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NEWS RELEASE



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**AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATES IN FIRST OFFICIAL
SEPTEMBER 11 NATIONAL ‘DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE’**

SILVER SPRING, MD – In honor of the nation’s first *September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance*, the American Nurses Association (ANA) is hosting a week-long food drive at its corporate headquarters in downtown Silver Spring. All donations will benefit the Manna Food Center, a local food bank that feeds more than 3,000 hungry families in Montgomery County, Md., each month. Half of the people Manna serves are children.

The *September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance* is a federally observed day established by President Obama and Congress to honor the memories of the heroes of September 11 and encourage more Americans to serve their communities. Each year on September 11, Americans are encouraged to voluntarily perform at least one good deed, or another community service activity.

“Today represents an opportunity to reflect on the tragic events that took place eight years ago, and ANA is proud to make a positive contribution to our community through a food drive at our national headquarters,” said ANA CEO Marla J. Weston, RN, PhD. “I encourage all nurses to spend this national day of service and remembrance making a difference in their communities, in honor of those lost on September 11.”

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September 11, 2009 also marks the end of the summer phase of President Obama's "United We Serve" initiative and its transition to a long-term, sustained effort. Earlier this summer, President Obama called on all Americans to play an active role in the nation's economic recovery by volunteering in service projects at this critical time in our nation's history, when help is needed and resources are stretched thin.

For more information about community service opportunities, visit Serve.gov.

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The 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.

