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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA CALLS ON AMERICA'S NURSES TO VOLUNTEER DURING FINAL WEEKS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S "SUMMER OF SERVICE"

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association, which represents the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses, is urging nurses to support President Obama's "United We Serve" initiative, a campaign that calls on all Americans to participate in our nation's recovery and renewal by volunteering in their communities during the summer months. ANA plans to highlight nurses' volunteer projects and success stories on its web site when the United We Serve effort culminates with a National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11, 2009. The culmination will provide an opportunity to recognize the summer's accomplishments, honor those who died on 9/11, and encourage Americans to make an ongoing commitment to service.

When the campaign was launched earlier this summer, ANA issued a [call to action](#) to U.S. nurses to join national disaster relief registries to provide on-site care during catastrophic events.

"Nurses play a critical role in promoting health and wellness in the nation's health care system. During these stressful economic times, now more than ever it is important that nurses take a leadership role and encourage Americans to take measures to protect their health and well-being," said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. "Nurses have a long, proud history of volunteering, and ANA hopes nurses have been inspired to reach out in their communities and participate in this important initiative. We also call on nurses to tell us their stories of service, and how they've bettered their communities through volunteering this summer."

MORE...

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Local volunteer opportunities can be found on www.serve.gov by simply entering your zip code. Nurses may also post their own community service volunteer projects on the site. ANA wants to hear from nurses about their involvement in the United We Serve effort -- if you would like to share your stories of volunteer activities from this summer, please e-mail serve@ana.org.

ANA also encourages nurses to spread the word about the President's United We Serve initiative by:

- Sharing information about United We Serve, including a [link to the President's video](#), via e-mail distribution lists and newsletters;
- Adding a web link to Serve.gov, making it easier for nurses to sign up – banners and logos are available at <http://www.serve.gov/link.asp>;
- Issuing a press release about your participation in United We Serve – a sample release is available at http://www.serve.gov/assets/documents/09_0616_sample_release.doc.
- Sharing stories about how nurses are making a difference at <http://www.serve.gov/share.asp>. United We Serve will be highlighting examples of exemplary service when the campaign ends on September 11.

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The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 51 constituent member nurses associations and its 24 specialty nursing and workforce advocacy affiliate organizations that currently connect to ANA as affiliates. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.