

For Immediate Release  
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**The W.H.A.L.E.™ Program to Honors Volunteers with  
PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**  
*Award is a Prestigious National Honor for Volunteer Service*

**Lakewood, WA – The W.H.A.L.E.™ (We Have A Little Emergency) Program** today announced it will begin awarding the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**, a national honor offered in recognition of volunteer service.

Established in 2003, the **AWARD** is available on an annual basis to individuals, groups and families who have met or exceeded requirements for volunteer service and have demonstrated exemplary citizenship through volunteering. As one of thousands of Certifying Organizations participating in the **AWARD** program, The **W.H.A.L.E.™** Program confers the award to recognize the outstanding achievements of its volunteers.

The **W.H.A.L.E.™** Program has a long history of volunteer service, and more than 100 volunteers perform community service each year on behalf of the program in their local communities. The state of New York has the most registered programs with over 10 different programs to administer **W.H.A.L.E.™** Kits to their local respective community.

“In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush created the USA Freedom Corps, and called on every American to make a lifelong commitment to volunteer service. The **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD** recognizes individuals and families who have answered that call,” said Neal Therrien, Website Director, of The **W.H.A.L.E.™** Program.

“America's volunteers work to make our communities stronger and safer. As a Certifying Organization for the **AWARD** program, The **W.H.A.L.E.™** Program is proud to be aligned with this prestigious volunteer award, and we are especially proud of our volunteers who have made volunteer service a central part of their lives.”

The **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD** is an award for volunteer service that every American – from every age and every walk of life – can aspire to achieve. To be eligible to receive the **AWARD**, individuals, families and groups submit a record of their annual volunteer service hours to participating Certifying Organizations, such as The **W.H.A.L.E.™** Program, that will verify the service and deliver the **AWARD**. **AWARD** eligibility for individuals and groups is based on hour requirements varying by age.

“These recipients of the **PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD** are role models for all Americans,” Neal Therrien said. “Each volunteer hour contributed makes a difference in improving the quality of life for others, and I encourage everyone to contribute to our community by volunteering. Volunteers bring us closer together as families, as communities and as a Nation, through their commitment.”



The AWARD is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, a group created by President Bush to recognize the valuable contributions volunteers are making to our Nation. Chaired by two-time Super Bowl Champion Darrell Green, with former U.S. Senators Bob Dole and John Glenn as honorary co-chairs, the Council comprises leaders in government, media, entertainment, business, education, nonprofits and volunteer service organizations, and community volunteering.

For more information about volunteering with The W.H.A.L.E.™ Program, find us on the internet at [www.whaleprogram.org](http://www.whaleprogram.org) or e-mail us at [ntherrien@whaleprogram.org](mailto:ntherrien@whaleprogram.org).

Need W.H.A.L.E.™ Kits? You can find a free local resource on our website, or order kits directly from the website at: [www.whaleprogram.org/products.htm](http://www.whaleprogram.org/products.htm)

For more information about how to qualify for the PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD and to find out how to identify additional volunteer opportunities in this area, visit [www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov](http://www.PresidentialServiceAwards.gov) or call 1-866-545-5307.

