



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

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Governor Beebe Proclaims September Arkansas Volunteer Month

Month honors thousands of volunteers who help meet state's needs

Arkansas volunteers are being honored this fall as Governor Mike Beebe has proclaimed September "Arkansas Volunteer Month." During the month, hundreds of organizations throughout the state will give special recognition to their volunteers. This year, the theme "**Plant A Seed: VOLUNTEER**" has been adopted.

Sherry Middleton, director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support, explains, "Arkansas volunteers contribute abilities and resources to provide services and problem-solving skills to people and communities throughout the Natural State. These volunteers constitute Arkansas' most precious natural resource. It is the spirit of helping one another that we hope to promote, and it is those who have demonstrated this spirit that we hope to recognize during this month."

Thousands of people across the state donate millions of hours of time and resources annually to causes and projects that they care about and that help their communities. Volunteers are essential to many organizations and they fill valuable roles in many communities.

Each year DCSNS publishes the study "The Economic Impact of Arkansas Volunteers." The results of the most recent study show that 750 volunteer organizations reported a total of 16,506,316 hours of volunteer time for an estimated total dollar value of \$423,011,812. If the State of Arkansas paid for the time involved to provide the services donated by volunteers, an additional \$8,077,286,803 in personal income would have been required to generate that sum in general revenues.

The DHS Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support is the nation's oldest state office of volunteerism. This Division promotes and supports volunteerism in the private, nonprofit and government sectors, as a means of enhancing the quality of life for all Arkansans. For more information about Arkansas Volunteer Month, call DeKitra Ross-Larry at DHS DCSNS, 501-682-7540.

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