



Hands On Gulf Coast AmeriCorps Member – Visions of Hope, Inc., Community Outreach 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 and Visions of Hope, Inc. are currently seeking 2 AmeriCorps members to assist in community outreach and implementation of programs offered by Visions of Hope, Inc. Visions of Hope seeks to provide safe, permanently affordable housing and security from displacement for low to moderate income residents and to build strong and stable communities through the empowerment of its residents by offering access to education, health care, training and other resources. This position would include reaching out to the community to inform them about Visions of Hope services, and assisting Visions of Hope in the implementation of their programs. This position will also be directly supervised by Visions of Hope staff, with additional support from the Hands On Gulf Coast AmeriCorps staff.

Positions Available: 2 Full-time (approximately 11 months) AmeriCorps member positions to serve in Biloxi, Mississippi from January 7, 2008 to November 23, 2008.

Responsibilities:

- Outreach to community members to assess needs
- Seek partnerships with other organizations to provide community with resources, particularly focusing on homeowner education, financial literacy and GED attainment
- Assist in coordinating community workshops on homeowner education and financial literacy
- Create and maintain community newsletter
- Assist in maintaining organization website
- Maintain and update promotional materials for community members
- Assist in the planning of Visions of Hope events
- Coordinate volunteers working on Visions of Hope projects

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
- Must be able to work independently and garner volunteer support
- Must be able to relate to diverse members of the community
- 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.