



NEIGHBORS
HELPING
NEIGHBORS
SERVICE TOGETHER



SUMMIT ON
VOLUNTEERISM
A Response to
Economic Crisis

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Volunteers of America is a 113-year-old organization and through our ministry we are helping underserved communities and vulnerable populations. And that includes at-risk youth, low-income seniors, homeless individuals, and families: men and women who are returning to work from prison, really looking to help the developmentally disabled. So we're really reaching out to our communities, again, within 44 states in over 400 communities. The intent of our volunteer program is really to reach and touch our community to the deepest level possible. And we feel that we're able to do that by really being in tune and in connection with those who we want to really lead and serve.

We've offered the opportunity through thousands of our programs nationwide for individuals to get involved and we want to do it in a sense that allows people to give of their time willingly, conveniently, so there are opportunities that exist in terms of virtual opportunities that can be done in 15 minutes or less on a computer remotely. We've created onsite opportunities that through long-term and episodic volunteering, people can come and connect with programs in their neighborhood. There's an opportunity also for volun-tourism where we want to reach out to individuals to say, we have these programs that are touching communities, vulnerable populations that we want you to be a part of. And we will create for you an opportunity to extend your vacation to lend a hand. So we really want to seek to be able to support our communities by connecting with our communities.

We really want to be able to extend to everyone the opportunity to grow and to serve and to be part of a better and bigger movement in terms of the mission of service, really making that commitment in terms of our ministry to focus on those communities that need help, so that we can grow together and continue to extend our reach and continue to build as noted, neighbor by neighbor by neighbor to make that connection and establish that community.