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## VOLUNTEER SAN DIEGO HONORS SAN DIEGO RESIDENTS DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> TO MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>

San Diego, April 24, 2008 - "This week we are celebrating the achievements of our local President's Volunteer Service Award recipients and the thousands of other volunteers who give of themselves to the San Diego community," said Sue Carter, Executive Director of Volunteer San Diego. "Their commitment is a shining example to all of us."

"Our volunteers are the backbone of our community, meeting critical needs and helping to improve the quality of life all over San Diego County," said Carter. "With volunteer service in America slightly declining last year, it is vital that we honor the contributions of our local volunteers."

According to Bureau of Labor Statistics' latest study on volunteers, about 60.8 million Americans volunteered their time – nearly 26 percent of the population (down from 28.2 the previous year). In 2007, about 25 percent of California's population volunteered, with an overall ranking of 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

Sponsored by Target and an initiative of Points of Light & Hands On Network, National Volunteer Week sets the stage for local and national organizations to applaud their volunteers' contributions and encourage others to help strengthen their communities.

Volunteer San Diego will honor 20 volunteers with the President's Volunteer Service Award, the most prestigious volunteer award currently associated with the White House, at a Volunteer Recognition Celebration on May 27th. These volunteers share their time and talents to make a difference in our community and are truly living up to the week's theme – Inspire by Example!

From a retired school teacher who gets involved as both a volunteer and an orientation leader to the 19-year-old who's contributed over 200 hours during high school, volunteers come from diverse backgrounds: ages, education, geographically, ethnicities. Their stories are different, but all are inspirational.

"We hope that National Volunteer Week and the President's Volunteer Service Award will encourage others to participate in volunteer activities," concluded Carter. Call (858) 636-4131 or visit [www.volunteersandiego.org](http://www.volunteersandiego.org) to learn more about local opportunities.

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**Volunteer San Diego** is the premier provider of volunteer programs and services in San Diego County. Annually, Volunteer San Diego helps nearly 30,000 individuals, families, corporate and community groups find volunteer opportunities at 800 community organizations. Volunteers of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds are mobilized to feed the homeless, serve seniors, beautify the environment, read to youth and change San Diego for the better.

**Points of Light & Hands On Network** is a national nonprofit whose core mission is to inspire, equip and mobilize people to take action that changes the world. We transform people and communities. Our collective network – now the largest in the nation – connects 370 civic hubs managing millions of volunteers and 50,000 volunteer-driven community impact projects annually around the country. Our vision is that through our work we will help put people at the center of social change and that one day every person will discover their power to make a difference, creating healthy communities in vibrant democracies around the world.

**National Volunteer Week** began in 1974, when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing an annual celebration of volunteering. Every president since has signed a proclamation promoting the week.

**The President's Volunteer Service Award** is an initiative of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in conjunction with the Corporation for National and Community Service and the USA Freedom Corps and is administered by the Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network. Issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation on behalf of the President of the United States, it also seeks to inspire by example, honoring the service of committed volunteers and sharing their achievements to encourage more Americans to volunteer. Visit [www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov](http://www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov) or call 1-866-545-5307 for more information on the Award.