Funding Opportunity Announcement
October 1, 2009

HandsOn
NETWORK

Family Volunteering To Get HandsOn

Reducing the dropout rate by leveraging the power of service in every school.

Reduce the carbon footprint through neighborhood-based conservation and restoration projects.

Support economic security for families by facilitating access to resources and dollars.

HandsOn Network is pleased to announce the availability of $345,000 in funding reserved exclusively for our affiliates to increase the number of "Family Friendly" volunteer projects available throughout our network.

It is our goal to create an engaged citizenry where every individual has the opportunity to make a difference through meaningful service engagement. One strategy toward achieving this goal is to ensure that families have access to opportunities to volunteer together, share stories and learn from others about the power of a life of civic involvement.

Family volunteering encourages the members of a family to volunteer as a unit. It can be done by the whole family together, by one parent and one child or teen, or with extended family such as grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. It can be as simple as creating cards for children in the hospital or as complex as bonding hundreds of families together in a day of service at a community park. However families choose to do it, families engaged in service can help mobilize thousands of new volunteers and instill in the next generation a lifelong commitment to volunteering.

This one-year non-renewable funding opportunity will support the ability of HandsOn Network Affiliates in developing projects that directly engage families (with children as young as six years old) and their parents/guardians/extended family members in the focus areas of: Education, Environment, and/or Economy.

Eligible Applicants and Grant Amounts

First consideration for funds to support this effort at the $10,000 area available to the following affiliates in good standing:

California: HandsOn Inland Empire, HandsOn Santa Clarita, L.A. Works, Volunteer San Diego, Volunteer Center of South Bay Harbor Long Beach, Volunteer Center of Riverside County, Volunteer Center of San Gabriel County, Volunteer Center of Los Angeles, Volunteer Center Orange County, Volunteer Ventura County, HandsOn Bay Area, Volunteer Center Serving San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

Florida: HandsOn Miami, HandsOn Orlando, VolunteerLAKE, Seminole Community Volunteer Program, HandsOn Tampa Bay, United Way of Volusia Flagler Counties, Nature Coast Volunteer Center, HandsOn Manatee, Friendship Volunteer Center, Martin Volunteers.

First consideration for funds to support this effort at the $5,000 level is available to the following affiliates in good standing:

Chicago Cares, HandsOn Atlanta, New York Cares, Greater Philadelphia Cares, Boston Cares, Volunteer Central, Greater D.C. Cares, Volunteer Houston, Seattle Works, HandsOn Greater Portland, Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada, HandsOn Greater Phoenix, Utah Food Bank Services, HandsOn North Texas, United Way of Palm Beach County, Volunteer Broward, Volunteer Collier, Volunteer Leon, HandsOn Sacramento, Volunteer Center of Sonoma County, Caring Choices, North Coast Opportunities Network; and Volunteer Canada (Toronto; Montreal; Halifax, and Vancouver, B.C.).

Background

HandsOn Network inspires, equips and mobilizes people to take action that changes the world. Our network, now the largest in the nation, is leading people from impulse to action, turning their ideas for change into impactful projects like wheelchair ramp construction, watershed protection and tutoring. The most powerful projects are those that inspire and activate volunteers to be leaders and problem solvers on their own – creating new opportunities to bring others into service.

HandsOn Network is stepping up to the challenge of empowering citizens to help solve some of the most pressing problems of our generation. Points of Light Institute CEO and HandsOn Network Co-founder Michelle Nunn launched Get HandsOn, a three year campaign that engages and mobilized more volunteers leaders in more projects across the globe (or something like that) at the National Conference of Volunteering and Service in June 2009.

HandsOn Network, through "Get HandsOn" aims to recruit and mobilize a core of 500,000 volunteer leaders and engage people of all generations in two million impact-driven projects. The goals include reducing the drop-out rate by leveraging the power of service in every school, reducing the carbon footprint through neighborhood-based conversation and restoration projects; and supporting economic security for families by facilitating access to resources and dollars.

Using Family Volunteering to Get HandsOn

Research suggests that engaging parents and their children in service together has important positive outcomes for everyone involved. It benefits:

- *children and youth* by cultivating positive values, such as caring and empathy, and by developing a commitment to service both now and in the future.
- *parents* by giving them more quality time with their children and through all the other benefits of volunteering for adults, including increased interpersonal skills and improved mental and physical health.
- *families* by increasing their sense of cohesion, well-being, and connections to the broader community.
- *sponsoring organizations and civic life* by attracting more volunteers, increasing volunteer commitments, and bringing new energy to traditional volunteer opportunities.

Challenges of Family Volunteering to Get HandsOn

Along with the many benefits of family service come real and perceived challenges that organizations face when looking to engage families in service. These include:

- Age appropriate projects for family volunteers
- Recruiting families as volunteers
- Orienting and training families as volunteers
- Risk management and liability
- Building time for reflection

The Opportunity at the $10,000 level

- Invited affiliates who seek to expand their programming or capacity through this opportunity in the area of Family Volunteering in ways that address the focus areas of education, environment and/or the economy will be required to:

- Create/Implement at least 2 new large scale Family Friendly Volunteers projects per month in January, February and March of 2010. Each project will seek to engage at least 100 people each and will give families the opportunity to volunteer together with the chance for youth as young as the age of six (6) to engage in meaningful opportunities to participate and serve.

- Create/Implement at least 2 new "smaller-scale" Family Friendly Volunteer projects per month for the year with new nonprofit partners during (at least) the months of April – December 2010. Each of these smaller-scale projects will seek to engage at least 25 people each and will give families the opportunity to volunteer together with the chance for youth as young as the age of six (6) to engage in meaningful opportunities to participate and serve.

- Recruit/Train at least 15 monthly volunteer leaders focused on family volunteering: Someone to help serve as the "eyes and ears" of the affiliate at each project, acting as a liaison between the affiliate, volunteers, and the organization where the volunteer project occurs.

The Opportunity at the $5,000 level

- Invited affiliates who seek to expand their programming or capacity through this opportunity in the area of Family Volunteering in ways that address the focus areas of education, environment and/or the economy will be required to:

- Create/Implement at least 1 new large scale Family Friendly Volunteers project per month in December, January, February and March of 2010. Each project will seek to engage at least 125 people each and will give families the opportunity to volunteer together with the chance for youth as young as the age of six (6) to engage in meaningful opportunities to participate and serve.

- Create/Implement at least 1 new "smaller-scale" Family Friendly Volunteer project per month with a new nonprofit partner during (at least) the months of April – December 2010. Each of these smaller-scale projects will seek to engage at least 35 people each and will give families the opportunity to volunteer together with the chance for youth as young as the age of six (6) to engage in meaningful opportunities to participate and serve.

- Recruit/Train at least 10 monthly volunteer leaders focused on family volunteering: Someone to help serve as the "eyes and ears" of the affiliate at each project, acting as a liaison between the affiliate, volunteers, and the organization where the volunteer project occurs.

In addition, those funded at either the $10,000 or the $5,000 level of must also agree to:

Programmatic Requirements:

- Allow a number of volunteers, either as individuals, groups or families to participate at the same time in Family Friendly volunteer activities/projects.
- Using a template provided by HandsOn Network, share 2 success stories, and 2 Family Friendly volunteer projects for possible dissemination throughout the network.
- Agree to participate in a clinic focused on Family Volunteering AND Managed Volunteer projects. We anticipate delivering a total of 15 of these clinics throughout the network from October 2009 – December 2010.
- Additional funds will be made available to those affiliates selected to host these clinics that will engage the affiliate and their nonprofit partners as well. HandsOn National Network staff will deliver these trainings and present: 1) a toolkit of family friendly volunteer activities; 2) strategies for affiliate nonprofit partners to think creatively about opportunities to engage families as volunteers; 3) strategies for affiliates in creating more managed volunteer projects that are suitable for families with youth ages six (6) and above.
- Complete a final report no later than December 31, 2010.

Technology Requirements:

- Post a link on the homepage of your website, (January – March, 2010) that leads visitors interested in family volunteering to a special Disney portal where they can sign up for a volunteer opportunity.
- Syndicate all appropriate projects to the special Disney portal.
- Agree to use a 'universal volunteer waiver'.
- Agree to use 'universal orientation' or to waive orientation for volunteers signing up through this promotion. (if you currently require an orientation).
- Agree that no parental consent forms will be distributed in advance, and for HOT users who have a business rule to require 'minor waivers' be filed in advance, waive this for any projects signed up via the special Disney portal.
- Agree to ensure verification of your opportunities within 72 hours of completion
- Agree to communicate and recruit all their referral partners to sign-up for the program in the Disney portal.

- Assist with communicating with their partners to ensure all referrals are validated within 5 days

- Be responsive to volunteers looking for qualifying volunteer opportunities and directing them on how to register those opportunities on the Disney portal.

Note: Affiliates will have the FULL support of the technology resources of Points of Light Institute and HandsOn Network in meeting technology deliverables associated with this funding opportunity including call center support.

Helpful Definitions and Examples:

Volunteer Leader – The Volunteer Leader is one who works in conjunction with a HandsOn Action Center to regularly manage a volunteer project on behalf of an affiliate. Various terms have been used to describe these unique volunteer leaders at the affiliate level such as: Project Coordinator, Volunteer Leader or Project Leader. These volunteer leaders receive specialized training from affiliates and help to serve as the "eyes and ears" of the affiliates at each project, acting as a liaison between the affiliate, volunteers, and the organization where the volunteer project occurs.

Descriptors of the successful Volunteer Leader may include but not be limited to:

- A volunteer trained by an affiliate to take all reasonable steps to create and implement a successful volunteer project
- Someone who provides sufficient tools, materials and equipment to allow each volunteer an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the project
- Someone who provides sufficient and appropriate safety equipment to volunteers, ensures access to restroom facilities and provide emergency care to any volunteers injured during a project
- Someone that ensures tasks assigned to volunteers are consistent with the project description provided to the affiliate and who will contact the affiliate at the earliest possible time if significant changes in the project are anticipated
- Someone who presents an orientation to the volunteers covering the organization's mission, the need for the project, the role of the volunteers and the larger community issue(s) that the organization seeks to address and reinforce this message and thank volunteers at the completion of the project
- Someone who is committed to the organization's mission and agrees to be an ambassador for the affiliate
- Someone who is able to communicate effectively and possess good interpersonal skills.
- Someone who is resourceful and has a positive attitude.
- Someone who has regular access to the Internet.
- Someone who takes responsibility for signing in all volunteers and reports volunteer attendance and service hours within 72 hours of project's completion.

Real examples of Family Friendly volunteer projects that have been offered by affiliates:

At the Volunteer Center of Southwest Michigan, 15 nonprofit partners gathered at a local mall to complete tasks such as:

- Decorating plastic jars to collect pennies for a cancer drive led by Berrien County Cancer Services.
- Decorating placemats for local nursing homes led by the Girl Scouts.
- Making gift bags and cards for hospice patients led by Lakeland Health & Hospice.
- Reading aloud to kids and making materials for local classrooms led by a local Head Start.

At Boston Cares Youth and Parents:

- Gathered at a local goods bank to organize donations and build emergency food baskets.
- Were hosted by a local school at which they made "indoor recess activity books" for other students (volunteers assembled the pages, stapled the bindings, and decorated each of the book covers.)

At HandsOn Greater Portland:

They have encouraged nonprofit partner agencies to be open and excited about working with family volunteers, and also to understand and appreciate the positive results of connecting families and children to volunteering together.

What Your Family Friendly Volunteer Project could look like while meeting the requirement of addressing the issue areas of education, environment, and/or the economy.

The incoming senior class, with a faculty advisor, leads a school make-over "legacy project" engaging parents, younger students from a nearby feeder school, surrounding businesses, civic leaders, faith congregations and others in a year-long series of projects to renovate the school.

A neighborhood association organizes a series of weekend tree planting and park clean-up projects for resident families and their friends. The project accomplishes a carbon-offsetting outcome and educates the neighborhood on environmental and energy policy issues.

A local scout troop, working with their parents organizes a "Flash Mob & Facebook" canned food drive to stock the shelves of a local food pantry over a 48-hour period that delivers $10,000 in food during the winter season.

Use of Funds: The funds can be expended only for charitable purposes and in direct support of VolunteerLEON' support of Family Friendly Volunteer projects. Funds are to be used for the purposes stated in this letter. The HandsOn Network Affiliate must be able and willing to prove to HandsOn Network with satisfaction that no portion of the grant funds have been used for the purposes other than those stipulated above and outlined in this letter agreement.

Changes to the Project Plan: The HandsOn Network Affiliate is required to alert HandsOn Network of any significant changes to its organization or programming that could potentially impede achievement of the grant deliverables. Such changes would include significant alterations to the HandsOn Network's Affiliate's program activities, budget, staffing, funding from other sources, or relationships with other organizations in effect at the time of this grant agreement. Significant changes should be communicated to the HandsOn Network point person supporting your specific project, Gary Renville (grenville@handsonnetwork.org)

Termination of Grant: HandsOn Network reserves the right to terminate this Agreement if, in its discretion, it determines that the HandsOn Network Affiliate has made any misrepresentations, has in any way misappropriated grant funds, or has done anything inconsistent with this grant Agreement. The declaration of bankruptcy by your organization automatically terminates the grant.

Grant Period: The grant period for the programs being supported by this grant Agreement begins effective immediately and runs through December 31, 2010.

Disbursement of Funds: Grant funds will be disbursed from HandsOn Network to the HandsOn Network Affiliate. Funding will be distributed as follows:

- 75% upon receipt of this signed agreement, between
- 25% within 45 days of a final report in which all funding requirements have been reported as met or exceeded.

If this letter correctly sets forth your understanding of the terms of this agreement, please indicate your organization's agreement to them by signing two original copies and returning one to HandsOn Network.

Accepted and Agreed To

_____ Date: _____
County Administrator
Signature

_____
Printed Name

_____ Date: _____
HansdsOn Network
Signature

_____
Printed Name