

**Office of
the Mayor
Burlington,
Vermont**



Bob Kiss
Mayor
Room 34, City Hall
Burlington, VT 05401
Tel: (802) 865-7272
Fax: (802) 865-7270
TDD: (802) 865-7142

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 11, 2011**

Contact: Joe Reinert
Assistant to the Mayor
865-7275

BURLINGTON AREA IDENTIFIED AS TOP AREA FOR VOLUNTEERISM

“Volunteering in America” Report Ranks Burlington 8th Among 75 Mid-Sized Metro Areas

Burlington, VT – The 2011 *Volunteering in America* report lists the Burlington area 8th among 75 comparable cities in the area of volunteerism. The *Volunteering In America* report is a partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Bureau for Labor Statistics to collect volunteering data annually through the Current Population Survey’s (CPS) Supplement on Volunteering.

The Volunteering in America research, released by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), is part of the most comprehensive national study conducted on volunteerism. Nationally, volunteers served nearly 8.1 billion hours in their communities – valued at nearly \$173 billion. The report covers 2007-2010 and shows the Burlington area with a Volunteer Rate of 37.7%, compared to 36.5% nationally, and 42 volunteer hours per resident annually, compared to 34.1 hours nationally.

Burlington’s volunteerism has been supported in many ways by the City’s VISTA program. This past year, CEDO VISTAs recruited 842 volunteers who performed 10,464 hours of service. Over the 17 years of the city's VISTA program, members recruited tens of thousands of volunteers statewide. “The CEDO AmeriCorps VISTA program has been an incredible asset to the Burlington community. These dedicated members, who are giving a year of their lives to build capacity in local agencies, work 24-7 in order to combat poverty,” said CEDO’s Laura Hale. “Their efforts to build sustainable volunteer programs have created opportunities for tens of thousands of volunteers to serve over the last 18 years.”

“Whether cleaning and greening neighborhoods, tutoring schoolchildren, helping local non-profits, participating in restorative justice panels, or doing many, many other things, volunteers have a tremendously positive impact on our community,” said Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss. “Thank you to local volunteers for all of your efforts to make Burlington a better place for everyone.”

Acting CEO of CNCS, Robert Velasco II said, “As organizations are struggling to provide more services with fewer resources, volunteers of all ages are stepping up to help fill in the gaps. The commitment, time, and talent of Burlington’s volunteers is admirable, further proving that everyone has a role in making America great.” CNCS supports Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and other national service programs that drive innovation and problem solving through service.

About the Volunteering In America Report:

The *Volunteering In America* report is a partnership between the Corporation for National and Community Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Bureau for Labor Statistics to collect volunteering data annually through the Current Population Survey’s (CPS) Supplement on Volunteering. The CPS is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households (approximately 100,000 adults), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Volunteers are defined as individuals ages 16 and over who perform unpaid volunteer activities for or through an organization. The report includes information for all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 198 cities, including 51 large cities, 75 mid-size cities, and 72 additional cities, based on Metropolitan Statistical Areas. For more information, visit VolunteeringInAmerica.gov, where the complete report can be accessed.

About the Corporation for National and Community Service:

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.

About Burlington’s We All Belong AmeriCorps*State Program

Vermont is changing and becoming more reflective of a global and national citizenry. The We All Belong Initiative works with service providers in the Greater Burlington area to change how they do business in order to better serve our diversifying community. This includes how and what services are provided, hiring of staff, recruiting volunteers and Board members and how decisions are made. The We All Belong Program’s mission is to provide the tools and resources for organizations to build their cultural and linguistic competence so that they can provide more culturally relevant services, and then truly be more inclusive and welcoming. The goal of the initiative is to increase the cultural competency of schools and organizations to serve low-income and racially/ethnically diverse groups. More information available at www.cedoburlington.org.



