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Taking Advantage of National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week, April 18-24, 2004 is utilized by organizations throughout the United States to recognize the voluntary contributions of Americans. Many organizations take advantage of this national focus on volunteerism to highlight the work of volunteers to their organizations and to encourage volunteering in the future. You can join this celebration by leading the National Volunteer Week effort in small communities and partnering with other organizations where there are community celebrations in the works.

Here are some ideas to highlight volunteerism in your community during National Volunteer Week:

- ❖ Have program participants and alumni write “thank you” notes to volunteers that have touched their lives.
- ❖ Develop a special page or section with the local newspaper's cooperation which features volunteer tributes by those who benefit from volunteers' efforts.
- ❖ Plant trees in the community commemorating volunteer contributions.
- ❖ Honor the first volunteer recruited during National Volunteer Week. Give this volunteer and her or his recruiter special prizes.
- ❖ Select a leader of the day for a press coverage or recognition.
- ❖ Sponsor a “make it, take it” workshop where members make gifts for their volunteers.
- ❖ Highlight volunteers on your WWW homepage.
- ❖ Make and hang a banner in town at a main intersection thanking volunteers.
- ❖ Have volunteers serve as disc jockeys on local radio stations in one or two hour shifts.
- ❖ Thank volunteers for their service in bank, utility company, or grocery bag stuffers.
- ❖ Have the mayor or governor proclaim National Volunteer Week (see proclamations in this packet).
- ❖ Have clubs create displays in local store windows or heavily traveled areas honoring the work that their leaders support.
- ❖ Have a legislative or local government coffee honoring volunteers and county officials who are program supporters.
- ❖ Distribute bumper stickers or other promotional items recognizing volunteer contributions.
- ❖ Have a volunteer parade.
- ❖ Have a volunteer motorcade around the county. Follow with casserole or other supper for those in the motorcade - it can be large or small.
- ❖ Distribute cookies or cupcakes to local merchants, supporters and volunteers.
- ❖ Work with a ministerial council to provide volunteer recognition in church bulletins or other faith publications.
- ❖ Develop a slide, video or PowerPoint presentation featuring volunteer contributions.
- ❖ Sponsor a dinner theater honoring volunteers with songs included in this packet.
- ❖ Hold a special event at a community setting like a museum to recognize volunteers.
- ❖ Create a yearbook to be displayed in the organization's headquarters, library or courthouse lobby that contains all volunteers' photographs along with their achievements of the year.
- ❖ Conduct a volunteer out-to-dinner program. Award dinner gift certificates to volunteers who do something special.
- ❖ Develop a “Behind the Scenes” Award specially for those whose actions are not usually in the limelight.