



HandsOn University

December 2011



Greetings!

Welcome to HandsOn University's **eVOLve: technical assistance for mobilizing volunteers**. In this electronic technical assistance (eTA) brief, you will find tips and tools to help you inspire, equip, and mobilize volunteers in your community.

This Month's Quote

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.

~ *Hamilton Wright Mable*

Dear HandsOn,

How can I make my holiday celebration a "party with a purpose"?

Answer Corner

The winter holidays are a time for friends and family to take a break from their hectic schedules and take time for themselves. As December comes each year, people wrap up their annual to-do lists and prepare for a break. In taking this break, many people are reminded that being able to do so is a luxury that not everyone can afford.

For most people, the winter break is a period of relaxation that may include cooking and eating holiday traditions, spending time with loved ones, and giving back to the community. Luckily, there is a way to do all these things in one night! This holiday season, have a **party with a purpose**; host a Holiday Canned Food Drive Party!

Use the following steps to ensure a fun and worthwhile party:

Locate a local food bank or homeless shelter: Locate a local food bank or homeless shelter and tell them that you plan on hosting a canned food drive. Ask them if there is anything in particular they need and any directions necessary to donate.

Send out invitations: Invite friends, family, and neighbors to join you at your home to enjoy the

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Ask HandsOn

Do you have a question about working with volunteers? [E-mail](#) us and your question may be featured in next month's eVOLve!

holidays, food, drinks, and good company. Inform guests of your mission to donate as much food as possible to your local food bank, and ask that each guest bring at least 5 canned food goods. As an incentive, offer guests a prize of your choice to the person who brings the most canned food goods!

For some extra shine, the invitations should have a holiday theme and include information about homeless and hunger. For example:

"In 2010, 4.8 percent of all U.S. households (5.6 million households) accessed emergency food from a food pantry one or more times."

Prep your party: The day of the event, designate an area in your home where guests can donate their canned goods. Consider having a sign in that area that informs guests on the food bank you chose to donate to as well as facts and figures about homelessness and hunger in your community.

"In 2010, 48.8 million Americans lived in food insecure households, 32.6 million adults and 16.2 million children."^[i]

Party! Eat, drink, and be merry at your party, knowing that you have brought together the people you love for a worthwhile cause.

Collect and donate goods: Transport the canned goods from your home to the food bank or homeless shelter of your choice. Note how much the total contribution of food weighs.

Send a thank-you letter: Email or send a letter to your guests thanking for them coming and donating. Include a shout-out to the person who brought the most cans, and also mention how many cans or how many pounds of food were donated!

The "party with a purpose" idea is great for families, friends, co-workers, and volunteers for holidays, birthdays, and throughout the year!

This month's article was written by Stephanie Manciangli, an AmeriCorps member serving with HandsOn University.

^[i]<http://feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/hunger-facts/hunger-and-poverty-statistics.aspx>

Resources

Check out these online resources for more information:

- Feeding America: www.feedingamerica.org
- HandsOn Library: www.handsonnetwork.org/tools/library
- HandsOn University Online: www.handsonnetwork.org/tools/handsonuniversityonline
- Start a Project: www.handsonnetwork.org/tools/startproject

HandsOn University Training Opportunities

We just wrapped up our annual [MLK Day webinar series](#), which included a variety of topics such as training and placing volunteer leaders, engaging and supporting veterans and military families, and story-telling, data, and social media. If you missed any of the sessions, [click here](#) to access the recordings.

HandsOn University's 2012 webinar series will include sessions on some of today's hottest topics in

the world of volunteering and service. Stay tuned for details! If you have a suggestion for a topic, please [email us](#).

A Message from AmeriCorps Alums

AmeriCorps recently launched a new [promotional video](#) to highlight the fight to Save AmeriCorps. For the 2012 House proposed budget, ZERO funding has been allocated to AmeriCorps and significant cuts have been proposed for the Corporation for National & Community Service. As a network of 700,000 alumni of National Service, we could not just sit back and let this happen without drawing as much attention as we could to Save Service. Congress needs to know that AmeriCorps has been a bipartisan priority for the last four Presidencies and that cutting service programs is a step in the wrong direction for our country.



Check out the video [here](#) and then share it with your networks. Visit the [Alums website](#) for sample tweets and Facebook posts.

Thank you for your help in the fight to Save AmeriCorps!

HandsOn Connect



HandsOn Connect is a full-cycle volunteer management platform from Points of Light and HandsOn Network. Built on decades of best practices, it uses Salesforce.com, the best-in-class cloud computing CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system, to expand your capability to track and report on people, programs and projects in real time.

With the flexibility and functionality it gives you in data management, HandsOn Connect offers you a proven, effective resource for volunteer engagement and project management. And because it's web-based, you don't have to buy and update software or hardware.

To view recorded demos or sign up for a live demo visit www.HandsOnConnect.org to see how HandsOn Connect can benefit your organization.

For more information, please contact sales@handsonconnect.org.

Nonprofit & Government Membership

You're busy helping the community. Who's helping you?

HandsOn understands that mobilizing and managing volunteers is essential to achieving your organization's mission. With increasing competition for resources, funding, staff, and time, making sound decisions around volunteer engagement can mean the difference between success and failure.

The **HandsOn Nonprofit & Government Membership Program** offers training, resources, and networking opportunities to its members, empowering them to motivate and engage volunteers in meaningful service. Click [here](#) to learn more!



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