



## **AmeriCorps VISTA Special Projects 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](http://www.HandsOnNetwork.org) or [www.PointsOfLight.org](http://www.PointsOfLight.org)

Hands On Gulf Coast (HOGC), based in Biloxi, Mississippi, has been in operation since February 2006, continuing a partner's operation opened in September 2005 in response to Hurricane Katrina. Since opening, HOGC has hosted over 4,000 volunteers from across the country who traveled to Mississippi to serve by 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.

Through a grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, Points of Light and Hands on Network (our parent organization) will be placing an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with Hands On Gulf Coast to support the goals of increased engagement around the celebration of Dr. King's birthday, as well as King's principles throughout the year.

**Description:** Hands On Gulf Coast (HOGC) is seeking an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer to serve as a Special Projects Coordinator, focusing on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. The Special Projects Coordinator will work to develop, plan and implement a day of service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., to occur on the celebration of his birthday in January 2008. Throughout the year the Special Projects Coordinator will work to continue to engage volunteers around the principles of Dr. King through meaningful service projects and educational activities.

**Positions Available:** One full-time AmeriCorps VISTA position to serve for one year beginning in November 2007 in Biloxi, Mississippi.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Develop and implement a day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King
  - Work with local agencies to partner on existing programs
  - Design programming around needs and wants of the community
  - Incorporate regional traditions
  - Recruit local and out-of-state volunteers to participate in the King Day of Service
  - Market the event to local media and partners
  - Use the day of service as an entry point for local volunteers to become more civically engaged
- Develop additional days of service throughout the year to engage large groups of volunteers (Make a Difference Day, AmeriCorps Week, National Youth in Service Day, etc)
- Manage project development for special groups of volunteers, such as student groups and corporations
- Continue outreach to volunteers from the MLK Day of Service to support ongoing engagement
- Work with AmeriCorps members to develop service learning opportunities for youth around the principles of Dr. King
- Other projects as assigned

### **Qualifications:**

- U.S. Citizenship
- College degree or equivalent work experience

- Previous leadership or volunteer experience
- Demonstrated desire to address community needs
- 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:**

- Living Stipend
- Education Award or stipend upon completion of program
- Housing assistance (available at Hands On for a portion of the service term for volunteers moving from outside of the region)
- Qualified Federal student loans deferred and accrued interest paid
- Health insurance for qualified members
- Childcare assistance for qualified members

For additional information, or to apply, contact Sara Hamilton at Hands On Gulf Coast (228) 257-6094, [shamilton@handsongulfcoast.org](mailto:shamilton@handsongulfcoast.org) or Chris de Veer, [cdeveer@handsongulfcoast.org](mailto:cdeveer@handsongulfcoast.org).