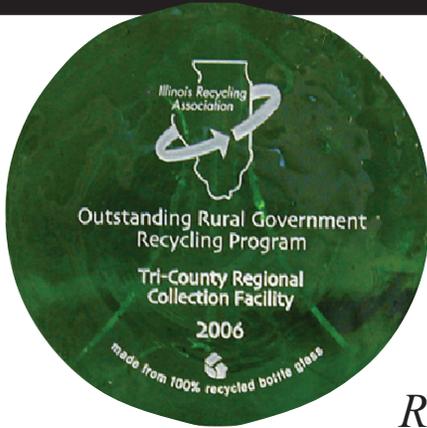
Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center, Inc.

Aunt Martha's AmeriCorps program will help fulfill the organization's mission to create positive change in the lives of children and youth from distressed communities by connecting them with caring adults, engaging them in service activities, and strengthening the volunteer infrastructure in these communities. Twenty-four developmentally delayed adults will also be served by this program. With 20 AmeriCorps Members, the program will collaborate with an existing Learn and Serve program and other similar programs for increased effectiveness and impact, targeting the most impoverished communities in south suburban Cook County, Illinois.

4 Counties for Kids, Inc.

4 Counties for Kids, Inc. (4C4K) is a community-based, nonprofit organization that was formed through a collaboration of numerous local government, private and nonprofit agencies, and schools to provide quality out-of-school programming in school- and community-based locations in Morgan, Cass, Scott and Greene counties in Illinois. The goal of 4C4K is to provide safe environments where children and teens will develop skills and habits to become successful adults. Twenty-eight Project S.A.V.E. (Social Action Volunteer Experience) AmeriCorps Members at 4C4K will help facilitate service-learning projects with the youth at these program locations.





E-Waste and Paint Recycling Program Receives Statewide Award

On June 14, 2006, the Illinois Recycling Association recognized the Tri-County Regional Collection Facility (TCRCF) as the Outstanding Rural Government Recycling Program of the year. This project has been guided by the vision of the McDonough County Solid Waste Coordinator, Chad Braatz, and managed by Eric Anderson, an AmeriCorps Member from the Peace Corps Fellows Program at the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University. People may not think of solid waste management as a career track for innovators, but it is innovation, networking and steady focus that have made the TCRCF standout.

Based in Macomb, Illinois, and serving 10 satellite collection sites for paint and electronics recycling, the TCRCF has been in operation since September of 2005. After about 11 months of operation, it has collected 52.5 tons of paint and 88 tons of electronics. Combining collection of these two wastes into one program had not previously been done in Illinois. Both have been a continuous thorn in the sides of rural residents who want to dispose of these two products in an environmentally safe manner.

Utilizing the existing Partners for Waste Paint Solutions, an Illinois EPA paint recycling program, and an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (IDCEO) electronic-waste recycling grant, a match in collection processes was made. Continued funding from the McDonough County Environmental Fund has guaranteed the program's sustainability into the near future. Anderson received his master's degree from the Geography Department at Western Illinois University in May 2006 and completed his AmeriCorps service in July.



Eric Anderson (left, AmeriCorps Member) and Tim Lobdell collect nearly a ton of obsolete electronics from PGI Insurance and Investments in Macomb.

American Humanics *AmeriCorps*ProCorps*

The AmeriCorps*Professional Corps (ProCorps) is a new initiative that places professional volunteer coordinators and youth program coordinators with nonprofit organizations. ProCorps is administered by American Humanics, Inc., a national alliance of colleges, universities and nonprofit organizations dedicated to educating, preparing and certifying professionals to strengthen and lead nonprofit organizations. ProCorps participants are Humanics students and alumni. North Park University in Chicago and Western Illinois University in Macomb are currently the only universities in Illinois that offer the American Humanics certificate. If you are interested in becoming an AmeriCorps*ProCorps Member or starting a program, phone SueAnn Strom at 800.343.6466, ext. 112, e-mail her at sastrom@humanics.org, or visit

www.humanics.org/procorps.

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Grantsmanship Training Program

The Grantsmanship Center of Los Angeles, California
Hosted by the
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
Peoria, Illinois
www.tgci.com/training/tprogram.asp
800.421.9512

October 9 – 13, 2006

Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference

“Commitment, Service & Success”
Carterville, Illinois

October 11, 2006

(See article at right.)

The Resources Now! National Institute

Providence, Rhode Island
October 10 - 12, 2006
www.campaignconsultation.com/WN.html
877.243.2253, ext. 37

Independent Sector Annual Conference

Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota
October 22 - 24, 2006
www.independentsector.org/AnnualConference/2006/index.html

Illinois AmeriCorps Opening Day Ceremonies

Bloomington, Illinois
October 25, 2006
www.ipha.com/acod

Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth

10th Annual Conference
Minneapolis, Minnesota
October 26-28, 2006
www.search-institute.org/hchy/

Mississippi Valley Directors Of Volunteers In Agencies

2006 Conference
Moline, Illinois
November 9, 2006
(See article at right.)

BoardSource Leadership Forum

“Premiere conference on nonprofit governance”
Chicago, Illinois
December 3 - 4, 2006
www.boardsource.org/Workshops.asp?ID=43
877.892.6273
service@boardsource.org

Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference: *A Focus on Commitment, Service, and Success*

The Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference (SIVC) is an annual conference for volunteers, volunteer agencies, and volunteer supervisors throughout southern Illinois. It is sponsored by the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service, John A. Logan College, Kaskaskia College, Rend Lake College, Shawnee Community College, Shawnee Development Council, Southeastern Illinois College, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, and the University of Illinois Extension, in cooperation with nonprofit and volunteer agencies across the region. SIVC seeks to provide this training and networking event for the promotion and enhancement of volunteerism. On October 11, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., more than 200 volunteer professionals will convene at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois, for a full day of events. Seminar session topics include: core values 101, media buy-in, asset-based community development, grant writing, service learning, liability issues, time management, volunteer recruitment/retention/recognition, and other team-building and collaboration topics. The 2006 keynote speaker will be Bruce Fasol, a southern Illinois radio broadcaster, newspaper columnist and sports analyst known throughout the region. For more information or to register for this conference, contact Lisa Tarpley at Shawnee Community College at 618.634.3250. If your agency would like to host a booth at this event, contact Lauralyn Cima at John A. Logan College at 618.985.3741, ext. 8303. We hope to see you at this 10th Annual SIVC!

Mississippi Valley Directors of Volunteers In Agencies: 2006 Annual Conference

The 2006 annual conference of the Mississippi Valley Directors of Volunteers In Agencies (DOVIA) will be held November 9 at the Butterworth Center in Moline, Illinois, from 11:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Elizabeth Weinstein, founder of and consultant with Elizabeth Weinstein and Associates, and author of *Mentoring for Success* (1998) and *Moving Into a Brighter Future* (2000). Representatives from the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service will present “Running a Volunteer Program in a Bi-State Community,” and international health consultant Susan Grabia, MPH, will present, “Volunteering is Good for Your Health and May Prolong Your Life.” To register, visit

www.mvdovia.org/conference_06.aspx.

Association of Volunteer Administrators
of Metropolitan Chicago
Sharing/Networking/Training

Fourth Tuesday of every month

773.753.1382
matt.porth@msichicago.org

Upcoming Days of Service

October 22 - 28, 2006	Kids Care Week, www.kidscare.org
October 28, 2006	Make a Difference Day, www.makeadifferenceday.com
November 16, 2006	World's Largest Thanksgiving Dinner, www.forallstars.org
November 18, 2006	National Family Volunteer Day, www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nfvd/
December 5, 2006	International Volunteer Day, www.worldvolunteerweb.org/intl-volunteer-day.html
January 15, 2007	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – “A day ON...not a day off”, www.mlkday.org



SERVE Illinois is a publication of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service. Send articles for submission and suggestions to:

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This material is based upon work supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service under AmeriCorps Grant No. 05PTHIL001. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation for National Service or the AmeriCorps program.



“Building Stronger Communities Through Service”

Published by
PREVENTION FIRST
2800 Montvale Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 392
Springfield, IL

ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON
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