

## Coast to Coast Volunteerism

**San Pedro, Calif.** Energy, enthusiasm and consistent hard work have brought the FAMILY MATTERS initiative, based in the Volunteer Center of South Bay, to the community. Partnerships with civic organizations, schools, governmental agencies and nonprofits have yielded a new pocket park, filled boxes in a food drive and provided decorations in the Improvement District for the holidays. Long-term projects included families entertaining at nursing homes. A new partnership with VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary and Telephone Pioneers of America volunteers also has helped beautify the local community.

**Green Bay, Wis.** The Volunteer Center of Brown County has organized a wide variety of family volunteering activities: assembling kits for the Einstein Project, which promotes science education; performing chores at a local museum; participating in the Salvation Army's Feed the Kids program; providing temporary respite for mothers staying with their children at the Family Violence Center; and performing a variety of services at Brown County public libraries. Its partnership with VFW Post 7534 and Ladies Auxiliary is very strong and active. A letter writing program to the troops in Kosovo, "Tell Them You Care," was very successful.

**Jacksonville, Fla.** This center has developed a strategic plan that involves FAMILY MATTERS. It has a database of 50 agencies and 100 families engaged in family-specific opportunities. Volunteers work with the Jacksonville community and military bases in the area. They formed a partnership with VFW and Ladies Auxiliary District 6 to clean a children's residential facility. New strategies include having volunteers complete evaluations after activities and combining the Presidential Youth Leadership grant with FAMILY MATTERS programming in a low-income community.

**FAMILY MATTERS** is an initiative of the Points of Light Foundation

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**FAMILY MATTERS** is provided by:

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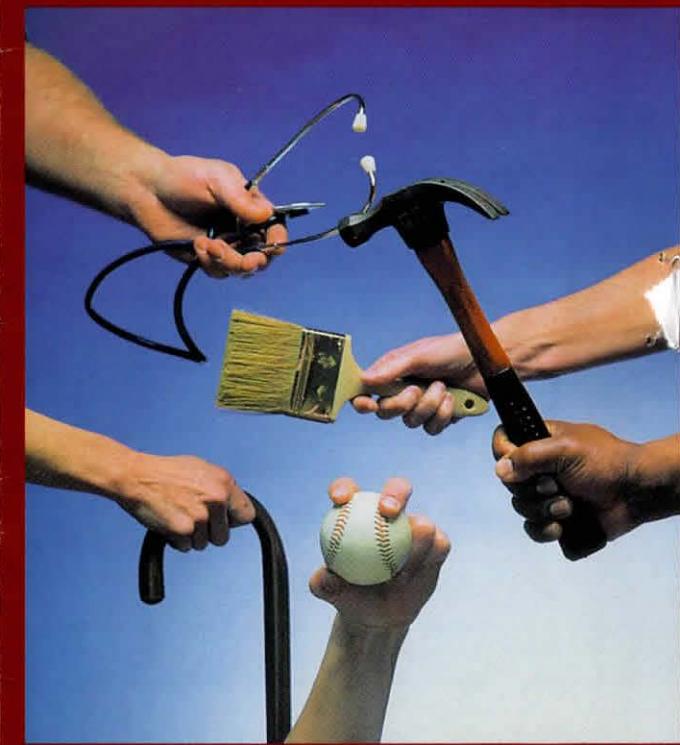
**FAMILY MATTERS** Key Partners include:

Alliance for Children and Families  
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[kidscareclubs.org](http://kidscareclubs.org)  
Telephone Pioneers of America  
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

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# FAMILY MATTERS

FAMILY MATTERS  
a Points of Light Initiative  
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(1-800-865-8683)  
[www.pointsoflight.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org)



*Engaging families in  
community-oriented volunteering*

**FAMILY MATTERS**



## What is FAMILY MATTERS?

FAMILY MATTERS is an innovative initiative of the Points of Light Foundation that engages families in community-oriented volunteering by linking them with other families, neighborhoods, businesses, and non-profit organizations.

## Why Should You Volunteer?

Through research and extensive testing, FAMILY MATTERS has learned that family volunteering effectively strengthens the family, addresses critical social needs, improves employee morale within participating businesses and creates a renewed community spirit. It makes a difference for individual families, large corporations, small neighborhoods, major metropolises, grassroots nonprofit agencies and government institutions.

## What is National Family Volunteer Day?

The Saturday before Thanksgiving, FAMILY MATTERS will call upon thousands of families in cities all across America to work together to perform tasks that will benefit their communities. The spotlight on families is designed to showcase the benefits of families working together, and to encourage those who haven't yet made the commitment to volunteer as a family to begin doing so.

## Seven Benefits of Volunteering

- Strengthens the family
- Helps individuals and the community
- Develops team building
- Promotes positive values
- Provides role modeling
- Gives children insight into communities
- Instills importance of service-related work



## A Dozen Volunteer Ideas

- Visit a local nursing home or hospital
- Deliver meals, gifts and blankets to shelters
- Staff water tables at a walk-a-thon
- Clean up a park, plant trees and flowers, adopt a highway
- Clean up a playground or walking trail
- Organize a food or diaper drive
- Help at a recycling center
- Bathe animals and help clean an animal shelter
- Sort, pack, label and restock food items for a food pantry
- Prepare or serve meals for a shelter or community kitchen
- Repair home of a low-income or elderly family
- Recruit blood donors by telephone

(DISPLAY POSTER ON REVERSE IN PROMINENT LOCATION.)

## Call the VFW for Help

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a multi-faceted organization with a rich tradition of community service. In fact, one of the four pillars of the VFW foundation commits members to "constructive community service." VFW, with tremendous help from its Ladies Auxiliary, has conducted numerous and significant volunteer programs since 1914. Some of the more recent are:

- 12.5 million volunteer hours worth more than \$179 million donated during VFW's 1999 program year;
- \$120,000 plus contributed to the March of Dimes in 1999 through the WalkAmerica program;
- Annual participation as a Connect America partner in National Volunteer Week;
- Commitment maker in America's Promise-The Alliance for Youth;
- Recognition as a major participant in USA Weekend and Points of Light Foundation sponsored Make a Difference Day;
- Providing volunteer workers at VA medical centers as a founding member of the 54-year-old Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service; and
- Active partner with FAMILY MATTERS.



**VFW**  
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

For more information call your local VFW Post Commander or Ladies Auxiliary President or call: Citizenship Education/Community Service Dept.

VFW National Headquarters

(816) 756-3390

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)



# NATIONAL FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAY

The Saturday before Thanksgiving

Call 1-800-VOLUNTEER  
(1-800-865-8683)

*Community*



POINTS  
OF LIGHT  
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*Togetherness*

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