

January Facts of the Day 2014



**DEFENSE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE
DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES**

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Date	Fact	Source
1	Why volunteer? Part of being a great volunteer is loving what you're doing. Find something that you're passionate about or something that inspires you, and then find a need in your community. There are dozens of reasons that you should volunteer—you just need to find the one that feels right.	http://www.volunteermatch.org/
2	United We Serve has volunteer opportunities with the Veterans Administration Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN)! VTN was established to provide transportation for veterans seeking services from a VA facility. If you would like further information regarding the Volunteer Transportation Network, you can complete and submit the form on the "Volunteer" or "Donate" page. Someone from the local Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) office will contact you with further information.	http://www.va.gov/
3	Help us spread the word about United We Serve and volunteer opportunities with the Veterans Administration Welcome Home Celebrations! The VA sponsors welcome home events around the country for returning military service members and their families. The events provide important information and guidance on accessing health care and other benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Contact your local VA Voluntary Service office for more information.	http://www.volunteer.va.gov/
4	Over 140,000 volunteers gave more than 11 million hours in service to America's veterans in 2012. It is impossible to calculate the amount of caring and sharing these Veterans Administration Volunteer Service (VAVS) volunteers provided to veteran patients. VAVS volunteers are a priceless asset to the nation's veterans and to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our veterans put everything on the line to protect our freedom. We may never be able to repay them for their sacrifice, but we can show them how much we appreciate all they've done. Everyone can do something to show veterans we appreciate their service. What will you do?	http://www.volunteer.va.gov/
5	Did you know that President John F. Kennedy came up with the idea for Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)? VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 45 years. Today, VISTA is larger, stronger, and more vital than it has ever been. Its 8,000 members—who serve at 1,100 projects nationwide—continue to address the root causes of poverty. They are developing new programs, raising funds, helping manage projects, and building the capacity of nonprofit organizations to become sustainable and of families to break the cycle of poverty.	http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/amicorps/amicorps-vista
6	Since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps by executive order on March 1, 1961, more than 210,000 Americans have served in 139 host countries. Today, 8,073 volunteers are working with local communities in 76 host countries in agriculture, community economic development, education, environment, health, and youth in development. The Peace Corps' mission is to promote world peace as well as friendship and a better understanding between Americans and people of other countries.	http://www.peacecorps.gov/

7	<p>Every two seconds, someone needs blood, and 41,000 blood donations are needed every day. An estimated 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, yet less than 10 percent actually do each year. A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 pints of blood. The American Red Cross provides about 40 percent of the nation's blood supply and makes it available to any patient who needs it. One donation can help save the lives of up to three people.</p>	<p>http://www.redcross.org/</p>
8	<p>Senior Corps connects people 55 and older with service organizations, helping them become mentors, coaches, or companions to people in need, or contribute their job skills and expertise to community projects and organizations. Conceived during JFK's presidency, Senior Corps currently links more than 360,000 Americans to service opportunities. Their contributions of skills, knowledge, and experience make a real difference to individuals, nonprofits, and faith-based and other community organizations throughout the United States.</p>	<p>http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps</p>
9	<p>Each day, hunger is experienced in every community across this country. In fact, the Feeding America network feeds over 37 million people each year, a 46 percent increase since 2006. Through local and national food assistance programs, Feeding America provides nutritious fresh foods to Americans struggling with hunger, safe and nurturing places for children to have a meal, emergency assistance for disaster victims, and a chance at self-sufficiency for adults trying to break the cycle of poverty and hunger. Ending hunger in America depends on the volunteer work of millions of Americans who know they can make a difference.</p>	<p>http://feedingamerica.org/get-involved/volunteer.aspx</p>
10	<p>Volunteers are the backbone of the Special Olympics. They are coaches, trainers, officials, event organizers, fundraisers, and managers. They can also be unified partners, playing alongside athletes with intellectual disabilities, or fans cheering in the stands. The Special Olympics would not exist today—and could not have been created—without the time, energy, commitment, and enthusiasm of thousands of individuals who choose to take a little time from their busy schedules to make the world a better place.</p>	<p>http://www.specialolympics.org/</p>
11	<p>"My fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." —John F. Kennedy</p>	<p>http://www.jfklibrary.org/</p>
12	<p>Community service and volunteerism have always been a vital force in American life. Throughout history, our nation has relied on the dedication and action of citizens to tackle our biggest challenges.</p>	<p>http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/amicorps/amicorps-vista/vista-history</p>
13	<p>Help us spread the word about United We Serve and volunteer opportunities with the Veterans Administration Homeless Veterans Program! The VA offers a wide array of special programs and initiatives specifically designed to help homeless veterans live as self-sufficiently and independently as possible. In fact, the VA is the only federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to homeless persons. Although limited to veterans and their dependents, the VA's major homeless-specific programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless treatment and assistance services in the country.</p>	<p>http://www.va.gov/</p>

14	In January 1986, Mrs. Coretta Scott King oversaw the first legal holiday in honor of her late husband. The Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday has come to be celebrated by millions of people in over 100 countries.	http://www.thekingcenter.org/
15	Born January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. His leadership was fundamental to the movement's success in ending the legal segregation of African Americans in the South and other parts of the United States.	http://www.thekingcenter.org/
16	After a long struggle, legislation was signed in 1983 creating a federal holiday marking the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Federal Holiday as a national day of service. Each year on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service calls for Americans to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems by empowering individuals, strengthening communities, bridging barriers, creating solutions to social problems, and moving us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "beloved community."	www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/01/20030115-11.html
17	Easter Seals has been helping individuals with disabilities and special needs, and their families, live better lives for nearly 100 years. From child development centers to physical rehabilitation and job training for people with disabilities, Easter Seals offers a variety of services to help people with disabilities address life's challenges and achieve personal goals. At the core of the Easter Seals organization is a passion for caring, shared by its 23,000 staff members and thousands of volunteers. Founder Edgar Allen said, "Your life and mine should be valued not by what we take...but by what we give."	http://www.easterseals.com/
18	Why serve on MLK Day of Service? Dr. King believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all, and he encouraged all citizens to live up to the purpose and potential of America by applying the principles of nonviolence to make this country a better place to live—creating the "beloved community."	http://www.thekingcenter.org/
19	Established in 1993, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is a federal agency that engages more than 5 million Americans in service through its core programs—Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and the Social Innovation Fund—and leads the national call to service initiative, United We Serve. CNCS plays a critical role in strengthening America's nonprofit sector and addressing our nation's challenges through service by harnessing America's most powerful resource—the energy and talents of our citizens—to solve problems, believing that everyone can make a difference.	http://www.nationalservice.gov/
20	The MLK Day of Service empowers individuals, strengthens communities, bridges barriers, creates solutions to social problems, and moves us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "beloved community." On this day, Americans of every age and background celebrate Dr. King through service projects. "The time is always right to do what is right." —Martin Luther King, Jr.	http://www.thekingcenter.org/

21	<p>It took 15 years to create the federal Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Congressman John Conyers first introduced legislation for a commemorative holiday four days after Dr. King was assassinated in 1968. After the bill stalled, petitions endorsing the holiday containing six million names were submitted to Congress. Public pressure for the holiday mounted during the 1982 and 1983 civil rights marches in Washington. Congress passed the holiday legislation in 1983, and it was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.</p>	<p>http://www.archives.gov/eo/special-observances/#jan</p>
22	<p>For the 2012 MLK Day of Service, 1.3 million hours of service were pledged by volunteers across the country; 194,875 pounds of food were served or donated; 86,605 individuals received emergency food from nonprofit organizations; 43,103 individuals received support, services, education, and/or referrals to alleviate long-term hunger; 9,315 economically disadvantaged individuals received literacy services; 9,272 individuals received services in disaster preparedness; and 10,103 veterans and military family members engaged in service opportunities as a National Service participant or volunteer.</p>	<p>http://mlkday.gov/about/overview2012.php</p>
23	<p>As one of the nation's premier humanitarian organizations, the American Red Cross is dedicated to helping people in need throughout the United States and the world. The Red Cross depends on contributions of time, blood, and money from the American public to support lifesaving services and programs. Today, the supporters, volunteers, and employees of the American Red Cross provide care in five critical areas: People affected by disasters in America; support for members of the military and their families; blood collection, processing, and distribution; health and safety education and training; and international relief and development.</p>	<p>http://www.redcross.org/</p>
24	<p>For over a century, Big Brothers Big Sisters has been helping children reach their potential. It began in 1904, when a New York City court clerk named Ernest Coulter saw the number of boys coming through the legal system. He recognized that caring adults could help them stay out of trouble, and he began recruiting volunteers. Around the same time, Ladies of Charity members were befriending girls coming through the court system. In 1977, they joined forces and became Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Today, Big Brothers Big Sisters remains committed to bringing role models into the lives of children and operates in all 50 states and in 12 countries around the world.</p>	<p>http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.9iILI3NGKhK6F/b.5962335/k.BE16/Home.htm</p>
25	<p>AmeriCorps engages more than 80,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Since the program's founding in 1994, more than 800,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1 billion hours in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing millions of volunteers for the organizations they serve.</p>	<p>http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ Americorps</p>
26	<p>Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) was founded on the premise that one person can make a difference in the life of one child and one community. RIF is a literacy resource, providing motivational activities and expertise to children in a variety of settings—from schools to libraries to daycare centers. The success of the program depends on volunteers—people who want to connect with children one-on-one and join with parents and educators to build a nation of readers. RIF has 400,000 dedicated volunteers supporting its mission nationwide.</p>	<p>http://www.rif.org/us/get-involved/volunteer.htm</p>

27	<p>More than 40 years after his death, Dr. King’s example can continue to guide us in addressing our most critical issues. Each of us can contribute to strengthening our own communities by serving in Dr. King’s honor, not only on the MLK holiday, but throughout the year. By making service part of our daily lives, together, we can create and sustain opportunities for Americans to strengthen their own and others' economic opportunity, ensure that more young people graduate from high school, support our military families and veterans, and help communities prepare for and recover from disaster.</p>	<p>http://www.thekingcenter.org/</p>
28	<p>The United States Coast Guard was established on this day in 1915. Today’s U.S. Coast Guard has nearly 42,000 men and women on active duty, 7,000 reserve military, and 7,800 civilian (civil service) employees. Additionally, approximately 30,000 civilians volunteer in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The United States Coast Guard is a unique force that carries out an array of civil and military responsibilities touching almost every facet of the U.S. maritime environment.</p>	<p>http://www.uscg.mil/top/about/</p>
29	<p>According to a 2011 Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Housing and Urban Development survey, 67,495 veterans are homeless on any given night. Today, the number of homeless Vietnam veterans is greater than the number of service members who died during that war, and veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan are appearing among the homeless population. One phone call can make a difference in the life of a veteran who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Call 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838) to be connected 24/7 with the VA's services to overcome or prevent homelessness for yourself or a veteran you know.</p>	<p>http://www.va.gov/budget/docs/report/2012-VAPAR_FullWeb.pdf</p>
30	<p>The volunteer rates for both men and women—23.2 and 29.5 percent, respectively—changed little in the year ending in September 2012. Women continued to volunteer at a higher rate than did men across all age groups, educational levels, and other major demographic characteristics. By age, 35- to 44-year-olds were most likely to volunteer, at 31.6 percent. Volunteer rates were lowest among 20- to 24-year-olds, with 18.9 percent. For persons 45 and over, the volunteer rate tapered off as age increased. Teens aged 16 to 19 had a volunteer rate of 27.4 percent.</p>	<p>http://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm</p>
31	<p>"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" —Martin Luther King, Jr.</p>	<p>http://www.thekingcenter.org/</p>