



West Virginia Business Volunteer Council
710 Central Avenue • Charleston, W.Va. 25302 • (800) WV-HELPS
www.volunteerwv.org

2009

**Steering
Committee**

Co-Chairs:

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Verizon

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*West Virginia Chamber of
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Tom Tinder
*West Virginia Bar
Foundation*

Mary Williams
St. Francis Hospital

August 10, 2009

Dear Friends of Volunteerism,

As the country faces serious economic challenges, many community organizations and nonprofits are relying more heavily on volunteers than ever before. Volunteers are often vital to the survival of these organizations and nonprofits around West Virginia. Organizations like yours are also recognizing the importance of corporate community involvement which goes much deeper than financial contributions within the community. This kind of involvement is “people power” involvement through volunteerism.

Through the new “United We Serve” initiative the federal government is encouraging volunteerism and civic engagement throughout the nation. September 11th has been declared a national day of service by the Obama administration. Individuals, private sector businesses, labor and nonprofit organizations, as well as business and professional associations are encouraged to participate.

Make a difference in your community by participating in West Virginia’s statewide canned food drive. September is Hunger Action Month, which is a nationwide effort to mobilize people to get involved in ending hunger in America. According to *Bread for the World’s* hunger statistics, “35.5 million people—including 12.6 million children—live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. This represents more than one in ten households in the United States (10.9 percent).”

Participating communities will deliver food to drop off locations on September 11, 2009. The West Virginia Business Volunteer Council along with Huntington Area Food Bank and Mountaineer Food Bank will gather the food and distribute it to needy families statewide. Multiple sites, including Wal-Mart, Kroger, Weis Markets and AT&T stores, will serve as collection points. For a full list of drop off locations, visit www.volunteerwv.org.

The West Virginia Business Volunteer Council (BVC), a program of Volunteer West Virginia, is a statewide initiative open to all private sector businesses, labor organizations, nonprofit organizations, as well as business and professional associations. The BVC is the way for the private sector to join government and non-profits in building a better West Virginia through volunteer service. The BVC is a primary resource for encouraging, educating, and connecting businesses that support employee volunteer programs as a business strategy.

I am writing as a co-chair of the Steering Committee for the BVC to encourage your organization to participate in West Virginia's statewide food drive on September 11, 2009.

Let's volunteer, West Virginia, because we're all in the business of caring. We look forward to being a resource for your volunteer efforts in 2009!

For more information or to join the BVC; please contact Emily Schoen at (304) 558-0111, (800) WV-HELPS or emily.r.schoen@wv.gov, or visit www.volunteerwv.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sam Cipoletti". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sam Cipoletti

Government Relations Director, Verizon West Virginia
Co-Chair, West Virginia Business Volunteer Council