



HandsOn University

October 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

To each and every one of [our men and women in uniform] and to the families who bear the quiet burden of their absence, Americans are united in sending one message: we honor your service, we are inspired by your sacrifice, and you have our unyielding support. And just as they must have the resources they need in war, we all have a responsibility to support them when they come home.

~ President Barak Obama to a joint session of Congress on February 24, 2009

## Dear HandsOn,

How can I serve and engage veterans, active military, and their families living in my community?

## Answer Corner


**The military community needs our support.** Each day approximately 3,000 service members separate from the military and return to civilian life. All of these veterans face challenges of varying degrees: reintegration, employment, attaining an education, rebuilding and maintaining a strong family unit, isolation, drug abuse, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injury, homelessness, and suicidal thoughts . . . the list sometimes seems endless. While government and nonprofit services for active military, veterans, and their families are increasing in communities across America, there are still significant gaps.

**The military community is an asset.** Active military, veterans, and their families are talented natural volunteers with valuable skill sets easily adapted to the challenges facing our communities. Military family members volunteer at much higher rates than the rest of the population. Veterans bring a host of proven skills: management and supervision, leadership of diverse groups, team building and operational or logistics skills. We should help those that need it, and embrace those ready and able to serve.

## Quick Links

HandsOn Network  
HandsOn Tool & Resources  
Points of Light Institute

[Join our mailing list!](#)

Follow us on 

## 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!

**Veterans Day** is coming up on November 11<sup>th</sup> and the **Martin Luther King Day of Service** is January 16<sup>th</sup>. These two days are a great way to mobilize volunteers and honor the military community through service.

Here are some ways you can engage with and serve veterans and military families on Veterans Day and throughout the year:

- Connect with a [HandsOn Action Center](#) to find a volunteer opportunity in your community on or around Veterans Day or simply click [here](#).
  - Did you know that military family members volunteer at much higher rates than the rest of the population?
- Help a Military Family - Check out the [How to Help Military Families Toolkit](#)
- [Organize a Welcome Home and Thank a Military Family Project](#)
- [Organize a Veterans Oral History Project](#)
- [Organize a Recurring Sports Game for Military Community](#)
- [Organize a Resume Preparation Workshop for the Military](#)
- [Organize a Moms Day Away, Kids Time to Play Day](#)
- Educate Employers about the [resources available](#) for them to better understand how to hire and retain veterans.
- Educate Yourself and Others about the Issues Affecting Those who Serve
- Educate schools about the need to identify military children and understand their challenges. Use the [Ready, Set, Go tools](#) brought to you by Operation Military Kid!
- [Organize an Operation Hero Pack project.](#)
- Learn about the [history of Veterans Day](#), watch a video, or find information about observance activities around the country
- [Organize a Mock Interview Workshop for Veterans](#)
- Place flowers at a local war memorial or cemetery
- Visit a local VA Medical Center or people in your community who served in the military
- Ask a veteran to speak at your school, organization, neighborhood association, etc

To find a volunteer opportunity in your community on or around Veterans Day click [here](#).

## Resources

Learn more by checking out these additional resources:

- [War and Sacrifice in the Post-9/11 Era The Military-Civilian Gap](#) By Pew Social Trends Staff
- [Promoting Psychological Resilience in the U.S. Military](#) by Lisa S. Meredith, Cathy D. Sherbourne, Sarah J. Gaillot, Lydia Hansell, Hans V. Ritschard, Andrew M. Parker, Glenda Wrenn
- [Sea of Goodwill](#) and [Channeling the "Sea of Goodwill" to Sustain the "Groundswell of Support"](#)
- [Finding Common Ground: A Toolkit for Communities Supporting Military Families](#)
- [Military Kids Toolkit](#)
- [Military Teens Toolkit](#)

## HandsOn University Training Opportunities

Check out this year's annual [MLK Day webinar series](#), which kicked off on October 26<sup>th</sup> and lasts through December 15<sup>th</sup>. With a variety of topics such as training and placing volunteer leaders to story-telling, data, and social media, each webinar aims to prepare individuals and groups to serve their communities in honor of Martin Luther King's legacy. Join us for two webinars focused on the

military community.

### **The Community Blueprint: A Model for Communities to Better Serve Veterans, Service Members, and Their Families - November 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 Eastern**

The Community Blueprint is a guide to help communities add military support services to their public sector infrastructure, utilizing volunteers as the backbone resource to support veterans, active duty military and their families. It helps communities better understand their strengths and weaknesses in military support services and to be responsive to those needs. Come learn more about this great initiative and how you can kick off your Community Blueprint MLK Day 2012! This session is presented by Barbara Van Dahlen, [Give an Hour](#); Geoffrey Deutsch, [Armed Forces Services Corporation](#) and [Veterans Innovation Center](#); and Tricia Thompson, [HandsOn University](#).

Click [here](#) to register.

### **Engaging and Serving Veterans and Military Families - December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 Eastern**

This highly anticipated webinar provides training on how to engage and serve veterans and military families. This event will be presented by Chris Marvin of [Be the Change Inc.](#) and Joyce Raezer of [The National Military Family Association](#). The session is twofold, as the two presenters will speak to different points. As Chris demonstrates the ways to engage veterans in service, Joyce will discuss the type of projects that serve military families. As veterans and military families are an integral part of almost every community in the country, this session will highlight resources to help participants understand how to better serve and utilize the military community in service on MLK Day of Service and beyond.

Click [here](#) to register.

## **Call for Presenters: National Conference on Volunteering and Service**

Submit a proposal to present at the [2012 National Conference on Volunteering and Service](#), June 18-20 in Chicago! The conference is the leading gathering of its kind, bringing together more than 5000 service leaders to discuss the challenges we all face and work together to create solutions through the power of people.



Do you have an innovative idea or experience you'd like to share with others passionate about addressing the critical issues of our time? We are accepting proposals for workshops in areas such as business, education, volunteer management, and nonprofit capacity building. Proposals are due December 5th. [Click here](#) to learn more.

## **The CVA Credential: A Mark of Excellence**



Are you looking for a way to strengthen your professional credibility? Now is the time to consider earning the **Certified in Volunteer Administration (CVA)** credential. This unique program serves to recognize practitioners in the field of volunteer management who meet specified standards through an exam and a written portfolio.

Individuals with the equivalent of at least 3 years of experience leading and directing volunteers are eligible. **Registration is now open** and the deadline for registering for the next cycle is March 1, 2012. Candidates who register for this cycle must take the exam via e-testing software in May 2012 and complete the written portfolio component by December 31, 2012. For more information, visit the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration (CCVA) [website](#).

Want to learn more? Join us for a free webinar with **Katie Campbell**, executive director of CCVA, on **November 21st at 3:00** Eastern.

Credentialing in any field increases credibility and promotes career development. Learn about this unique performance-based, self-study program for becoming Certified in Volunteer Administration, and how it can benefit you and your organization. Relevant for all types of settings, this session is recommended for individuals with at least 3 years of experience leading volunteer engagement. This session will also offer tips on how HandsOn affiliates can promote and support certification in their local communities.

Click [here](#) to register.

## 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!



**HandsOn**  
UNIVERSITY  
Nonprofit & Government  
Membership



Headquarters Office: 600 Means Street NW • Suite 210 • Atlanta, GA 30318 • T 404 979 2900  
1875 K Street NW • 5<sup>th</sup> Floor • Washington, DC 20006 • T 202 712 8000  
6 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street • 25<sup>th</sup> Floor • New York, NY 10017 • T 212 718 0200  
[www.HandsOnNetwork.org](http://www.HandsOnNetwork.org)