

# NEWS FROM METRO VOLUNTEERS

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**Contact: Deborah Brackney**  
**dbrackney@msec.org**  
**303.273.5372**

## **Serve America Act to Direct Support to Local Volunteer Centers Across United States**

*Metro Volunteers Sets Goal of Increasing Volunteerism by 25 Percent*

DENVER- Calling on all Americans to deliver change in their communities, President Obama signed landmark legislation yesterday to provide additional support to AmeriCorps and local volunteer centers like Metro Volunteers as part of his economic stabilization plan.

“Volunteers are a vital community resource, and this legislation will help us grow and deploy that resource in the most effective way,” said Deborah Brackney, chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Metro Volunteers, the expert in training and matching volunteers with nonprofits in the Denver metro area. “Our goal is to increase volunteerism in metro Denver by 25 percent in the next three years.

Called the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the law will expand volunteer opportunities by increasing the size of AmeriCorps—a national network of community service programs—from 75,000 to 250,000 over the next eight years. The act will also establish a Volunteer Generation Fund to support volunteer organizations. Sen. Michael Bennet and Sen. Mark Udall supported the legislation.

As the local volunteer center and affiliate of the national HandsOn Network, Metro Volunteers is the designated vehicle for helping citizens, businesses, government and nonprofit organizations. Metro Volunteers has already assisted more than 200,000 volunteers with finding nonprofit organizations needing their time and talents, Brackney said. As the economy puts new stress on nonprofit organizations, Brackney says, even more metro Denver residents and businesses are stepping forward to volunteer.

Metro Volunteers is already developing new programs and opportunities for volunteers, such as a Project Leadership School created in partnership with consulting firm Point B, Inc., which will train volunteers to lead projects for local nonprofit organizations.

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Additionally, citizens, businesses and nonprofits can answer President Obama's call to service by:

- **Committing**—To 10 hours of service. Visit the volunteer project calendar on the Metro Volunteers Web site to find upcoming opportunities. Businesses can also work with Metro Volunteers to host an employee volunteer project.
- **Connecting**—10 friends or employees to volunteer opportunities. Businesses, for example, can support employees in joining a Board Leadership Connection workshop through Metro Volunteers and serving on a local board.
- **Contributing**—Time, talent or resources to local nonprofits that need assistance.
- **Celebrating**—The contributions and accomplishment of volunteers and nonprofit organizations. This is National Volunteer Week, so visit the Metro Volunteers Web site to see what volunteers are accomplishing in the metro Denver area.

Metro Volunteers will publish a list of additional upcoming volunteer opportunities in the 2009 Volunteer Guide this weekend, which will be available in print or online at [www.metrovolunteers.org](http://www.metrovolunteers.org). Metro Volunteers will also host a community engagement forum in July to provide more information about how Denver residents can volunteers to meet community needs.

For more information about Metro Volunteer and its training and volunteerism programs, call 303.282.1234 or visit online at [www.metrovolunteers.org](http://www.metrovolunteers.org).

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### **About Metro Volunteers**

Metro Volunteers' mission is to mobilize and cultivate volunteers as a vital force in the community; at Metro Volunteers, we believe that volunteers are a critical resource in solving societal problems. Whether you want to join a nonprofit board of directors, mentor a youth, care for the elderly, or choose from hundreds of other opportunities designed to match your skills, time constraints and talents, Metro Volunteers can turn your decision to volunteer into a rewarding one.