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**VOLUNTEERING IN CALIFORNIA DECLINES A NEW STUDY REPORTS**

*National Volunteer Rate Also at 4-year Low*

Sacramento – A new study released today by the Corporation for National and Community Service shows the percentage of Californians who volunteered in 2006 decreased by three percent over the prior year. Last year, 23.7 percent, or less than one in four state residents participated in volunteer activities. This is the first decline since the national surge in volunteering following September 11, 2001.

**Arnold Schwarzenegger**  
Governor

**Maria Shriver**  
Honorary Chair

**Karen Baker**  
Executive Director

“Volunteers are vital to the health of our state and nation,” said Karen Baker, the executive director of CaliforniaVolunteers. “We cannot afford for Californians to wait for the next disaster to strike to give their time and talents to strengthen their communities.”

In 2006, 6.47 million Californians dedicated 858.5 million hours of service valued at an estimated \$15 billion. Tutoring or teaching was one of the most popular activities in California; approximately one in five volunteers chose one or both of those activities.

“We live in an incredibly busy society, but volunteering doesn’t have to be an enormous commitment of time,” noted Baker. “It can be as simple as participating in a community clean-up, volunteering at your child’s school or assisting an elderly neighbor.”

The report is based on data collected from the U.S. Census Bureau and features a two-page profile for each state that includes information on the number of volunteers, rate of volunteering, hours volunteered, types of volunteer activities and trends in volunteering among age groups.

“Many Californians have the desire to give back to their communities, but don’t know how,” remarked Baker. “CaliforniaVolunteers.org, our newly-launched statewide Web site, can connect Californians with volunteer opportunities in their communities that match their interests.”

The release of the report coincides with National Volunteer Week, which was designated in 1974 to call attention to the tremendous contribution of volunteers. This year’s theme, “Inspire By Example” reflects the power volunteers have to inspire the people they help and also inspire those around them to serve.

CaliforniaVolunteers is the state agency that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering. Through the innovative Web site, CaliforniaVolunteers.org, individuals and families can search for volunteer opportunities throughout the state that match their interests. Today, there are over 25,000 volunteer opportunities available throughout California involving the arts, education, animals, disaster preparedness, the environment and other areas of interest.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is the nation’s largest grantmaker supporting service and volunteering. This year, the Corporation will commit more than \$91 million through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs to provide opportunities for Californians of all ages and backgrounds to address critical community needs.

To learn more about the report and view the two-page California profile, visit [CaliforniaVolunteers.org](http://CaliforniaVolunteers.org).

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