

Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service 2007 – 3rd Quarter Report

Volunteer Promotion and Recognition

Governor Chet Culver, Lt. Governor Patty Judge, and First Lady Mari Culver will present nearly 650 **Governor's Volunteer Awards** during special recognition ceremonies this fall to honor individuals and groups who have strengthened Iowa's communities by volunteering with government agencies or nonprofit organizations. Governor Culver presented awards during the first two ceremonies, which were held in Ottumwa on September 5 and Des Moines on October 5. Additional ceremonies will be held in Marion on October 22 and Storm Lake on October 31.

Iowa's Promise

Iowa's Promise has added its eleventh Community of Promise. Promise Partners of Pottawattamie County has been designated a Community of Promise by the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development and Iowa's Promise.

Iowa Mentoring Partnership

The Iowa Mentoring Partnership certified Big Brothers Big Sisters of Johnson County as its 59th certified mentoring program. The Iowa Mentoring Partnership conducted its first quarterly reporting survey. Over 6,000 young Iowans are being matched with caring adults in quality mentoring programs this year. Additionally, five regional mentoring program meetings were supported by the Iowa Mentoring Partnership staff. Approximately thirty programs were able to attend and share training and technical assistance needs as well as best practices.

Disaster Services Initiative

In August 2007, the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service in partnership with the United Way of Central Iowa invited the Points of Light Foundation to conduct a one day Volunteer Reception Center training in Des Moines. Over 60 participants attended from National Service program – AmeriCorps and Senior Corps, nonprofit organizations, county emergency management, United Ways, and Volunteer Centers. This training session prepares participants to staff Volunteer Reception Centers which register and place spontaneous volunteers in times of disaster. These centers ensure that volunteers are given meaningful and constructive opportunities to satisfy their desire to assist in a time of need, while not overwhelming the affected community during the disaster response and recovery process. The training includes an interactive volunteer reception center exercise where participants experience the VRC model and practice managing spontaneous volunteers.

AmeriCorps

The Annual AmeriCorps Program Director Retreat was held in Urbandale on Aug. 22-23 with Iowa's 15 AmeriCorps program directors. The focus of this year's retreat was member development. Contracts for the 07-08 program year were completed and the 08-09 Grant RFP was issued with a November 7th due date.

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

The Summer program director meeting was held in August with Iowa's 22 RSVP Program Directors. Grants Contracts for FY08 were completed and FY07 grants were closed out.