



NSAN News is the “behind-the-scenes” look at the effort to build a national service alumni movement.

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

## 2003 Winter Holiday Edition

The National Service Alumni Network (NSAN) is the nonprofit membership association that unites all Americans who have done a year or more of full-time service.

### Holiday Message

Season’s greetings, happy holidays, or merry Christmakwanzanukah.

Well, where should I even begin? This has been one of the most busy, rewarding, and exciting years of my life. I wonder whether to offer thanks on my own behalf, or on behalf of the NSAN organization. The truth is, of course, that for the past 5 months, it has often been hard to define where I end and NSAN begins.

We’ve come incredibly far in such a short time. Our organization is stronger than perhaps it has any right to be—especially in these difficult economic times. We rapidly found our first grant funding, office space in downtown Boston, and a pro bono lawyer. We held an incredibly successful fundraiser in New York, and received our 501c3 tax-exempt status.

Our Boston pilot program for alumni has also been impressive. Our September 11 Day of Service was not only a meaningful memorial—it demonstrated that hundreds of alumni from different programs *will* come together, when there is a powerful reason. We’ve signed up hundreds of dues-paying members (did you join?), built lasting partnerships with great organizations, and launched a powerful online community so our members can connect virtually.

But by far, our greatest accomplishment has been the support we’ve garnered from people like you. Thanks so much for sharing the vision—the vision that the work of national service alumni is just beginning—and that we can truly change the world.

Be well and have a great holiday season.

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

## **Holiday Wish List**

- 1) **Join NSAN!** – Membership is open to alumni, staff, and staff alumni of any service program. Yes, it's a leap of faith. It's hard to build a network until more people have joined the network! So we need you, the faithful, to become one of the "NSAN1000." Visit [www.nsan.org/joinnow](http://www.nsan.org/joinnow) and let's do this!
- 2) **Share this newsletter** – To build a true movement, we need to spread the word! Forward this newsletter to your network of friends, family, and colleagues—and especially national service alumni.
- 3) **Help with web design** – Do you, or someone you know, have a few hours each month to help update our website? Email [rich@nsan.org](mailto:rich@nsan.org) to get involved.

## **The Latest News**

**NSAN Approved for State and Federal Tax-Exempt Status-** That's right, we're officially legit. Though our tax-exempt status is retroactive to our incorporation this summer, the IRS issued their final ruling that NSAN deserves to be 501(c)3 tax exempt.

**Choate, Hall & Stewart** – The prestigious Boston-based firm of Choate, Hall & Stewart has agreed to provide up to \$10,000 in *pro bono* legal support over the next year. So beware of fender-benders with NSAN, because we will sue! ;- ) (Many thanks to our new lawyers, Julia Hesse and Myra Green, for making this possible)

**Online Community** – Available only to dues-paying members, NSAN has launched version 1.0 of our online community featuring a searchable member directory, bulletin boards, online surveys, and an event calendar. First responses have been terrific.

**New eMagazine** – Rounding out our membership benefits, NSAN has designed an e-Magazine for members, featuring original articles as well as the best content from Idealist.org, the Peace Corps, City Year, Teach For America, and other partners.

**NSAN 1000** - Having built the basic infrastructure for our Boston pilot program, we recently invited the first group of dues-paying members to join the organization. While we have *not* launched a broad recruitment drive, this push to enlist the "NSAN1,000" will help demonstrate the significance and sustainability of our members.

**Pioneer’s Reception / Fundraiser** – On December 4<sup>th</sup>, an intimate group of “NSAN Pioneers” – our early stage funders – gathered in New York City to raise money, celebrate our successes, and strategize about next steps. Check out <http://www.nsan.org/AboutUs/Supporters>.

## **Upcoming Events**

- January 13<sup>th</sup> – Networking Clinic with City Year, Boston
- February 16-17 - Education Reform with Teach For America, Boston
- February 2003 - Boston Fundraiser
- TBA - All-Alumni Event co-sponsored by United Leaders / MassINC, Boston
- TBA – Influencing the State Legislature with Common Cause, Boston
- TBA – The Importance of After-school Time with Citizen Schools, Boston
- TBA – The Senior-level Social Enterprise Job Search with Bridgestar, Boston

**Check out the added capabilities of the NSAN Website, now featuring online payment of Member Dues. Yes, we take credit cards!**

**[www.nsan.org](http://www.nsan.org)**

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