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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## United We Serve Alexandria

The Big Event--One Big Day, One Big Thanks

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ALEXANDRIA, Va. (July 31, 2009) – Volunteer Alexandria will host its third annual youth service day, The Big Event, on Saturday, September 12 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. as a culminating event to President Obama's United We Serve campaign. Registration is open for youth volunteers until September 1 and team leaders (adults who manage a group of teens) until August 12. To register, visit [www.bigevent.eventbrite.com](http://www.bigevent.eventbrite.com).

Alexandria's Big Event allows youth volunteers, between 13 and 19 years old, to give "one big thanks" during "one big day" of community service. Volunteer Alexandria works with nonprofits, local businesses and corporate sponsors to make The Big Event possible. Projects include, but are not limited to painting offices, gardening, cleaning storage spaces and sorting donations.

"I loved helping make a part of the community beautiful, again," said Sarah Milam, a youth volunteer at the 2008 Big Event. "Helping people and knowing I made a difference was the most positive aspect of my experience."

This is first year Volunteer Alexandria is utilizing a youth planning committee to help plan The Big Event. Ten teenagers meet every week with Volunteer Alexandria staff to plan projects, coordinate outreach and ultimately make The Big Event possible. Volunteer Alexandria hopes to send out more than 120 volunteers to over 20 nonprofits in the Alexandria area.

Volunteer Alexandria is still looking for youth-friendly nonprofit projects. Their two signature projects are a bike drive for Bikes for the World and senior citizen emergency kits for ALIVE! and the Medical Reserve Corp.

Volunteer Alexandria is a nonprofit volunteer center that dedicated to building a better community by inspiring and mobilizing people to volunteer. Volunteer Alexandria has placed volunteers in more than 500 nonprofits and government organizations in the Alexandria community. For more information, please visit [www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org) or call (703) 836-2176.

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