



An Organizational Update on the National Service Alumni Network

Stay Passionate – Stay Connected  
\*\*Change the World\*\*

August 2003

The National Service Alumni Network (NSAN) is the membership association that unites all Americans who have done a year or more of full-time service. Through our powerful network we support each other, strengthen our service programs, contribute to the national service movement, and change the world with a lifetime of service.

**[If you received this email as a forward from a friend, and would like to be on our mailing list, email [info@nsan.org](mailto:info@nsan.org)]**

### **Message From The Founder**

Welcome to NSAN's first newsletter! Things are really buzzing here around the office, and I wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the latest happenings with you.

This is a critical time in the national service movement. As many of you know, federal funding for AmeriCorps programs has been slashed dramatically this year. Nearly 20,000 Americans have been told *not* to serve their communities this year, and hundreds of nonprofits are cutting back or even shutting down.

Now, more than ever, it's so important that we build a powerful constituency of national service alumni.

**NSAN is good for the national service movement** – We have always hoped for a broad, grassroots constituency to encourage the political and financial support of national service programming.

**NSAN is good for individual service programs** – Though few service programs have the resources to build and maintain alumni programming, all can reap the program and financial benefits of staying connected to alumni throughout their lives.

**NSAN is good for alumni** – For alumni, the most valuable feature is ongoing membership in a special community of Americans who have the experience, passion, and skills to make a difference in the world. NSAN will offer the opportunity to reach out to fellow members, sharpen skills, and get involved in community.

**NSAN is good for America** – When 500,000 alums are organized for a lifetime of service, our communities will benefit. NSAN members will be more likely to start a nonprofit, run for office, or donate their time and money. They will do these, and a thousand other things, more frequently and more effectively than they could have without the network.

Personally, after having spent a year planning this launch, I could not be more confident that building this organization is one way we can make the world a substantially better place.

Thanks so much for your support!

Rich Leimsider, Founder  
[rich@nsan.org](mailto:rich@nsan.org)

### **The Latest News**

**“Citizenship 201”** – NSAN is holding its first-ever **all-corps event** this fall. NSAN enlisted the support of [Teach For America](#), [City Year](#), [COOL](#), and [Idealist.org](#) to create a day of service like no other. Instead of physical service, alumni will come together to learn about Boston government, how to influence the media, and other skills necessary for social change.

The event will take place on September 11, 2003, in partnership with [One Day’s Pay](#), a national nonprofit that strives to encourage Americans to commemorate that date with a day of service.

**New Office Space** – Thanks to the generosity of [United Leaders](#), NSAN is operating out of temporary offices in Boston. NSAN is seeking a more permanent location in downtown Boston for this Fall.

**Start-Up Grant** – As testimony to the power of the NSAN concept, we got our first start-up grant within weeks of launching. A generous contribution from the **Harris Fund for the Living Environment** is supporting much of this summer’s activity. Contact [info@nsan.org](mailto:info@nsan.org) to learn how to contribute to our efforts!

**AmeriCorps Funding** – As touched on previously, AmeriCorps is in crisis. Because NSAN is the only organization in the world that represents alumni of all national service programs, including AmeriCorps, we were immediately approached to become charter members of the [Save AmeriCorps Coalition](#), an industry group that includes City Year, Teach For America, Public Allies, Youth Build, Jump Start, Save the Children, and other organizations dedicated to preserving and expanding national service. Learn more at [www.saveamericorps.org](http://www.saveamericorps.org)

**Web Site Launch!!!!** – A functional web site has now launched at [www.nsan.org](http://www.nsan.org). Learn about our programs and our plans for the future. While the site is fully usable right now, it will go through some content and design updates over the next few months. Keep checking in!

### **NSAN Needs You!**

Building this movement of 500,000 Americans is hard work. We need your help. *Please* consider doing one of the following:

1. **Forward this newsletter** to 5 national service alumni, program staff, or supporters- or even just to anyone who might be interested. We can't build a movement if no one's heard about it!
2. **Join us in Boston on September 11** – It's going to be an amazing event—a powerful and unique day of service, designed especially for national service alumni. Be there!
3. **Donate** – NSAN is designed to be self sustaining once we reach critical mass. But we need to get there, first. Your tax-deductible contributions are welcome at any time—contact [rich@nsan.org](mailto:rich@nsan.org) for more details. We're also looking for a gently used **fax machine, laser printers, and copy machine.**

### **Contact us**

We would love to hear from you.

Visit us at [www.nsan.org](http://www.nsan.org)

Email any comments or questions to: [info@nsan.org](mailto:info@nsan.org)