

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 26, 2009

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Ohio's Statewide Conference on Volunteerism and Service! I want to commend you all for showcasing the spirit of hope and service that our country needs so dearly right now.

The message you are spreading is so important: Participating in community service is an integral part of empowering our people and making our communities stronger. Service is not simply a supplement to our lives and our society. By engaging us more deeply with our communities and our neighbors, it is a cornerstone of true citizenship.

An individual act of service is not an isolated event, and its cumulative effect can be a powerful force for change. If each of us makes time to serve our community, we will combine to not only strengthen the fabric of our country, but also serve to bolster the very idea of America – that each of us has the ability to shape a better future for ourselves, our communities, and our country.

Again, I want to congratulate each of you, thank you for all that you do to improve our communities, and encourage you to continue to demonstrate that service is a vital part of our Nation's strength. Our Nation needs you now more than ever.

Sincerely,

