

POINTS OF LIGHT  
&  
HANDS ON NETWORK



AUGUST 1ST, 2007, MARKED THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR THE POINTS OF LIGHT FOUNDATION AND HANDS ON NETWORK. TOGETHER, WE HAVE CREATED THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST VOLUNTEER NETWORK— ONE THAT WILL INSPIRE, EQUIP, AND ACTIVATE MILLIONS OF CITIZENS TO CREATE COMMUNITY CHANGE.

• HONOR THE LEGACY • ENVISION THE FUTURE •





WE ARE INSPIRED



We are inspired by the efforts of countless individuals who work every day to make their communities better. They visit seniors, they tutor and mentor children, they clean up parks, they serve meals, they build wheelchair ramps, and they do these things out of a powerful and innate impulse to lend a hand to their neighbors and make an imprint on the world.

“The human race is like fingers on a hand. When one finger hurts, the others tend to clench around it. If a community needs help, then we should all be ready to come and help.”

–Ahmad Rivazfar, volunteer

We are inspired by the words of a former President who coined a phrase and set a vision for advancing volunteerism in our country.

“We are a nation of communities, of thousands and tens of thousands of ethnic, religious, social, business, labor union, neighborhood, regional, and other organizations, all of them varied, voluntary, and unique... a brilliant diversity spread like stars, like a thousand points of light in a broad and peaceful sky.”

–Former President George Bush

We are inspired by the powerful possibility in each of us to imagine a different world, to solve problems, to create change.





WE ARE CONCERNED



## Social Capital Drain

Americans are becoming busier, more alienated and increasingly isolated in commuter neighborhoods. In many places, they are coming together less than ever before. These demographic shifts have led to deeper race, class and belief fault lines. Many people are losing confidence in institutions for which they once held respect. Without a change of course, we may wake up to find a disenfranchised citizenry and a frayed and diminished democracy.

## Community Inaction

Volunteerism is America's finest tradition, and Americans remain interested in the proposition of service. We have always had entrepreneurial citizens solving community problems. The public outpourings of support following the 2005 hurricanes and the September 11 tragedy were overwhelming. The challenge is to translate concentrated moments of national concern into sustained service. Many national volunteer programs are built on outdated models, and the volunteer sector has not kept pace with our nation's high-tech infrastructure.

## Underperforming Service Infrastructure

To succeed, our national volunteer infrastructure must draw upon the talents, ideas, and goodwill of people everywhere. And engaging our nation's citizen-servants is vital, because much work remains to be done. Chronic community problems such as family instability, failing schools, and isolation of the elderly will only be solved when we effectively and efficiently unleash the latent potential of our citizenry.

Family Instability

Failing Schools

Unsafe Neighborhoods

Isolation of the Elderly

Homelessness

Hunger

Environmental Sustainability Crisis

Lack of Affordable Healthcare

## WE HAVE VISION

Despite these challenges, we are confident that these trends can be reversed—and that for every source of isolation, there is a corresponding antidote to draw people back into the public sphere.



# Vision

We envision a world where all individuals discover their power to make a difference and are equipped as active, engaged citizens.

# Mission

Points of Light & Hands On Network inspires and mobilizes people to become engaged, take action and solve community problems.



WE HAVE EXPERIENCE



Points of Light & Hands On Network is dedicated to cultivating an engaged citizenry—leading people from disconnection to connection, and from isolation to community.

Large parts of the infrastructure necessary to achieve transformational impact are already in place –

**A robust network of civic hubs that reaches more than 80 percent of our country’s citizens**

**Partnerships with corporations that tap the human capital of businesses**

**Thousands of nonprofit partners that actively engage citizens in problem solving**

**Volunteer leaders who are equipped to serve as change agents in their local communities.**

“Before my husband passed away, I was in an intense caregiving situation. After he died, I missed the feeling that someone needed me. I really needed a mission, but I did not know what I could contribute—I am a 60-year-old woman! One night I saw a news piece about a project where they needed people to bag groceries for AIDS patients, and a light went on. I thought, ‘That’s something I can do; I can bag groceries.’ I’ve been volunteering there ever since.”

–Carol Rehder, volunteer

“On 9/11, I sat in front of my television, transfixed as I grappled with the horrific images that were unfolding before my eyes. Some eight hours later, I received a call telling me my good friend had been on United Airlines Flight 175, the second hijacked plane to strike the World Trade Center. As if the cloak had been flung off, I began to see for the first time the injustices in the world, in our societies, and in my backyard. I was determined to find answers, to fight for a better world. In doing so, I spent the next two years as an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow, asking more questions, tackling the world hands-on.”

–Roger Wong, AmeriCorps volunteer

These stories provide a glimpse of what’s possible when people realize their capacity to create real change in their communities. As a merged organization, Points of Light & Hands On Network has the opportunity to multiply these stories manifold and to reinstate volunteerism as an essential skill of citizenship.





WE HAVE STRONG LEADERSHIP



**Former President George Bush will serve as the Honorary Chairman of the Board. Ray Chambers will chair the Board during the integration period of the new organization. Neil Bush will serve as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and also Chair of the Executive Committee.**

“My father created the Points of Light because he believes that a meaningful life must include service. His vision was that every individual be given the opportunity to experience the transformational power of reaching out in service to others. I am tremendously excited to be a part of this new organization because I believe it represents a huge opportunity to carry on his legacy by taking service in this country to a whole new level.”

–Neil Bush

The CEO of Points of Light & Hands On Network is Michelle Nunn. Michelle was the Co-Founder and CEO of Hands On Network. Prior to co-founding Hands On Network, she was the founding director of Hands On Atlanta, a non-profit organization that helps individuals, families, corporate and community groups find flexible volunteer opportunities at over 400 service organizations and schools. Hands On Atlanta volunteers, now 37,000 strong, are at work every day of the year building community and meeting critical needs in schools, parks, senior homes, food banks, pet shelters, low-income neighborhoods and more. From her initial leadership as Hands On Atlanta’s first staff person, Michelle has played a central role in the growth of a national movement that became Hands On Network, with a membership of more than 68 affiliate organizations across the country and around the globe. Michelle serves on the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation and has received a variety of awards and an honorary degree from Oglethorpe University.

“Together we can do what neither of us could do independently: transform the civic and volunteer landscape through exponential rather than incremental change. We now have the opportunity to realize our vision of a world in which all individuals discover their power to make a difference and are equipped as active, engaged citizens.”

–Michelle Nunn

---

## POINTS OF LIGHT & HANDS ON NETWORK

In the coming months, Points of Light & Hands On Network will launch an investment campaign to capitalize the new organization. We will be recruiting partners new and old to invest in our vision, our sustainability and our success.

**Our communities today face chronic, seemingly intractable problems.**

**People are the key to solving these problems.**

**Points of Light & Hands On Network gives people the tools they need to do so.**

Please consider how you can support the important work of developing citizens who can solve tough community problems.

WE NEED YOU

POINTS OF LIGHT  
&  
HANDS ON NETWORK

ATLANTA



600 MEANS STREET  
SUITE 210  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30318  
(404) 979-2800

WASHINGTON DC



1400 I STREET, NW  
SUITE 800  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
(202) 729-8000