



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 19, 2009

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HANDS ON CENTRAL TEXAS AWARDED GRANT TO ACCELERATE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AUSTIN, Texas – United Way Capital Area’s (UWCA) community engagement program Hands On Central Texas (HOCT), announced it has been awarded a three year grant valued at \$82,497 per year, for a total of \$247,491.

The grant, awarded after a comprehensive review process by the Hands On Network and The Corporation for National and Community Service, will allow UWCA and HOCT to increase volunteer engagement and build the capacity of the community to create change.

The programs and projects made possible by the grant, will increase the number of volunteer opportunities & projects, equip volunteers with insights into social issues, while also providing the necessary training and skills to create community change.

Armando Rayo, Director of HOCT said “this award will allow us to increase the momentum around creating real community engagement and change. We will be able to continue to innovate, educate, inspire and engage more people. Develop more volunteer leaders from within different communities and provide real solutions that ultimately help more Central Texans have the opportunity to succeed in life.”

The projects and programs will focus mainly on creating change in any or all of the following areas, education, financial stability, health and the environment. They include;

- Days of Service – large volunteer impact days
- Volunteer Project Leader Training – equipping volunteers to organize and lead neighborhood projects
- Hands On Innovation Workshops - workshops and classes about new trends and techniques that accelerate social change
- Skills-based Volunteer Program – match volunteers to opportunities based on specific skills & interests
- Live United Film Series – increase awareness and understanding of social issues via film (documentaries) followed by community discussion
- Natural Leaders – environmentally focused education and volunteer project skill development training
- Culture Connections – engaging and equipping low-income & communities of color to create change in their communities.

About Hands On Central Texas

Hands On Central Texas, a program of United Way Capital Area strengthens communities through meaningful volunteer action.

We envision a world where all individuals discover their power to make a difference and are equipped as active, engaged citizens.

Hands On Central Texas is a member of the [Hands On Network](#), whose mission is to inspire, equip, and mobilize people to take action that changes the world. At the center of the network are more than 250 affiliates, called HandsOn Action Centers that serve 83% of the American population and located 12 international communities. The vast majority of Points Of Light Institute's work and activity happens through HandsOn Network's Action Centers and its expanded network of hundreds of nonprofit, community and faith-based and government organizations. HandsOn Network. Generated by Points of Light Institute.

About United Way Capital Area

United Way Capital Area (UWCA) is working to advance the common good by focusing on the building blocks of a better life, education, financial stability and health. UWCA aims to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. Our vision in Central Texas is a caring community where the opportunity to fulfill human potential is always within reach.

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