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State of Service Report: Executive Summary

Minnesota Office on Volunteer Services

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**State of Service Report
Executive Summary**

**Governor's Advisory Task Force on
Mentoring and Community Service
Executive Order 92-2**

**Report to the Governor and Legislature
in Response to 1992 Omnibus Crime Bill
(HF 1849 and SF 1687)**

**Minnesota Office on Volunteer Services
Department of Administration**

March, 1993

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"I don't know what your destiny will be, but the one thing I know; the only ones among you will really be happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." – Albert Schweitzer

INTRODUCTION

Since the mid-1980's Minnesota has articulated a comprehensive vision for youth service which calls for the integration of service into the full spectrum of a person's life. Organizations reaching K-12 young people, college students, adult volunteers, and full- and part-time service volunteers in the Minnesota Conservation Corps and other programs would provide service opportunities at every age level for every Minnesotan. We continue to advance toward that vision with important achievements outlined in this report.

In 1992 Minnesota influenced youth service policy in other states and on the national level as well. We hosted a regional hearing December 14, 1992 at Minneapolis North High School for the Commission on National and Community Service (CNCS) and the Clinton Transition Team which focused on creating a vision for a new National Service program. Minnesotans of all ages and backgrounds came forward to share their experiences and testify in support of youth service.

A key to the future of this burgeoning movement in Minnesota is the establishment of a leadership hub within state government comparable to offices established in other states (i.e PennServe, SerVermont). State of Minnesota authority is needed if the full potential for youth service and mentoring is to be realized. For the past three years the Minnesota Office on Volunteer Services has served in this role, but now with rapid expansion of youth service programs possible thanks to existing and potential federal funding it can no longer carry this responsibility. The Department of Education has volunteered to staff the Governor's Task Force, help establish and house a MN'Serve department that would coordinate K-12, college and the newly proposed Youth Works program and similar state youth service models. (*See Appendix A*) The Task Force strongly endorses this transition and looks forward to a revitalized new chapter in the advance toward full implementation of a comprehensive state service model.

SUMMARY OF GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY TASK FORCE ON MENTORING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS

As mentioned in the introduction, the future of youth service and mentoring in Minnesota depends on the creation of a reinforced leadership hub within State Government that will coordinate existing state programs, monitor federal funds and staff the Governor's Task Force. Our general recommendation is that the Governor and Legislature act together to create a Minnesota Service Office (Minnesotan's Serve — MN'Serve) within the current Department of Education or future Department of Children and Education Services. Other recommendations are summarized below. (*See Appendix B for complete recommendations*)

Issue #1

Comprehensive State Plan

All youth should have access to mentors and the opportunity for meaningful service-learning experiences.

- Create an infrastructure enabling all youth to: have the opportunity to participate in community service, have a meaningful service-learning experience, provide service which is of mutual benefit to young people and communities, have access to a mentor is necessary to ensure that the needs of youth are met.
- Add the two recommended milestones to *Minnesota Milestones*, a long-range plan based on Minnesota's vision for the state and a series of goals against which progress can be measured:
 - "all youth have the opportunity to participate in community service throughout their growing up experience"
 - "all children will have access to a mentor who encourages and guides their personal growth and development."

Issue #2

Teacher Training

Ensure that graduates are capable of implementing service-learning methods of instruction as part of every grade and discipline they are qualified to teach by December 31, 1994.

- Teacher training institutions must report their approach and the results of teacher preparation for service-learning to public System Offices, the Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board of Teaching.
- Request monies for networking, training, capacity building and evaluation activities, to be administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Education.

Issue #3

Integration into Higher Education Institutions

All higher education institutions will encourage integration of service-learning into collegiate courses and curriculum.

- Involve young people in projects that encourage interaction with people from socio-economic and cultural backgrounds which are different from their own.
- Funding for mini-grants, training, technical assistance and evaluation related to collegiate curriculum in service-learning is requested to be administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Issue #4

Increase Capacity in K-12 Schools

Increase the capacity for school-based and community-based service-learning.

- Increase the youth service levy aid from \$.85 to \$1.00 per capita. Annually review each school districts youth development/youth service program to access the additional \$.15.
- Establish staff positions for capacity building for school-based service-learning and to assist community agencies to support youth involved in community service.

- Establish a public/private matching grant program for local organizations to prepare them for involving youth in community service and to be designated for youth service entrepreneurial initiatives.

Issue #5

Build Capacity for Mentoring Statewide

Initiate a state focus on mentoring through personal example, a challenge to state agencies and the development of policies to support involvement of state employees as mentors to children and youth.

- Build capacity for mentoring statewide by funding a part-time staff person in the Minnesota Office on Volunteer Services or other appropriate agency to develop and support the Minnesota Mentoring Network.
- Expand the existing database on people involved in mentoring in schools, agencies and nonprofit organizations through surveys, hearings and focus groups.

Issue #6

Full and Part-Time Service Corps

Full and Part-Time Service Corps should be implemented which are geared toward the "forgotten half" including individuals who are undereducated and underemployed.

- Identify grant recipients in urban and rural areas.
- Develop a program involving at least 100 participants.
- Seek "non-State" funding match to cover costs above the state appropriation for the service corps.
- Incorporate the "Principles of Best Practices" developed by Youth Service America's Working Group on Youth Policy.

BACKGROUND: MENTORING AND YOUTH SERVICE

Mentoring programs match caring, responsible individuals with youth to encourage and guide their personal growth and development.

Mentoring is a cost-effective way to make a difference in the lives of young people. Studies show young peoples' ability to succeed depends greatly on the absence or presence of adults who help them establish values, build confidence and inspire effort. Yet the increase in one-parent families and two-parent working families, the breakup of the extended family and other factors have left many young people without access to caring, mature adults who are able and willing to play that role. The Minnesota Mentor Network funded by Lutheran Brotherhood and others evolved from a 1991 recommendation by Minnesota's Blue Ribbon Committee on Mentoring and Community Service. The Network partners are working with the Governor's Advisory Task Force on Mentoring and Community Service, as well as existing and new organizations, addressing mentor-related issues and needs. The goal of the Minnesota Mentor Network is to expand the quantity and enhance the quality of mentor opportunities in Minnesota by providing a coordinated statewide system for recruitment of mentors, encouraging networking among mentor program leaders to share ideas, experiences and resources, and promoting quality guidelines for mentor programs.

Youth community service involves efforts by young people to make significant contributions to the welfare of the community. Youth community service takes place through a variety of organizations such as: schools, colleges, government agencies, community based organizations or through individual initiatives.

Young people of all ages are working to build a better Minnesota. On October 7, 1992, students from the Ojibwe School on the Fond Du Lac Reservation participated in St. Louis River Watch water quality monitoring activities. Students conducted water chemistry tests and surveyed the benthic macroinvertebrate community. A core group of students has been identified to develop the sediment testing center. In Minneapolis, the Students Reaching Out Program at Anwatin Middle School has 13 students with disabilities tutoring three to eight year olds with disabilities. In Rochester, seven Youth Service Leadership Action Teams for 7th and 8th graders at two junior highs are involved in service-learning projects which address community needs related to poverty. In St. Paul, the Hmong American Partnership, Hmong Youth Pride has 13 Hmong students from Central and Como High Schools participating as mentors for fourth to eighth graders enrolled in Hmong Youth Pride, a drug and crime prevention program serving Hmong children living in St. Paul public housing. Much of this creative service-learning programming can be attributed to the \$3.5 million available to schools through the community education levy. (See Appendix C)

Both mentoring and youth service provide a unique opportunity for youth to develop leadership, achieve academically, bolster self-esteem, and build a commitment to serving others, thus building better communities and a better Minnesota.

1992 BENCHMARKS OF ACHIEVEMENT IN MENTORING AND YOUTH SERVICE

Minnesota Designated "Leader State" by Commission on National and Community Service, STATE RECEIVED FUNDING FROM COMMISSION IN THREE AREAS

Minnesota's vision and long term commitment to youth service played a key role in securing federal dollars to support activities in this state. Minnesota received resources in two of the four available funding slots, K-12 and Higher Education. Minnesota was also selected as one of eight "leader states." An honor which includes additional funding to assist other states in the areas of evaluation, self-evaluation, curriculum development, and the establishment of academic standards.

The breakdown of funding is as follows:

- \$235,942 for ServeAmerica (K-12 Programs)
- \$150,000 for Higher Education collaboration
- \$245,000 as "leader state" funding

As a result of this funding package, Minnesota has been able to fund 23 K-12 programs. Of the 23 grantees, nine are in urban areas - eight in Minneapolis and St. Paul and one in Rochester; nine are in greater Minnesota which includes rural areas and small towns and an Indian reservation; five are in the Twin Cities suburban area. The state has also

established a higher education collaboration effort with a focus on incorporating service-learning principles into teacher education.

Minnesota is unique in the nation because of our comprehensive plan for mentoring and community service and the extent to which development has taken place in these areas over the past several years. U. S. Senators Paul Wellstone and David Durenberger and the National Youth Leadership Council have been working with the Clinton Administration since the November election to develop the proposal for a national service program. Advocating for the use of existing infrastructures and exemplary program models, Minnesota is once again in position to compete for additional federal resources and to have a part in shaping our nation's future for young people and youth service.

Proposed Minnesota "Youth Works" Legislation to Create a Minnesota Version of the Peace Corps and Expand Opportunities for Existing Youth Service Programs

This bill, introduced in the House of Representatives in January by Representative Andy Dawkins (DFL), and cosponsored by Representatives Kathleen Blatz (IR), Roger Cooper (DFL), Howard Orenstein (DFL), and Wayne Simoneau (DFL), and introduced in the Senate by Senators John Marty (DFL), Ellen Anderson (DFL), Tracy Beckman (DFL) and Linda Runbeck (IR) links youth to community service, community service to education, and education to the business community. The authors of the bill ask the state of Minnesota to stop planning for children's failure and start investing in our children's success. "Minnesota Youth Works has been called a lot of things - a workfare program or a modern day Civilian Conservation Corps, for example," said Representative Dawkins, the bill's chief author. "But I like to call it a Minnesota version of the Peace Corps, with G.I. Bill benefits."

Minnesota Youth Works will:

- Use young people as resources to solve problems at the local level
- Guarantee education and job training
- Promote safer communities and a better-trained workforce

While the focus of the legislation is the youth service corps, other components of the bill include:

- Work-based learning program
- Career exploration at the elementary school level
- Increase in the youth service revenue for school districts from \$.85 to \$1.00
- Consortium of higher education institutions

A press conference, organized by high school students from across the state, was held on January 25, 1993 to introduce the bill. Young people have been involved with this legislation from the very beginning, helping to shape the vision of the Youth Works bill. A group of students from North High School in Minneapolis receive the credit for the "Youth Works" name. A unique "lobbying team" of high school and college students have agreed to answer questions, talk to the media, and to contact legislators asking for support of the bill.

The bill has been endorsed by many groups including the Inner City Youth League and the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce. It has high potential as a model for the new Clinton National Service proposals and received solid support from the Governor's Task Force.

Efforts of both young people and legislators will culminate April 17, 1993 at a noon rally on the steps of the State Capitol. (See Appendix E)

Model Learner Outcomes

The document Model Learner Outcomes for Youth Community Service was published by the Department of Education in November, 1992. It was written by a team of young people and adults and outlines learner outcomes based on end results of actual life experiences gained through service opportunities. Included in the 120 page publication are values, philosophies, and goals for education in the State of Minnesota, descriptions of the model learner outcomes, examples of model programs which integrate service-learning into the curriculum, and a new paradigm of youth which insists that young people have significant contributions to make to the community, and should be viewed as our nation's most valuable resource.

K - 12 Service Learning

There has been a noticeable increase in the number of school districts offering a specific "Youth Service" class for credit on the high school level during the past three years. In 1992, 325 of 399 districts offered programs in youth service with funding through community education. The number of youth participating in community service increased by 40,000 over 1991; over 97,000 young people are now involved in school-based youth service programs under state legislation. Over 3,000 youth are involved in service-learning through the federal ServeAmerica program, bringing the state total of Minnesota youth involved to over 100,000. At the senior high level, 148 districts reported that they are offering credit for youth service and service-learning. This compares with 112 districts in 1990-1991, and 49 districts in 1989-1990 as the materials describing the program have been distributed widely. In 1992, CNCS awarded Minnesota a \$235,942 ServeAmerica grant which was used to strengthen 23 K-12 programs across the state. (See Appendix G)

Minnesota Conservation Corps

During 1992, the MCC's Serve-Earn-Learn program, devoted to natural resource conservation and youth development, involved 76 youth in its summer residential program, and 187 youth in the year-round young adult program. The Youth in Natural Resources program introduces minority youth to career and educational opportunities in resource management. Seventy-three youth of color participated in the 1992 summer program. Several MCC programs were honored with awards in 1992, including the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps' National Exemplary Service Award for the hearing-impaired summer youth program, and the "Star of the North" Polaris Award for excellence in human resource management. (See Appendix H)

Higher Education

The campus service-learning movement made significant strides in 1992. Eleven Minnesota campuses received National and Community Service Act funds, 20 campuses offered co-curricular service programs, 12 integrated community service throughout the curriculum, and 3 campuses now incorporate service-learning principles into teacher training. A total of more than 7500 students participated in one of these many service options. As a result, Minnesota's college and university presidents are moving boldly ahead to create Minnesota Campus Compact, a state-wide coalition for service-learning. Moreover, service-learning is being seen as an integral strategy that crosses all institutional and curricular lines; a strategy that reinvigorates faculty, staff, students, and communities to enhance academic learning and add insight to solving social problems.

NYLC Training

Thousands of educators and youth professionals across the nation are turning to the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC) for help in integrating service-learning and youth leadership into their schools or agencies. The goal is to ensure a healthy and lasting integration of service-learning and youth leadership through hands-on training by experienced service-learning practitioners. In 1992, the NYLC Training Department has:

- trained over 1500 teachers and educators in over 30 states. Of those trained, over 44% work in settings with at-risk youth and over 45% work with minority youth.
- helped practitioners, administrators and community leaders to understand the concept of and implement service-learning
- raised the knowledge base of influential figures in educational policymaking, teacher education, the government and non-profit sector who attend workshops.

Governor's Youth Service Recognition

Since 1988, the annual Minnesota Governor's Youth Service Recognition has received over 700 exemplary youth service nominations. The range and quality of nominated programs has improved every year. In 1992, Governor Arne Carlson recognized the top 28 programs in the state. These "star" programs consisted of school-based, community-based and college/university level programs. The 1993 Minnesota Governor's Youth Recognition will be held April 20, 1993. (See Appendix I)

Mentoring

The state of Minnesota has been a leader in the development of mentor programs to fill this void through recruitment of caring, responsible adults to be friends, tutors and role models for young people. The Minnesota Mentor Network, a joint effort of the Minnesota Office on Volunteer Services (MOVS), the Minnesota Department of Education, KARE 11, Lutheran Brotherhood and others will help bring all the various mentor programs together. The goal of the Minnesota Mentor Network is to expand the quantity and enhance the quality of mentor opportunities in Minnesota by:

- providing a coordinated statewide system for recruitment of mentors,
- encouraging networking among mentor program leaders to share experiences, ideas and resources
- promoting quality guidelines for mentor programs. (See Appendix K)

JTPA Summer Youth Program Considering Youth Service Corps Model

The Department of Jobs and Training is actively considering focusing Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funding for 8,500 young people on youth service corps-type programs for the summer of 1993. Service Delivery Areas and program developers are currently discussing implementation. States such as Pennsylvania have already made active use of this funding resource to create service corps programs. (*See Appendix L*)

Other Service Activities

Not included in this brief report are the projects and programs of numerous nonprofit/nonformal education and youth development programs statewide such as Camp Fire, 4-H, Tree Trust, Scouts and the Y's. Likewise it does not include the impressive work of adult volunteer programs. In subsequent reports our plan is to be more inclusive as staff and resources allow.

See attached appendices for complete documents from which these summaries have been obtained. Full reports to the Legislature and Governor contain these documents. For a complete report please contact the Minnesota Office on Volunteer Services at (612) 296-4731.

Governor's Advisory Task Force on Mentoring and Community Service

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Representative Andy Dawkins, DFL

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Senator Tracy Beckman, DFL

Senator William Belanger, Jr., IR

Senator John Marty, DFL

Appendices

- Appendix A** Letter to Senator John Marty and Representative Andy Dawkins from Dana Badgerow, Commissioner, Department of Administration requesting that mentoring and youth service be moved out of the Minnesota Office on Volunteer Services
- Letters to Senator John Marty and Representative Andy Dawkins from Commissioner of Education Gene Mammenga suggesting housing of Governor's Advisory Task Force on Mentoring and Community Service in the Department of Education
- Appendix B** Governor's Advisory Task Force on Mentoring and Community Service Recommendations
- Appendix C** Minnesota Serve America Grantees Quarterly Progress Report, from grant application for funding under the National and Community Service Act. \$630,000 Federal Grant received.
- Appendix D** Minnesota's State Comprehensive Service Plan Status Update - January, 1993, from grant application for funding under the National and Community Service Act. 1993 Federal Grant request of \$3.5 million.
- Appendix E** Minnesota Youth Works Bill (HF 2) and Summary
- Appendix F** Minnesota Department of Education Service-Learning Outcomes Document. Published by Minnesota Department of Education, November 1992.
- Appendix G** MN Department of Education Youth Service Report, February, 1993.
- Appendix H** Minnesota Conservation Corps Summary
- Appendix I** Governor's Youth Service Recognition Day 1992 Booklet
- Appendix J** Comparison Between Corrections Costs and Crime Prevention Activities Report, in response to 1992 Omnibus Crime Bill (HF 1849 and SF 1687)
- Appendix K** Minnesota Volunteers, Volume #2, © December 1992 published by Big White House Publishing in cooperation with KARE 11 TV
- Appendix L** Youth Service Corps, JTPA IIB and IIC and the Minnesota Youth Program, program description provided by Susan Lauer, Department of Jobs and Training, January 12, 1993.
- Appendix M** Executive Order 92-2 Providing for the Establishment of the Governor's Advisory Task Force on Mentoring and Community Service.