



Points of Light & Hands On Network Merger FAQ

On July 16, 2007, Hands on Network and the Points of Light Foundation announced an agreement between their two boards to merge into a single organization. Creating the world's largest global volunteer network, the new organization will encompass 370 affiliates serving 83% of the American public.

Vision

We envision a world in which all individuals discover their power to make a difference and are equipped as active, engaged citizens.

Mission

We will cultivate a robust civic network that activates millions of volunteers and unleashes a powerful service movement that puts people at the center of community problem solving.

When will the merger take effect?

The two organizations are expected to merge on July 31, 2007 and Michelle Nunn will assume leadership as CEO at that time. The new organization's fiscal year will begin on October 1, 2007 with programming, administration and other implementation activities occurring during FY 2008.

Who will lead the new organization?

President George H. W. Bush will serve as the Honorary Chairman of the Board; Ray Chambers will Chair the board during the integration period of the new organization. Neil Bush will serve as Vice Chair/Chair-Elect and also Chair the Executive Committee. Michelle Nunn will serve as the CEO. A new board will be created with representation by members of the current boards as well as new members and affiliate representatives.

Where will the organization be located?

Corporate offices will be located in both Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

Why are Hands On Network and the Points of Light Foundation Merging?

Despite impressive records of service by both organizations, we collectively affected only a small percentage of volunteer engagement in the nation. Together, we have the chance to re-imagine the civic infrastructure of our nation. Together we can transform the civic and volunteer landscape. United we bring power, stature, efficiency and scale that can have significantly greater impact. A merged organization also ensures increased financial stability, operational efficiencies and the ability to respond to changing market dynamics and realities.

What will the new organization be called?

During the transition, the new organization will use the combined name of Points of Light & Hands On Network. The branded identity and naming convention of the new organization will be developed over the next several months and build upon the unique strengths of both Hands On and Points of Light. The legal entity will be the Points of Light Foundation.

What is the promise of a merged organization?

Combined, the two organizations hope to redefine volunteer service, inspire civic action and dramatically expand the scope of volunteer contributions within the nonprofit sector. A united Points of Light Foundation and Hands On Network is committed to expanding the civic network, creating a new culture of service and engaging citizens in community change.

What does each of the organizations bring to the merger?

The Points of Light Foundation is well known for its expertise in building agency capacity, developing infrastructure and managing an information clearinghouse with a volunteer service focus and a broad national presence. Hands On Network is recognized for its hands on approach to project management, expertise in building volunteer leadership, and innovative civic engagement strategies.

What will the merger mean for the nonprofit sector?

A powerful network of unified action centers will better serve individual, nonprofit, corporate and public sector constituencies. The combined organization creates a network of 370 affiliates serving 83% of the US public. Each member of the new network will be equipped to train volunteer leaders, build nonprofit organizational capacity, and help volunteer managers and to support community engagement opportunities.

What program priorities will direct the new organization?

We have a continued commitment to training and mobilizing volunteer leaders to advance citizen-centered solutions. Integrated online resources will ensure that every individual has the opportunity to find a volunteering experience to suit their interests and capabilities. We will continue to support the non-profit sector through our research, recognition programs, education opportunities, on line technology, and consultation. Working with our public sector partners, the new organization will promote efforts to engage citizens in changing the civic landscape at the federal, state and local levels.

Uniting our current corporate partners will spark a renewed effort to mobilize corporate America. Building on the strong community involvement of our current business partners, we will engage others in the business sector in mobilizing their employees and committing themselves to meaningful community service.

What new initiatives will be undertaken by the new organization?

It is too early to announce definitive new programs or initiatives, and we want to have the benefit of input from our affiliates and other partners. We invite everyone to join with us and take this opportunity to help re-imagine what's possible. An e-mail box and a blog have been created to capture your ideas and to spark a dialogue over the next few months to inform and shape our goals and implementation plans: blog - <http://handsonpointsoflight.wordpress.com>. E-mail address: POLF@handsonnetwork.org

For more information and to support the new organization, please contact John Jowers at 404-927-2941 or Fred Whiting at 202-729-8177.