

PRESS RELEASE

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Free Statewide Database for Volunteering

YORK COUNTY, MAINE – The Volunteer Maine Partnership has created a free, state-wide, online database for volunteering. VolunteerMaine.org is a central place for non-profit organizations to list their volunteer needs and for potential volunteers to search the possibilities. “Maine people have an overwhelming sense of community and of helping those in need,” says Governor Baldacci. “We want to make it easy for people to act upon that desire to help.” Maine is one of the few, if not the first, to launch a statewide volunteering database.

The program was developed by the VolunteerMaine Partnership which includes the ten United Ways of Maine, the Maine Commission for Community Service, the Maine Emergency Management Agency, Volunteer Organizations Active In Disaster and WCSH6/WLBZ2. “Bringing the resources of all of these organizations together will ensure the success of this program,” notes Maryalice Crofton, Director of the Maine Commission for Community Service. “Our next endeavor is to expand the site to meet the needs of emergency agencies during a disaster.”

Brian Gallagher, President and CEO of United Way of America is enthusiastic about Maine’s innovative, new program. “As evident by the recent events in the Gulf Coast region, it is imperative that systems and structures be in place to assistance residents when needed. I applaud the VolunteerMaine Partnership’s proactive stance in this important matter.”

Volunteers are necessary for most non-profit organizations to stay in business. According to the Independent Sector's 2001 Giving and Volunteering Survey, 83.9 million American adults over age 21 volunteered 3.6 hours per week in 2000, which was the equivalent of over 9 million full-time employees at a total assigned dollar value of \$239 billion.

For more information, visit www.volunteermaine.org or contact your local United Way.

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