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Michigan Nonprofit Association/Volunteer Centers of Michigan Awarded \$50,000 of \$1.2 MILLION in Grant Funds to Help Answer the Call for Service

Lansing, MI (March 16, 2009) – [HandsOn Network](#) and the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS) announced a 1.2 million dollar investment in 21 volunteer connector organizations and statewide agencies that manage volunteers, including state service commissions and state associations of volunteer centers. Part of a new Volunteer Impact Retention and Expansion initiative, this is the first of several planned capacity grants that will provide needed resources to recruit, equip, train and mobilize 800,000 volunteers.

[Michigan Nonprofit Association](#) (MNA)/[Volunteer Centers of Michigan](#) (VCM) is proud to announce we have received \$50,000 in grants to help answer the call to service and recruit, equip, train and mobilize 2,500 community volunteers. MNA /VCM will use these funds to fuel a tangible and compelling response to the call for service, extending volunteerism and volunteer leader capacity to help solve some of our nation's most critical issues; including education, the environment, help for economically distressed families and health care.

The goals for MNA/VCM through this grant are to provide support to five start-up Centers and two new community collaborative interested in establishing, or reestablishing a local mechanism to assist local nonprofits in meeting their needs for volunteers; explore the possibility of new local models to fill the need for volunteers; provide an improved infrastructure necessary for the recruitment and placement of volunteers that will address local issues; and increase the number of volunteers addressing community issues across the State of Michigan.

The five start-up Centers are:

- Lenawee Community Foundation
- Livingston County United Way – Volunteer Livingston!
- Great Lakes Center for Youth Development
- United Way of St. Clair County
- Human Development Commission-Thumb Volunteer Alliance

Nationwide, the grants are expected to help increase retention rates of new and existing volunteers by an average of 75%; recruit, train, mobilize and equip another 2,000 volunteer leaders and 1,600 skill-based volunteers; and develop 400 new volunteer engagement partnerships. Additional community investment should be realized as recipients will match the grants with local business, government, nonprofit and foundation support.

HandsOn Network and CNCS will announce future rounds of funding opportunities under this initiative this spring and applications will be available in May 2009. Funding levels will be up to \$1.3 million in grants to volunteer connector and management organizations. For more information, visit www.handsonnetwork.org.

About Michigan Nonprofit Association

Incorporated in 1990, and governed by a board that represents the diversity of the nonprofit sector, MNA increases the capacity of Michigan's nonprofits to serve, strengthen and transform communities. With nearly 1,200 members, MNA serves as a statewide network for the sector, a resource center on effective management practices, and as an advocate for the nonprofit community. For more information, visit www.mnaonline.org.

About Volunteer Centers of Michigan

The Volunteer Centers of Michigan strengthens, develops and connects Volunteer Centers throughout the state. Our goal is to ensure that all volunteer centers have the capacity to positively impact every Michigan community and their citizens through volunteerism. We believe that volunteer centers play a leadership role in mobilizing people and resources to deliver creative solutions to community problems. For more information, visit www.mivolunteers.org.

About HandsOn Network

HandsOn Network equips, mobilizes and inspires 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 real projects like building wheel chair ramps, watershed protection projects and tutoring programs – action that addresses critical issues facing our communities, our nation and our world. The Network includes over 250 affiliates—that serve in all 50 states and in nine countries. In 2007 alone, these HandsOn Action Centers helped to deliver more than 33 million hours of volunteer service valued at \$1.2 billion.

About The Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. Each year the Corporation engages more than four million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to meet local needs through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs. For more information, visit www.nationalservice.gov.

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