

Volunteers for Prosperity

Experience Changing the World.



Annual Report 2008

VOLUNTEERS FOR PROSPERITY IS A PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE OF USA FREEDOM CORPS



Today, I would like to announce a new USA Freedom Corps initiative called Volunteers for Prosperity, which will give America's highly skilled professionals new opportunities to serve abroad. The program will enlist American doctors and nurses and teachers and engineers and economists and computer specialists and others to work on specific development initiatives, including those that I have discussed today. These volunteers will serve in the countries of their choice, for however long their project takes. Like generations before us, this generation of citizens will show the world the energy and idealism of the United States of America."

President George W. Bush
May 21, 2003

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ABOUT VOLUNTEERS FOR PROSPERITY

Volunteers for Prosperity (VFP) is an inter-agency initiative established by President Bush's Executive Order 13317 on September 25, 2003, to encourage international voluntary service by highly skilled Americans supporting major U.S. efforts to promote health and prosperity around the world. Working under the direction of U.S. nonprofits and companies, volunteers are deployed to developing countries on flexible, short-term assignments ranging from a few weeks to several months to a year or more.

The Office of Volunteers for Prosperity at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the federal government's interagency coordinator of the initiative, is building a network of partner organizations that implement volunteer activities supporting the U.S. global health and prosperity agenda. The office hosts a website that helps to match individual volunteers with opportunities for service with appropriate VFP partner organizations.

Partner organizations can receive special consideration in applications for federal grants awarded by the departments of State, Commerce, Health and Human Services, and USAID in seven critical development initiatives. These are the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI); Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI); Water for the Poor Initiative¹; African Global Competiveness Initiative²; Millennium Challenge Account (MCA); and the President's Malaria Initiative.³

The U.S. global health and prosperity agenda focuses on helping developing countries advance in the following areas: democratic governance, economic growth, education, HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention, clean water, agricultural development, information and communications technology, trade and investment, natural resources management, women and youth empowerment, and malaria control.

¹Water for the Poor, a three-year initiative, successfully concluded in 2006.

²Formerly Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE).

³Added by Executive Order amendment, December 14, 2006.

WHO CAN PARTNER WITH VFP?

The Office of Volunteers for Prosperity at USAID actively identifies and recruits organizations that meet the following criteria:

- Organized under the laws of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any other territory of the United States, and have headquarters in the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any other territory of the United States.
- Conduct or anticipate conducting overseas activities consistent with the general purposes of the federally supported initiatives upon which VFP focuses.
- Sponsor or indicate willingness to sponsor highly skilled U.S. professionals who wish to work on specific U.S. development initiatives supported by VFP.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to present the Volunteers for Prosperity initiative's fifth annual report to the White House. Although written to highlight the past year's accomplishments and opportunities ahead for international volunteer service by skilled Americans, the report is also a retrospective on the rapid growth of an ambitious national effort to engage the nation's talented professionals in the work of improving lives throughout the world.

Five years ago—on September 25, 2003—President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13317 to establish Volunteers for Prosperity (VFP) as a “call to service” for skilled Americans to “support major U.S. initiatives that promote health and prosperity around the world”.

Since then, nearly 120,000 compassionate American professionals have addressed the needs of those less fortunate across the developing world by working to reduce poverty, improve education and making lives healthier, among other things.

In one sense, each volunteer's “story” is different. To be sure, each has brought to his or her work a unique per-

spective and combination of skills and experience. Consider the efforts of these Americans:

- *a consulting engineer from Virginia spent three months in Nicaragua supporting preliminary site planning for a women-owned textile mill as well as helping to develop a training program for municipal construction inspectors.*
- *a retired public relations professional from New Jersey spent three weeks in Ghana teaching English to village children.*
- *a business professional from Indiana spent eleven months in Cambodia working with a local micro-finance institution to help struggling entrepreneurs access financial services.*
- *a radiologist from Arizona spent two weeks with a Guatemalan cancer center to provide medical services to the poor.*
- *an information technology professional from Washington spent three weeks providing expertise in geographic information systems to organizations across Afghanistan.*

While each of these stories is different, it is easy to discern the common thread: a demonstrated commitment to helping neighbors in need around the globe.

As we recognize the compassionate efforts of skilled Americans, we also acknowledge the vital role played by VFP partners, leading U.S. nonprofits and companies. Now approaching 300, these organizations partnered with the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity (VFP Office) and deployed and managed the volunteers featured above and tens of thousands of others like them.

These organizations, through their missions around the world and the dedication of their volunteers, truly embody the spirit and intent of the VFP initiative.

Over the past five years, the VFP Office has become an effective advocate on behalf of volunteers and the organizations through whom they serve. In response to the financial challenges facing some of the skilled Americans



(From L-R) Jack Hawkins, director of the office of Volunteers for Prosperity; Janey Pinneo, Medical Teams International volunteer; and Bas Vanderzalm, president of Medical Teams International, September 8, 2008, The White House.

interested in short-term international volunteering, the VFP Office, in cooperation with the USA Freedom Corps, the White House office responsible for coordinating the service initiatives of the U.S. government, established the “Volunteers for Prosperity Service Incentive Program” or VFPServ to improve the affordability of international service.

Launched in March, in partnership with GlobalGiving Foundation, a leading online philanthropy, VFPServ has already provided matching grants ranging from \$500 to \$1000 to dozens of skilled Americans working on projects as varied as installing a surface water treatment facility in Rwanda or developing a coffee cooperative in Honduras or caring for orphans in India.

A key attribute of VFPServ is its “partnership approach” to financial assistance as grants to be made available by the Federal government are contingent upon matching funds raised by applicants from family and friends within local communities.

The program has already shown considerable promise. Six months after the launch, the number of VFPServ applications is nearing 200. Significantly, more than 400 donors have contributed nearly \$80,000 to help VFPServ applicants meet their fundraising requirements.

In support of organizations’ efforts deploying and managing volunteers, VFP Office staff have been working with colleagues managing grant programs affiliated with other presidential initiatives supported by VFP—including the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) and the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI)—to ensure VFP partners would be more competitive in the Federal grants process because they are utilizing skilled Americans as volunteers. Over the past five years, VFP partners have received more than \$100 million in federal grants.

In recognition of VFP’s growth and effectiveness over the past five years, President Bush has called upon the Congress to make VFP permanent. In remarks delivered September 8th during a White House event commemo-

...nearly 120,000 compassionate American professionals have addressed the needs of those less fortunate across the developing world by working to reduce poverty, improve education and making lives healthier, among other things.

rating national service and volunteerism, the President expressed appreciation for the important work of VFP volunteers, saying: “These men and women save babies from malaria on the continent of Africa. They bring modern information technology to Afghanistan. They live out one of America’s strongest beliefs — that to whom much is given, much is required.”

VFP has also received Congressional recognition with the introduction of Senate bill 3487 by Senators Edward Kennedy and Orrin Hatch on September 12th. Entitled the Serve America Act of 2008, the bill aims to strengthen national service programs. Worth noting is the fact that the bill also seeks to authorize the VFP initiative as well as expand the VFPServ program.

As we celebrate the initiative’s fifth anniversary on September 25th, the VFP Office wishes to extend its sincerest appreciation to those that have given the most in furtherance of VFP: the nearly 120,000 skilled American volunteers and the nearly 300 U.S. non-profits and companies deploying them in assignments to improve the lives of so many more around the world.

Thank you.



Jack Hawkins
Director
Office of Volunteers for Prosperity
U.S. Agency for International Development

RESPONDING TO THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO SERVICE

The Volunteers for Prosperity initiative showed significant gains during fiscal year 2008. Highlights are as follows:

- VFP partners deployed more than 43,000 volunteers, an increase of 25 percent over last year's total of 34,000.
- During the past year, the number of VFP partners rose nearly ten percent, going from 244 to 268.
- Federal grants to VFP partners during fiscal year 2008 totaled \$15 million.
- The gains of the past year have added greatly to the initiative's results since inception. For example, the past year's volunteer deployment figure is nearly 40 percent of the five-year total of almost 120,000 volunteers.

Additionally, including this past year's total, VFP partners have received over \$111 million in federal grants since 2003. Indeed, the response to President Bush's call to service through VFP has been robust and effective.

VFP PARTNER BENEFITS

The Volunteers for Prosperity initiative provides a number of good reasons for interested companies and nonprofits to become partners. Among the advantages of partnership:

- VFP serves as an effective clearinghouse for international volunteer opportunities through its network of partner organizations.
- The VFP website is a resource that
 - matches prospective volunteers with appropriate partner organizations.
 - gives volunteers and other interested parties exposure to partners' international development and volunteer activities.
 - helps prospective volunteers to identify both immediate and continuing international service opportunities.
 - shares volunteer success stories that show how American professionals are helping to better the lives of people all around the world.
- provides a global map of volunteer destinations and links to information about partner organizations.
- facilitates an on-line information exchange for partners to share insights on managing volunteer programs.
- The initiative promotes recognition of service by VFP partner volunteers. Through a simple certification process, organizations can nominate their volunteers for the President's Volunteer Service Award (www.presidentialserviceawards.gov).
- The VFP Office offers strategic counsel to organizations seeking to develop or expand their international voluntary service programs.
- VFP partners can receive special consideration in the federal grants process.

VOLUNTEER STORY

“Working in Rwanda with EWB-USA over the past few years has completely changed my outlook on life and development.”

A spacecraft systems engineer from Boulder, Colorado, Ms. Christie Chatterley traveled to Muramba, Rwanda this past summer for a month-long volunteer assignment to assist a team of graduate and undergraduate students from the Engineers Without Borders-USA (EWB-USA) chapter at the University of Colorado-Boulder (UC-Boulder) in the installation of both a photovoltaic lighting system and rainwater catchment system for a secondary school. She also helped educate the school students and staff on operating and maintaining both systems.



Christie Chatterley (right) volunteered to help install a photovoltaic lighting system for a secondary school in Rwanda.

The EWB-USA chapter has been working with the community of Muramba for the past years. Chatterley has participated in some of those projects for several years. She noted the significant personal impact of her recent assignment as well as earlier assignments: “Working in Rwanda with EWB-USA over the past few years has completely changed my outlook on life and development. It has really opened up my view of what some of the real issues are and how to realistically go about making changes. It has been difficult at times and blissful at others, but I have learned more in my years working with EWB-USA in Rwanda than all of my 7 years of traditional schooling.”

NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

New VFP Office Partnership Makes International Volunteer Service More Affordable

On March 6, 2008, the VFP Office launched an innovative public-private partnership to provide skilled Americans with financial assistance for offsetting the costs associated with international volunteer assignments.

Called the “Volunteers for Prosperity Service Incentive Program” or “VFPServ”, the effort was developed in cooperation with the GlobalGiving Foundation and the USA Freedom Corps at the White House. The program provides skilled Americans with matching grants ranging from \$500 to \$1000 to improve the affordability of volunteer service abroad.

The partnership’s formation was announced by USAID administrator Henrietta Fore on December 5, 2007, during a White House event commemorating International Volunteer Day.

A VFPServ volunteer has at least three years’ professional experience, has identified and contacted a sponsoring U.S. organization, and, in collaboration with that organization, has developed a service assignment.

To qualify for a matching grant, the volunteer must raise at least an equal amount of funds from within his/her local community, as well as any additional funds needed to meet the assignment’s budget. Fundraising is facilitated through an online platform built and managed by GlobalGiving.

Since its launch in March, VFPServ has already generated interest from nearly 200 skilled Americans interested in international volunteer service but lacking the personal resources to be able to cover associated costs. VFPServ applicants come from every region of the

“Without the assistance of the matching grant from VFPServ, my participation was questionable, and the project would not have proceeded. This project will be critical in bringing adequate drinking water to hundreds of people, and in providing the participating student engineers with valuable cross cultural experiences that will help guide their professional careers.”

-P.Z., engineer

country and represent a range of professions including healthcare, engineering, education, law and business.

By the end of fiscal year 2008, applicants had requested matching grants totaling approximately \$153 thousand to offset roughly \$453 thousand in total assignment costs.

To date, dozens of volunteers have embarked on their assignments abroad under the supervision of participating VFP partners. A number of volunteers’ assignments have been completed. These volunteers qualified for \$30 thousand in matching grants to help cover more than \$60 thousand in total assignment costs. Where matching grants did not provide full cost coverage, volunteers raised funds beyond the required match.

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VOLUNTEER STORY

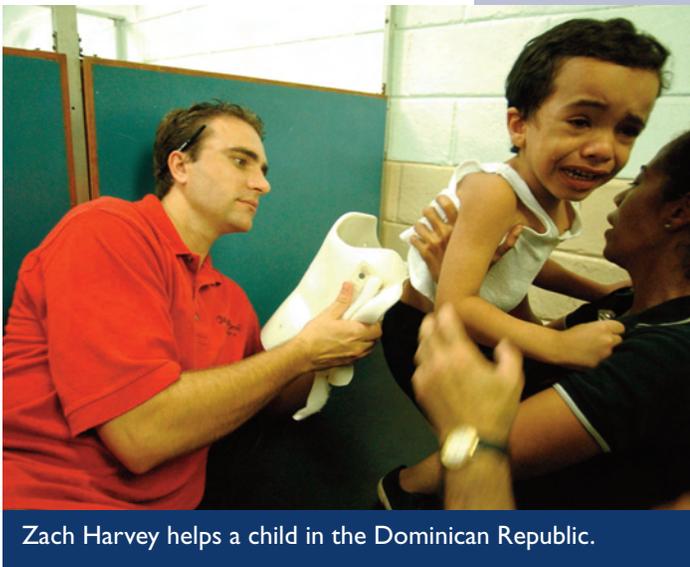
“He says the only payment he receives is the pride that comes with children — seeing children walk again.”

- President George W. Bush on the volunteer service of Mr. Zach Harvey, September 8, 2008, The White House

As the chief prosthetist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, Mr. Zach Harvey helps to restore the lives of American soldiers returning from Afghanistan and Iraq who have been severely injured and require state of the art services.

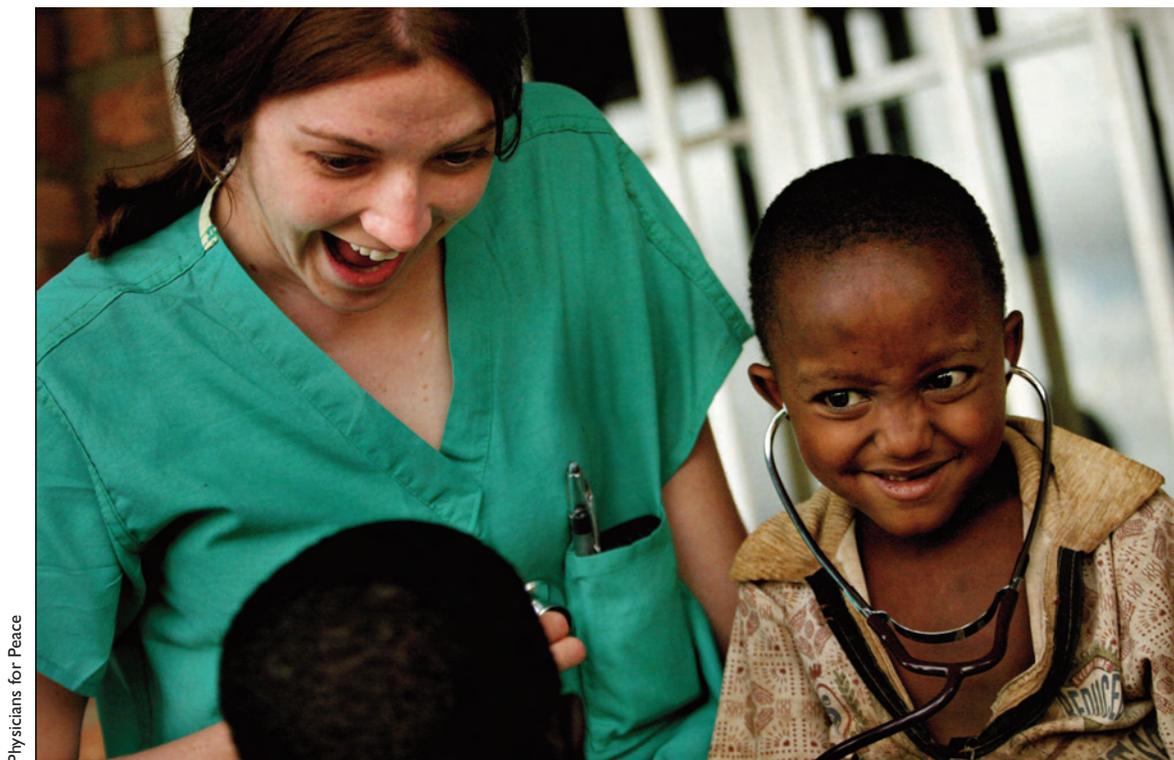
A volunteer with Richmond, VA-based Physicians for Peace since 2004, Zach has been sharing what he has learned at Walter Reed with peers in Central America and the Caribbean, who, in turn, are able to restore hope to the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of patients. Under the direction of Physicians for Peace, Harvey has been working through cultural and language barriers, to help develop prosthetic and rehabilitation centers in areas with profound needs and scarce resources. He has applied his extensive knowledge of services for amputees to training other healthcare professionals.

On September 8, 2008, President Bush recognized Zach for his work at Walter Reed and as a volunteer with Physicians for Peace during a White House ceremony on national service held on the South Lawn. As the President noted: “When he isn’t busy helping our wounded warriors, he’s putting his skills to use in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic as a Volunteer for Prosperity. He works with pediatric cancer patients who’ve had a limb amputated as part of their treatment. He and his team of volunteers fit the children with new limbs and they pass on their skills to other caregivers. He says the only payment he receives is the pride that comes with children — seeing children walk again. And Zach, we are proud to have you here and thank you for your service.”



Zach Harvey helps a child in the Dominican Republic.

NEW CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Physicians for Peace

Julie Whitis, a graduate student in public health from George Washington University, volunteering with children in Rwanda through Physicians for Peace.

Examples of recently completed volunteer assignments include: development of adequate supplies of potable water in three villages in Madagascar; support of the daily operation of a children's orphanage in India; and installation of a solar lighting system in a Rwandan school.

While the focus of VFPServ has been on improving the affordability of overseas assignments for individual volunteers lacking adequate personal financial resources, it has helped to engage hundreds of other Americans in international volunteer service as donors.

Indeed, by the end of fiscal year 2008, nearly 500 donors had contributed more than \$90 thousand in support of VFPServ applicants.

By providing financial assistance to those skilled Americans needing it in order to volunteer abroad and by making it possible for many other Americans to contribute additional funds, VFPServ is playing an important part enabling the Volunteers for Prosperity to achieve its mission of promoting greater international volunteer service by skilled Americans.

VOLUNTEER STORY

“Words cannot describe my experiences from [the time] I spent in Honduras. I learned so much about responsibility.”

A *third-year student at the University of Pittsburgh’s pharmacy school, Christina Martin traveled to Honduras this past summer as part of a volunteer medical team affiliated with CURE International, a faith-based, medical non-profit organization. During a two-week assignment, Martin applied her pharmacy training to serving patients at a medical center in the village of San Marcos.*



CURE International

Christina Martin (bottom row, second from left) used her pharmacy school to assist in a Honduran medical center.

This was Martin’s third such trip to Honduras. She said her experiences have had a lasting impact and will serve her well in her future career in pharmacy. “Words cannot describe my experiences from [the time] I spent in Honduras. I learned so much about responsibility”.

Martin plans to return to Honduras with another CURE International team next year.

VFP IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The past year witnessed growing recognition for both VFP's record of accomplishment to date and significant potential as a leader within the international volunteer service movement.

A Presidential Call

In remarks delivered September 8th on the South Lawn commemorating national volunteer service, President George W. Bush summarized the role American professionals played during the year to improve the lives of others around the world through his Volunteers for Prosperity initiative. Said the President:

We've helped Americans answer the call by creating a program called Volunteers for Prosperity. This initiative matched skilled American professionals with service opportunities — a lot of them in the developing world. This year we mobilized more than 43,000 doctors, teachers, engineers and other skilled volunteers. That's a pretty good start for an important program, it seems like to me. These men and women save babies from malaria on the continent of Africa. They bring modern information technology to Afghanistan. They live out one of America's strongest beliefs — that to whom much is given, much is required.

After recounting the work of one volunteer, Mr. Zach Harvey of Physicians for Peace (see page 7), the Presi-

USA Freedom Corps photo by M.T. Harmon



President Bush addressing volunteers on the South Lawn, September 8, 2008.

“They live out one of America’s strongest beliefs — that to whom much is given, much is required.”

President George W. Bush,
The White House, September 8, 2008

dent acknowledged the effectiveness of VFP over the past five years and called upon Congress to make the initiative permanent.

On September 11th, First Lady Laura Bush also highlighted the work of VFP in a keynote speech to the ServiceNation Summit held in New York City.

Congressional Support

On September 12th, Senators Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) introduced legislation to expand national service. Called the “Serve America Act of 2008”, the bill (S. 3487), seeks to expand volunteer opportunities for Americans at every stage of life and also seeks to apply volunteer service to specific national challenges. Significantly, the bill also seeks to authorize the Volunteers for Prosperity initiative as well as expand VFPserv, a matching grant program directed by the VFP Office in collaboration with the GlobalGiving Foundation.

Earlier in the year, Senator Russell Feingold (D-WI), introduced the “Global Service Fellowship Program Act of 2008” (S. 2609), a measure that would provide Americans volunteering abroad with financial assistance in the form of stipends ranging from \$2,500 to \$7,500 depending upon the length of service. The bill also directs the VFP Office to implement the Global Service Fellowship program. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved the bill on September 23rd.

VOLUNTEER STORY

An economic development professional with more than thirty years' U.S. and international experience, Phillip Dunlap of Alabama, has been applying his expertise and knowledge to the economic future of Bulgaria as a volunteer through the International City/County Management Association.

“We sent 14 staff people at various times to do work or training in teams with our counterparts. The experience for them was wonderful.”

For the past ten years, Dunlap has been supporting the Bulgaria CityLinks Program, a partnership between the City of Auburn, Alabama and various municipalities throughout Bulgaria. Since 1998, Dunlap has, among other things: trained local economic development specialists, created local business advisory boards, and initiated workforce development programs. His work has helped not only to generate economic growth but also to develop the capacity of local governments in Bulgaria to consider innovative public-private partnerships for improving management and the delivery of services to citizens.

In discussing his experience, Dunlap noted professional benefits that accrue to those sharing expertise in order to improve the lives of others. “The effort on the part of Auburn was tremendous. However, we view it as a great training opportunity for our own staff. We sent 14 staff people at various times to do work or training in teams with our counterparts. The experience for them was wonderful.”



Phillip Dunlap (right) led a group of volunteers that trained local economic development specialists in Bulgaria.

VFP PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

Some of the nation's leading international non-profit organizations have come to regard the VFP Office as an important partner for advancing not only their work but also for helping to advance a movement that is involving more skilled Americans in volunteer service abroad. Encouraging words of support from just a handful of those VFP partners appear below.

"Volunteers for Prosperity plays a very important role in securing America's future. VFP enables Americans to serve overseas to provide needed assistance. Volunteers also help improve the image of America overseas which is clearly linked to our nation's future and standing in the world.

For many years, VFP has been a very collaborative and supportive partner that has consistently helped move our field forward. They have helped to strengthen many organizations and they have helped thousands of Americans to find service opportunities.

Steven C. Rosenthal
Executive Director, Cross-Cultural Solutions
Chairman, Building Bridges Coalition, a project of the
Brookings Institution Executive Committee Member,
International Volunteer Programs Association



Medical Teams International

"The call to service by President Bush and the support we have received from VFP has been a great encouragement and help to us and to our volunteers. . . VFP has helped us build partnerships with other volunteer service organizations. . . provided us with someone inside the federal government who shared our commitment to volunteer service. . . increased awareness and visibility of our programs. . . respected our values and mission as a faith-based organization."

The relatively small cost of supporting volunteer programs produces enormous benefits in the value of the services provided by American volunteers and also changes the lives of these volunteers, transforms our communities, builds bridges between our country and others, and shows the rest of the world the true, compassionate heart of America."

Bas Vanderzam
President
Medical Teams International

"Norfolk, VA-based Physicians for Peace was founded on one principle: if you heal a man, you heal one, if you teach a man to heal, you heal many. For the past twenty years, Physicians for Peace has been mobilizing medical volunteers to take their teaching skills to more than 50 developing countries. For the most part, recruiting volunteers was done by "word-of-mouth", and as a result, the organization accomplished much, but was limited in growth because of the small base of its most important source for delivering services—volunteers.

Over the past several years, Physicians for Peace has experienced significant growth—one major reason being its alliance with Volunteers for Prosperity. VFP has helped bring national recognition to the organization through its website and various events, including acknowledgment of its volunteerism at a South Lawn event hosted by the President. It has also helped shape an important volunteer recognition program and given PFP's volunteers the opportunity to apply for grants to help defray the rising costs of overseas missions.

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VOLUNTEER STORY

In August 2008, Hans Zoerb, a food scientist from River Falls, Wisconsin, visited Lilongwe, Malawi, as a volunteer providing technical assistance to several women's enterprise groups on behalf of Compatible Technology International (CTI) in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Zoerb's assignment was to work with farmers to improve their techniques for handling and storing food. The food security of Malawi, a small country in sub-Saharan Africa, is regularly threatened by drought and other conditions. By utilizing better ways to handle and store food, such as safely processing crops into shelf-stable items, farmers are able to eat well even during periods that challenge crops. They are also able to sell excess food items for a profit at local markets.

“This project has had a remarkable impact on the way I view my life and the lives of people in Africa.”

Inspired by his work to improve food processing, Zoerb is now exploring additional ways to help the farmers.

Reflecting on his volunteer experience, Zoerb noted, “I came home wanting to fix all their problems. But I now realize that it is essential to prioritize new projects and allow time for progress to occur.” He added, “This project has had a remarkable impact on the way I view my life and the lives of people in Africa. The people there are not desperate; they just have to work damn hard everyday. And they do.”



Volunteer Hans Zoerb helped local farmers in Malawi improve food processing techniques.

VFP PARTNER TESTIMONIALS

VFP has been a key and critical asset in PFP's transformation to an entrepreneurial organization with almost limitless human capital resources. Let there be no question, VFP serves as the engine that drives America's volunteers to make a difference in the lives of those who are underserved and can't help themselves."

Brigadier General Ron Sconyers (USAF, Ret.)
President and Chief Executive Officer
Physicians for Peace

"Volunteers for Prosperity has played a critical role in elevating the image and prestige of volunteerism within the ranks of highly trained American professionals from all walks of life. These volunteers bring an enormous reservoir of knowledge, skills and commitment that make a difference in projects of all types – health, water and sanitation, education and agriculture - to name a few. VFP has also served as a forum to promote and acknowledge the accomplishments of these volunteers, who take time from their busy professional practices, to share their skills with others around the world. Their contributions not only help develop skills abroad, but the volunteers return home with an increased understanding of other cultures and our global connections.

VFP helped to establish the President's Call to Service Award to honor volunteers who have donated more than 4,000 hours of volunteer time, the equivalent of two years of full-time service. Health Volunteers Overseas, a VFP partner, was honored to have 18 volunteers receive this award.



Partners Worldwide

The visibility that VFP has brought to the work of these highly trained professionals who choose to spend time volunteering has encouraged others to volunteer, and to learn the joy of mentoring colleagues around the globe."

Nancy A Kelly, MHS
Executive Director
Health Volunteers Overseas

"Volunteers for Prosperity is a concept that the federal government should have started many years ago. Given the enormous goodwill that skilled American volunteers generate around the world, it makes sense that our government should help to facilitate and coordinate those efforts.

When Omni Med sought assistance in setting up a program in Uganda to train community health workers there, VFP made several important connections for us, linking us directly to the decision makers and key people in USAID in Uganda. When we sought innovative ways to help our volunteers cover very expensive travel abroad, we turned to the innovative VFPserv program. And when, in the near future, we seek volunteers for our fully developed program in Uganda, we will take advantage of the tremendous pool of talented health care personnel available through the VFP searchable database.

In short, we at Omni Med have found a strong and reliable partner in VFP. I have long believed that America shows its best side when its people travel abroad to serve. VFP is an essential component of our national commitment to creating a better world. Thank you for all of your support and assistance through the years."

Dr. Edward O'Neil, Jr., MD
Founder & President
Omni Med

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Five years later, the Volunteers for Prosperity initiative has shown important and notable results. Among other things, VFP helped:

- *mobilize nearly 120,000 of our nation's talented professionals in service to those in need around the world.*
- *make critical resources available for those American organizations—leading US nonprofits and companies—responsible for deploying and managing the volunteers.*
- *make international volunteer service more affordable for a number of skilled Americans, providing precious financial support for those needing it in order to serve abroad and make a true difference in the lives of others.*

For its efforts, VFP has earned the public support of the White House and Congress.

In sum, the Volunteers for Prosperity initiative is meeting its mission to promote greater international voluntary service by skilled American professionals. To be sure, VFP is poised to play a leadership role in the area of international voluntary service going forward.

...the Volunteers for Prosperity initiative is meeting its mission...

USA Freedom Corps photo by M.T. Harmon



President Bush addressing volunteers on the South Lawn, September 8, 2008.

VOLUNTEERS FOR PROSPERITY AT A GLANCE

Origin	Presidential initiative established in September 2003 to promote international voluntary service by U.S. professionals
Typical VFP volunteers	Professionals such as doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, businesspeople, and IT specialists
Typical VFP project areas	Agriculture, economic growth, education, health, HIV/AIDS, information technology, water and sanitation, women and youth, and malaria control
Length of volunteer assignment	Flexible, ranging from a few weeks to one year or more
Who deploys and manages VFP volunteers	VFP partner organizations—U.S. based nonprofits and businesses
VFP partner benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VFP website directs prospective volunteers to VFP partner organizations and gives links to partners' sites• Partners can receive special consideration in the federal grants process

Cover Photo Credits

Left: Medical Teams International

Center: Compatible Technology International

Right: EWB-USA

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