Encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change—discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to foster positive transformation.

National Volunteer Week honors people who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities.

Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week has grown exponentially in scope each year, drawing the support and endorsement of all subsequent U.S. Presidents, governors, mayors and other respected elected officials.

All across the 13 states of the Southeastern side of the United States, DVS’ and volunteers celebrated National Volunteer Week the week of April 10-16.

For more than two decades, Points of Light Institute has equipped nonprofit organizations to celebrate National Volunteer Week, providing visibility, thematic focus and resources to enable them to commemorate this signature week of volunteer recognition.

Through programs such as the President’s Volunteer Service Award, Daily Point of Light Award and the Extra Mile - Points of Light Volunteer Pathway, Points of Light Institute recognizes volunteers and the tremendous impact they are making on our country's most critical challenges year-round.

National Volunteer Week, this year April 10-16, was about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging people to seek out imaginative ways to engage in their communities. It’s about demonstrating to the nation that by working together, we have the fortitude to meet our challenges and accomplish our goals. National Volunteer Week is about taking action and encouraging individuals and their respective communities to be at the center of social change—discovering and actively demonstrating their collective power to foster positive transformation.

National Volunteer Week honors people who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities.

Established in 1974, National Volunteer Week has grown exponentially in scope each year, drawing the support and endorsement of all subsequent U.S. Presidents, governors, mayors and other respected elected officials.

Conway Medical Center- With butterflies abundant, Conway Medical Center celebrated national volunteer week with a formal luncheon held at the Landmark Resort in Myrtle Beach with keynote speaker Dr. Muriel O'Tuel. The CEO of Conway Medical Center, Mr. Phil Clayton addressed the crowd of 165 guests, to thank all the volunteers for their contributions to the hospital and their assistance in fulfilling the mission of the medical center. The theme for this year’s luncheon was “100 YEARS FROM NOW...it will not matter what your bank account was, the type of house you lived in, or the kind of car you drove, but the world is a better place because you were a Conway Medical Center Volunteer”.

Lovely petunia centerpieces with balloon adorned the tables, door prizes were given and a beach tote monogrammed with the CMC Volunteer Logo. Each day, as the DVS, I brought in home baked treats for the volunteers. Some of the departments dropped off goodies for the volunteers to enjoy. The feedback from the volunteers has been very positive and we look forward to next year’s venture for a new theme to honor our group of spectacular volunteers.
Calculating the Economic Impact of Volunteers

How does one put an economic value on the time volunteers give to an organization? Traditionally volunteer time has been estimated using a single dollar value for all types of volunteering. The Value of Volunteer Time, which is updated annually, is made available by Independent Sector. The current Independent Sector rate is $20.85 per hour (2010).

Use of a single value assumes that all volunteers are doing jobs that are of equal value. However, it can easily be shown that this is not true when considering the potential cost of replacing a volunteer with paid staff. A volunteer performing a professional task such as accounting is worth more in the market place than that same volunteer doing gardening. How, then, can a realistic economic value be put on volunteer time? By putting a value in what volunteers do at the task level.

The Economic Impact Of Volunteers Calculator created by the Points of Light Institute makes this possible. It estimates the appropriate wage rate for volunteer time based on what the person does, the value of specific tasks according to market conditions as reported by the US Department of Labor. Organizations can use the Calculator to determine the value of the time their volunteers give doing a wide variety of volunteer jobs.

To use the calculator, search for the job description using the drop-down box. Then enter the number of hours given by all volunteers performing that particular task. Repeat this task until all volunteer positions have been entered. The system automatically calculates the totals for each job category and for the total across all volunteer jobs.

St. Vincent’s East-

St. Vincent’s East Auxiliary in Birmingham, AL, commences National Volunteer Week by attending a church service in the community – guest is also invited – and then it is off to lunch as a group. Seeing the volunteers sitting together in their sea of pink makes a statement. This is an auxiliary tradition.

Throughout the years the presiding minister has often recognized the group and their work by presenting a sermon on the topic of volunteering. Many have welcomed us not only in the Sunday bulletin but also on the church marquee.

Western Maryland Health System–

With budget cuts, we no longer have a banquet or reception.

Each volunteer receives a gift certificate to use in our gift shop and a nice letter from our CEO and Auxiliary President thanking them for their time and talent.

St. Vincent’s East Auxiliary in Birmingham, AL, commences National Volunteer Week by attending a church service in the community – guest is also invited – and then it is off to lunch as a group. Seeing the volunteers sitting together in their sea of pink makes a statement. This is an auxiliary tradition.

Throughout the years the presiding minister has often recognized the group and their work by presenting a sermon on the topic of volunteering. Many have welcomed us not only in the Sunday bulletin but also on the church marquee.
Methodist Specialty Care Center in Flowood, MS kicked off National Volunteer Week with a dinner honoring its volunteers. This event also hi-lighted the Quarterly Volunteer Spirit Award Winners, Angela Groves, JSU student and Anita Bonar, Pet Therapy Volunteer for their service to the residents of the long-term care facility. The volunteers also celebrated with the residents of the facility in a tailgate party that included a Walk Healthy exercise with a PT and some tips on staying active while volunteering. The volunteers were also treated to afternoon Karaoke competition complete with all the lights and backdrops to go along with the music. On Wednesday, the staff welcomed all the volunteers with festive balloons, cookies, and punch in each department where they are assigned and had a scavenger hunt for them with prizes.

Friday, the volunteers were welcomed to the newly opened Mississippi Children’s Museum with a reception and a tour of the state-of-the-art facility. Each volunteer received an insulated lunch bag and a re-cap of the progress the volunteer department has made over the last year to include the announcement of 8245 hours of service since October 1, 2010. Volunteer Katrina Byrd videoed the entire evening and has a youtube video of the event to the music of Kool and the Gang’s Celebrate that will be posted on the hospital’s website.

Children's of Alabama –

As a part of the activities at Children’s, we do an internal marketing piece. Each day all email users get a different “fact sheet” regarding volunteer service.

We also send the same information to our volunteers by email so they can see what we are doing. Many of the volunteers are surprised by the information since they only see other volunteers who come the same day and time or are in the same area.

In 2011 Children’s Hospital of Alabama celebrates 100 years of service. For the annual volunteer recognition banquet, what other theme would we have than a kid’s birthday party? We had pin the tail on the donkey, a bounce house, face painting and clowns galore. Special attendees also received rings – notice the one carrot ring on the finger in the clown shoes picture. While we are recognizing volunteer service in 2010, this event kicks off the theme we will use all year for all volunteer recognition.

We also set a theme for recognition events which carries over for the entire year - awards banquet, holiday celebrations, etc. All invitations, mailings, event power points, recognition items for the year have the same "logo." We also update the "National Volunteer Week” section of the volunteer website daily.
Baptist Hospital East–

1. Awards and Appreciation Luncheon for all active volunteers off campus - invite all of Administration - have a speaker.
2. Every morning of Volunteer Week I pick up pastries, cookies and fresh fruit for the volunteers.
3. We have daily drawings of all active volunteers for Gift Shop Gift Cards.
4. About a month before Volunteer Week, I send out a mass email to all hospital employees telling them about Volunteer Week and asking them if they would like to submit a comment about the volunteers they work with. I pull all the comments together to publish a book and distribute it during Volunteer Week to all the volunteers.
5. We set up a table outside the cafeteria during lunch of Volunteer Week and have a display with information about what the volunteers do and what the Auxiliary contributes to the hospital each year. We served pop popcorn and have employees donate money towards the Auxiliary.

Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center–

Their blue smocks are a familiar and welcome sight to patients and visitors at Memorial Regional Medical Center. They are the volunteers who have given nearly 500,000 hours since the Mechanicsville-based hospital opened its doors in 1998.

On Sunday, National Volunteer Week kicked off with the volunteers of the Hanover County affiliate of the Bon Secours Richmond Health System being recognized for their efforts. MRMC’s Volunteers were the guests of honor at the hospital’s annual appreciation luncheon on Friday at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden’s. This year’s theme was “On the Road to 500,000”. Last Wednesday, Rob Herndon, Jr., who serves as the director of volunteer services at MRMC, also said the services records of several individual volunteers, including Ruby Wilson, 30 years; Frances Bohannon, 25 years; and Peggy Madison and Mary Kellison, both 15 years; were acknowledged.

As of last week, Herndon said the auxiliary accumulated 488,000 hours. “We average about 4,000 hours per month,” he said he expects they will reach the 500,000 mark in June or July.

With the milestone “just around the corner,” Herndon said the volunteer program actually has exceeded that figure based on the hours accumulated when auxiliary members gave their time at the Hanover Medical Park, “which is the Medical Office Building on the other side there. That was the whole “Field of Dreams” story that they tell about the hospital and everything.

Some of them came over and worked the Information Desk in the MOB, directing people,” he added. “Then, once the hospital opened, they continued their services until we are where we are today.”

Memorial Regional boasts 300 total volunteers on record and services are provided seven days a week. “I’ve got three main groups, ” Herndon said, with volunteers manning the Information Desks, six throughout the facility. General Services, “They do discharges, errands, deliver flowers, mail, that type of thing, and then there’s a group that actually works more closely with the medical staff.”

The volunteers received hand-made herb clay pots in recognition of the new community and healing garden being installed on hospital grounds later this month.
America’s story has been marked by the service of volunteers. Generations of selfless individuals from all walks of life have served each other and our Nation, each person dedicated to making tomorrow better than today.

They exemplify the quintessential American idea that we can change things, make things better, and solve problems when we work together.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our schools and shelters, hospitals and hotlines, and faith-based and community groups. From mentoring at-risk youth and caring for older Americans to supporting our veterans and military families and rebuilding after disasters, these everyday heroes make a real and lasting impact on the lives millions of women and men across the globe.

Last year, nearly 63 million Americans gave of themselves through service. Their compassion is a testament to the generosity of the American spirit. In difficult times, Americans are coming together -- tackling our challenges instead of ignoring them -- and renewing the principle that we are our brother’s keeper and our sister’s keeper.

Today, as many Americans face hardship, we need volunteers more than ever. Service opportunities tap the energy and ingenuity of our greatest resource -- the American people -- to improve our neighborhoods and our world.

My Administration is committed to investing in community solutions and increasing opportunities for Americans to serve. The bipartisan Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act strengthened the programs of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which engage millions of citizens each year in service through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America. We are building the capacity of organizations and communities to tackle their own problems by investing in social innovation and volunteer cultivation. And through United We Serve, a national call to service, we are making it easier for women and men of all ages to find volunteer opportunities or create their own projects where they see a need.

During National Volunteer Week, we celebrate the profound impact of volunteers and encourage all Americans to discover their own power to make a difference. Every one of us has a role to play in making our communities and our country stronger. I encourage all Americans to help us renew progress and prosperity and build a brighter future for our Nation by visiting www.Serve.gov to find a local project.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 10 through April 16, 2011, as National Volunteer Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by volunteering in service projects across our country and pledging to make service a part of their daily lives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA

Copy courtesy of The White House Office of the Press Secretary, April 7, 2011.

Pictures courtesy of Decatur General Hospital– Decatur, AL
Union Memorial Hospital—

The Maryland Country Club was the setting of Union Memorial Hospital’s Volunteer Week Celebration. Our theme this year was “You Are Our Good Fortune.” Barb Hoey, the DVS, welcomed the volunteers and outlined how fortunate the hospital was to have them onboard and how we considered them our extended family. To keep with the good fortune theme, tent cards with quotes relating to “good fortune” were placed at each table. Fortune cookies with custom sayings about volunteering at UMH, along with a custom pin with the theme and Chinese characters in the center (Characters said “family.”) were placed at each setting in a 1/2 pt. Chinese take out box. Awards were given out (yes, we award for hours) and special awards, the orchid centerpieces, were given to volunteers who have gone over and beyond over the past year. As is our custom, $20 gift cards were distributed by administration, following the festivities.

Mountain States Health Alliance—

Mountain States Health Alliance began the Volunteer Fair within their Washington County, TN facilities in 2010. The fair was designed as a way to educate and create awareness with team members regarding volunteer resources during National Volunteer Week. The first year there were over 160 team members in attendance with many providing feedback of astonishment as they left. The majority of attendees were completely unaware of the services provided by volunteers. A large conference room was utilized with booths set up for the most structured programs in place. There were 26 booths the first year with a tri-fold display with information and pictures about that particular area. Volunteers from each area served as resources at each booth to field questions and talk about their service. One of the biggest attractions was pet therapy as we scheduled pet therapist (1 hour each) with their service animals onsite at a booth close to the door. We also utilized our Niswonger Children’s Hospital mascot bear (volunteer), clowns, and musicians to create a fun atmosphere for attendees. Incentives for team member attendance also included: light refreshments, door prizes, and education credit. All team members are required to obtain a certain amount of education credit each year; therefore, a request form was filed with our Organizational Development Department and attendance rosters were provided to verify attendance for credit. A brief quiz was used to ensure attendees took in pertinent pieces of information while they perused the fair. The fair was promoted throughout the communications avenues available in our system: calendar of events, daily MSHA Moment, email, and flyers. The second annual Volunteer Fair took place April 13, 2011 with 27 booths and attendance of 133 team members. Follow up photos from the fair and contact information regarding MSHA Volunteer Resources was then provided to our Marketing Department who posted this to our Facebook page to promote our programs within the community. This has been a great way to promote awareness, cooperation, and appreciation of volunteers within our healthcare system.
New Hanover Regional Medical Center—

New Hanover Regional Medical Center celebrated its approximately 800 volunteers during the annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch at the Holiday Inn Resort in Wrightsville Beach Tuesday.

More than 270 volunteers from NHRMC, Cape Fear Hospital and Pender Memorial Hospital attended the event. NHRMC President and CEO Jack Barto thanked the group for all they do to help patients and families throughout the day, particularly their instrumental role in making everyone feel welcome and easing their anxieties with their friendly smiles.

Jack also recognized volunteer, Michelle Pratesi for her 30,000 hours of volunteer work at the hospital - the equivalent of 15 years of full-time work.

NHRMC is grateful for all of the volunteers and auxiliary members that provide such valuable assistance. Since the volunteers are an integral part of the everyday operations of the hospital, 74 managers and directors from every department stepped in to take over the duties normally performed by the volunteers while they were at the brunch. The managers checked in patients, directed visitors, delivered flowers and escorted patients and families to and from the parking lot on golf carts.

VWU Healthcare—

We kicked off National Volunteer Week with an ad in our local newspaper featuring some of our volunteers hard at work. Each day bagged lunches were given to the volunteers. We also made special NVW candy bar wrappers and gave each volunteer a Hershey bar wrapped in this special wrapper. We held a basket and prize raffle. For each shift worked the volunteers could fill out a ticket and drop it in a box corresponding to the basket or prize they liked. The baskets featured the following themes: car care, spring cleaning, gardening and cookout. The prizes were a GPS and a digital camera. We gave a NVW poster to each department having volunteers and delivered fresh balloons each day to be displayed along with the poster.

Several departments recognized their volunteers with cards of thanks, small gifts, gift cards, etc. The volunteers really enjoyed their bagged lunches and liked the raffle idea so this is something we will definitely do again.
North Mississippi Medical Center celebrated National Volunteer Week with a picnic. Volunteers were treated to lunch and an afternoon of fun. The pavilion was decorated in an Easter theme and the volunteers truly enjoyed this. Beautifully decorated Easter baskets were given away as door prizes along with gift cards to local business.

In addition to the picnic, volunteers were given treat bags during volunteer week. Although, National Volunteer week has passed we still have one more event to celebrate our volunteers.

On May 2nd Tupelo Community Theatre will present their production of The Drowsy Chaperone to the NMMC Volunteers. Prior to the play they will host dessert social in honor of the volunteers.

St. Elizabeth’s Healthcare-

St. Elizabeth Healthcare is celebrating 150 years of treating and serving patients and so we chose to use a birthday party theme for our National Volunteer Week festivities to dovetail with this celebration.

Launched with a dinner party the Thursday before. Of the more than 460 attending, 380+ were current volunteers. Additionally there were 25 Hospital department staff and about 20 Board of Trustee Members and Vice Presidents.

Volunteers were escorted to their table by members of senior Administration and all awardees were given a rose. Volunteers all received a cupcake favor at their setting with chocolates in them. The centerpiece was a 3-tier glass cupcake holder that also held our delicious and pretty dessert!

In addition to a looping PowerPoint of volunteer photos there was a live band, a candle lighting memorial for deceased volunteers, a 150 year historical display, appetizers, drinks, and 9 volunteers each received $96 from our split-the-pot game (all proceeds were distributed).

Continued the “party” during the week by giving each volunteer a small insulated cooler and a carnation along with cookies, candy and lots of expressions of thanks. Awardees also received their award during NVW.

We tried something new this year by also providing volunteers the opportunity to attend an enrichment program (NOT A TRAINING) just for them. The topic was Is Happiness Contagious? Discover how Your Happiness Impacts You and Others. This was well received and enjoyed by all that attended one of the 4 sessions offered at the various campus’ throughout the week.

It was a busy and fun week!
UK Healthcare—

Volunteer Week at UK HealthCare was an exciting time!! Volunteers were treated with corsages and flowers each day. They had breakfast and lunch served to them at all of the Volunteer Services sites. In addition, small gifts were given to them for their service to the hospitals. A half page add in the local newspaper was the highlight on Sunday of Volunteer Week thanking all UK HealthCare volunteers for their service. In addition, each department honored their volunteers with some sort of recognition. For the first time, Volunteer Week and the volunteers were on the UK HealthCare Facebook showing the services they were providing each day for our patients and families and giving them recognition. All in all, it was a great week for our UK HealthCare volunteers!

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS-

The key to our success rests in people like you, who embody the spirit of greatness by saying, "Yes I can, and so can you!"
Thanks for your inspiring dedication and tremendous example to the world.

Now that our work is finished, we say good bye with sad yet grateful hearts. We want to thank you for your dedication, and being there from the very start. Words cannot convey our gratitude for your tremendous contribution.

With gratitude in our hearts for your contributions to our cause, we wanted to thank you with this card as our personal round of applause. The credit for our good deeds firmly rests with our dedicated volunteers. Thank you!

Thank you so much for all of your hard work and to bear witness to your passion was an unexpected perk. We never could have asked for a more dedicated volunteer and words cannot express how grateful we are to have you here. It is a pleasure and a privilege to work with you. Thank you.