

Volunteer Center of Sonoma County
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Volunteer Center to Celebrate People in Action During National Volunteer Week

SANTA ROSA, CA, March 27, 2009—The theme for National Volunteer Week 2009, to be commemorated April 19-25, is "Celebrating People in Action." The theme captures the meaning behind this signature week—honoring the individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities.

The Volunteer Center of Sonoma County is orchestrating several events during this week to focus attention on volunteering, and to provide opportunities for those who are inspired to serve their communities to participate in meaningful projects helping non-profits in Sonoma County.

Our Hands Across the County program has identified 13 worthy 1-day projects at non-profits throughout Sonoma County (project list attached). Our service day, April 25, mobilizes community members and families to honor the call to service.

In addition, Agilent Technologies and the Volunteer Center are challenging local businesses and their employees to join Agilent volunteers on environmental projects April 24. Agilent Environmental Challenge projects benefit local wildlife and open space, and include clean-ups, tree plantings, trail building, and removing invasive plants. Key partners in this challenge are technology companies JDS Uniphase and Medtronic.

Media organizations who plan to cover this celebration of our national commitment to service may wish to feature individual volunteers who exemplify this ideal. For example:

Charles Green has volunteered for the Santa Rosa High School after-school tutoring program since its start 2 years ago. Tutoring is offered twice a week and as many as 37 students come in for homework and skill building in many subjects. Charles happens to be an "expert" in several subjects—math, physics and chemistry. He has also presented lab experiments for the school's noon-time Science Club meetings, including a recent popular demonstration of "Kitchen Table Chemistry."

Penny Hopkins is a volunteer interviewer at the Center. She has taken a lead role in recruiting and training new volunteer interviewers. This team meets daily with members of the public to help them discover well-matched volunteer opportunities that address community needs. With over 600 opportunities listed, the interviewers have a lot of information to provide. "When you hear that someone is happy and successfully working in the non-profit you referred them to, it makes your day."

Terry Moores has been a volunteer at 2-1-1 since 2003. He works 4 hours a week at our 2-1-1 center, answering calls from people needing human or social services. Terry worked at Social Security for many years. When he retired, he chose to volunteer at 2-1-1, as he wanted to learn more about services in Sonoma County and connecting residents with those services. He is an exceptional volunteer because of his thoroughness and attention given to each inquirer and his willingness to mentor new volunteers.

National Volunteer Week 2009 presents an opportunity for individuals, families, nonprofit organizations and government entities alike to celebrate the ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things through service.

For 37 years, the Volunteer Center of Sonoma County has served as the hub of volunteerism in the community. Each year, it connects thousands of people wishing to volunteer with hundreds of organizations needing help. The Volunteer Center also offers many direct programs that include tutoring school children in reading and math, driving homebound residents to critical appointments, and working with the court system to provide community service as a sentencing alternative. We also offer management training to non-profit organizations, and assist hundreds of agencies each year with capacity-building and fund raising support. To learn more about the Volunteer Center, check on-line at www.volunteernow.org.

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