



Hands On Gulf Coast AmeriCorps Member – Elderly Outreach Project Coordinator

Background: . Points of Light & Hands On Network leads an international movement of people who roll up their sleeves, get hands on, and solve community problems everyday. Through their Volunteer Center National Network and Hands On Action Centers, the organization supports a network of 370 organizations covering 88% of the US market and eight countries. These organizations mobilize millions of volunteers who partner with more than 12,000 nonprofits, schools and community organizations every year. They put people at the center...repairing homes, ensuring green spaces and partnering with nonprofits, students and faculty to transform schools and communities. Points of Light & Hands On Network encourages people from all walks of life — businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, low-income communities, families, youth, and older adults — to volunteer and be the change in their communities. For more information, visit www.HandsOnNetwork.org or www.PointsOfLight.org.

Hands On Gulf Coast (HOGC) began as Hands On Network's response to the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Based in Biloxi, Mississippi, HOGC has been in operation since February 2006, continuing a partner's operation opened in September 2005. Every week, volunteers from across the country come to Biloxi to work with HOGC in cleaning and rebuilding damaged homes, revitalizing public spaces, and supporting local community organizations. Some deployed volunteers are housed at the HOGC Civic Action Center, a unique and welcoming volunteer community. As recovery from Hurricane Katrina progresses, HOGC is working towards becoming a locally run organization that engages local volunteers in improving their own community through service. HOGC is committed to giving both deployed and local volunteers the chance to participate meaningfully in the recovery of the Gulf Coast; we are also committed to aiding the recovery process in a way that supports the visions, traditions, and efforts of local residents

Description: Hands On Gulf Coast is currently seeking an AmeriCorps member to support elderly residents by developing outreach programming and special events among this population. The Elderly Outreach Project Coordinator will be supported by the Community Outreach Team Leader as well as the AmeriCorps Program Coordinator, and will work with other AmeriCorps members and the Community Outreach team to inform special populations about available resources, and plan and execute community events and programs to bring the community together.

Positions Available: 1 Full Time (1700 hr, approximately 11 months) AmeriCorps member positions to serve in Biloxi Mississippi from January 7, 2008 to November 23, 2008.

Responsibilities:

- Create and execute projects that engage local volunteers in addressing the unmet needs of elderly residents
- Compile and distribute resources to meet needs, and make basic services available to Gulf Coast residents accessible to elderly residents
- Work with other AmeriCorps members to include elderly residents in the programming developed for all special populations
- Assess needs of elderly residents in the East Biloxi community
- Work closely with special needs cases and connect them and others with professionals, such as case managers
- Educate elderly residents on hurricane preparedness

Qualifications:

- Experience in work with elderly population preferred
- U.S. Citizenship
- At least a GED or willingness to attain
- Previous leadership or volunteer experience
- Demonstrated desire to address community needs
- Interest in working in a post-disaster region
- Ability to work proactively on an independent project
- Ability to work creatively and collaboratively with other team members
- Valid drivers license
- Personal vehicle preferred

Benefits:

- \$12,000 Annual Living Stipend
- \$4,725 Education award upon successful completion of service
- Housing assistance available for applicants moving from outside of the area
- Health Insurance
- Forbearance of qualified federal student loans deferred

For additional information, or to apply, contact Hands On Gulf Coast (228) 257-6094 or americorps.apps@handsongulfcoast.org.