



## **Hands On Gulf Coast AmeriCorps Member – North Gulfport Community Land Trust, Construction Assistant**

**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](http://www.HandsOnNetwork.org) or [www.PointsOfLight.org](http://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:** The North Gulfport Community Land Trust was formed in 2004 in an effort to address the environmental degradation, wetlands filling, land speculation and potential gentrification of the North Gulfport community. This African American neighborhood, once a vibrant place where children were safe to walk at night and homeowners were proud of their simple, clean homes had fallen into disrepair, and had been regularly flooded due to the filling of nearby wetlands

Gulf Coast Community Land Trust is currently seeking AmeriCorps members to assist a construction team in the rebuilding of homes in Gulfport Ms. The Construction Assistants will work alongside skilled labor to frame houses, repair roofs, install dry wall, and complete finishing work for families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

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

### **Responsibilities:**

- Assist skilled labor in rebuilding of homes
- Lead teams of unskilled volunteers in appropriate tasks
- Train volunteers in learning new skills
- Ensure safety of volunteers while on site
- Work closely with the North Gulfport Community Land Trust to ensure effective rebuilding projects
- Work with partner organizations on rebuild projects as assigned

### **Qualifications:**

- Background in/knowledge of construction field 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](mailto:americorps.apps@handsongulfcoast.org).