

PRESS RELEASE

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February 2007

Community Unites for Annual 'Make a Difference Tallahassee' Event

WHO: Community and Campus Volunteers
WHAT: Make a Difference Tallahassee 2006
WHEN: Feb. 17th 10am-6pm, register by Feb. 15th at
www.volunteerLEON.org/madt

WHERE: Lincoln Neighborhood Community Center

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. Saturday, February 17, 2007 will mark the sixth consecutive year that the Tallahassee community comes together to celebrate Make a Difference Tallahassee, a large-scale day of service uniting Tallahassee residents and college students. The one-day, large-scale event is designed to improve our community and help neighbors in need by connecting citizens to the world of volunteerism.

"Make a Difference Tallahassee 2007" will kick off on **Saturday, Feb.17 at 10 a.m.** at the Lincoln Neighborhood Community Center, located at the corner of Macomb and Brevard Streets. The participants will choose from several local non-profit agencies that address community issues including animal services, children and youth, disaster services, elder care services, health services, and hunger and homelessness. Lunch will be provided to the volunteers before they go serve. They will spend the afternoon volunteering with the agency of their choice. Volunteers will return to Lincoln Neighborhood Community Center for reflection, recognition and celebration. This provides volunteers the opportunity to share their experiences with the group and expose others to the numerous service opportunities available. Reflection also allows volunteers to recognize the connection between their community service and large-scale social issues.

"One of Tallahassee's great strengths is our sense of community and the fact that we all care about one another," This event brings together so many different people it adds even more to the volunteer and service experience," Heather Skojec, Co-Chair of "Make a Difference Tallahassee 2007," said. "Volunteers get a "snapshot" of a community issue they are most passionate about and how they can help out. This often motivates volunteers to serve with these agencies on a more regular basis, and not for simply a one-day experience."

"Make a Difference Tallahassee" is modeled after "Make a Difference Day," a national day of service created by USA Weekend Magazine as a means for neighbors to help neighbors. 2007 marks the sixth consecutive year the Leon County community has come together to celebrate "Make a Difference Tallahassee". This year's event is expected to attract more than 300 local volunteers and more than 20 nonprofit agencies.

The event is organized by the Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, the City of Tallahassee, Florida A & M University, Florida State University, Keiser University, Tallahassee Community College, United Partners for Human Services, and VolunteerLEON. Event organizers hope that participants will leave the event as more conscientious community members who will make service an ongoing part of their daily lives.

Participants must pre-register online at www.volunteerleon.org/madt by February 15, 2006.

For more information on the event and how to register, contact Heather Skojec at the Center for Civic Education and Service at FSU, 850-644-3342 or hskojec@admin.fsu.edu; or Jeri Bush at VolunteerLEON, 850-606-1970 or jerib@mail.co.leon.fl.us.

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