



**For Immediate Release**

*August 12, 2011*

**Media Contact:**

Guadalupe Castillo, (916) 445-6229  
Lupe.Castillo@CaliforniaVolunteers.ca.gov

## **New Report: Californians Volunteer Over 900 Million Hours in 2010 Value of Volunteerism is \$20.6 billion**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – During a time of economic recession and high unemployment rates, volunteers continue to provide a powerful economic and social benefit to communities across California. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) released their annual [Volunteering in America](#) Report this week, illustrating that citizens in California volunteered nearly 27 million hours more than the previous year.

In 2010, nearly 7 million Californians performed **964.7 million hours of service** through or for a nonprofit or community organization. The amount of hours contributed is **valued at \$20.6 billion**, using the Independent Sector's annual estimate of the average value of a volunteer hour, which was \$21.36 in 2010. Additionally, 7.4 percent of California residents volunteered informally (working with neighbors to address or fix a community issue), totaling over 2.1 million individuals.

The volunteer rates increased from 2009 numbers in the San Jose, Riverside and San Francisco Metropolitan Statistical Areas. In addition, over the last four years, the retention rate for volunteers in San Jose and San Francisco has surpassed the national retention rate of 64.5 percent.

### **Economic Downturn Drives Demand and Opportunities for Volunteers**

Across California, organizations are serving the state's most vulnerable using fewer resources. Between 2008 and 2010, citizens volunteered in a range of vital areas to bridge the gaps left by budget cuts and unemployment.

- Nearly half of volunteers devoted their time to working with youth through tutoring and teaching (19.3 percent) or the collection and distribution of food (20.9 percent).
- About one-quarter of volunteers (24.5 percent) participated in fundraising activities or sold items to raise money for an organization.
- Over half of volunteers (approximately 54.6 percent), were born during the Baby Boomer generation.

"The nonprofit sector has experienced a one-two punch – the increase in demand for services and the decrease in donations," said Secretary of Service and Volunteering, Karen Baker. "The renewed interest in volunteers couldn't come at a more critical time. With unemployment up during these tough economic

times, volunteering can provide individuals the opportunity to hone skills, learn new skills, make contacts and stay engaged. By becoming a volunteer, you can help yourself while helping others.”

### **San Francisco and San Jose Lead California**

Metro areas are ranked yearly on their volunteer rate. These are the rankings in California according to the rates provided by the *Volunteering in America* Report for 2010.

Rank	Large Metro Area	Rate
#1	San Francisco	30.1%
#2	San Jose	29.8%
#3	San Diego	23.9%
#4	Sacramento	22.8%
#5	Los Angeles	21.5%
#6	Riverside	20.7%

### **About the Data**

The *Volunteering in America* Report is made possible by a partnership between CNCS, the United States Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data are collected each year through a supplement to the Current Population Survey (CPS) September Volunteer Supplement. The Volunteer Supplement collects data on the volunteering activities of adults aged 16 and older. Volunteers are considered individuals who performed unpaid volunteer activities through or for an organization at any point during the 12-month period, from September 1 of the prior year through the survey week in September of the survey year.

To view the report in its entirety, please visit: [www.VolunteeringInAmerica.gov](http://www.VolunteeringInAmerica.gov).

### **About CaliforniaVolunteers**

CaliforniaVolunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering. Through its innovative web site, individuals and families can find more than 50,000 volunteer opportunities throughout the state involving the arts, education, animals, disaster preparedness, the environment and other areas of interest. Karen Baker, the nation’s first state cabinet secretary of service and volunteering leads the organization. For more information, please visit [www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org](http://www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org).

###