



For Immediate Release

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Bipartisan National Service Champions Honored at Friends of National Service Awards Reception
Representative Steve Stivers, Jon Bon Jovi, and other National Service Champions among Award Recipients

On Tuesday, February 14th, a gathering of national service organizations including Voices for National Service and The Corps Network honored congressional and private sector leaders across the country who have supported national service and community volunteering. These lawmakers have supported service programs, including AmeriCorps, which allow citizens to work in partnership with government and the private sector to address pressing needs in local communities.

Representative Steve Stivers won the Outstanding New Member Award for elevating national service as a first term legislative priority along with Senator Chris Coons of Delaware. Congressman Stivers shared his commitment to volunteerism and service since taking office, working with local member foodbanks of The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks and AmeriCorps members in his district.

“Thanks to Congressman Stivers’ efforts, his district office collected and donated more than 1000 items to our local member foodbank so that children and families would have food during the holiday season,” said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks. “In the current economic climate, more and more people are relying on programs like these just to get by. It’s important to recognize leaders who support programs which enable people to work in partnership with government and the private sector to address the needs of their local communities in order to bring awareness to this important issue.”

AnnMaura Connolly, President of Voices for National Service said, “Congressman Stivers is an inspiration to the millions of Americans who look for opportunities to serve their community and country. Now more than ever, national service plays an invaluable role in helping communities hit hardest by the recession while providing services that government can no longer afford to provide themselves. The work of Congressman Stivers and the other champions of service receiving these awards work every day to ensure that Americans will always have opportunities to improve their communities and that service remains a high priority civic commitment and a national ideal.”

The event was sponsored by Comcast, Monster, National Grid, and CSX.

Voices for National Service is a diverse group of national service programs, state commissions and individual champions committed to expanding opportunities for Americans of all ages to serve and volunteer. Founded in 2003, the group is the respected voice for the service community in Washington, DC, having built strong bipartisan support among our nation’s leaders and positioned national service as a viable policy solution to tackle unmet needs, expand opportunity, and leverage social capital. Drawing on

the combined experience and knowledge of the service community, Voices for National Service played a key role in the development of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act.

The Corps Network is a proud advocate and representative of the nation's Service and Conservation Corps. Their number one goal is to sustain and grow the Corps movement. The Corps Network's member Service and Conservation Corps operate in 42 states and the District of Columbia. Over 26,000 Corps members, ages 16-25, contribute and generate more than 16 million hours of service annually.

The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks is Ohio's largest charitable response to hunger and has leveraged over 500 national service members through its AmeriCorps VISTA, AmeriCorps VISTA Summer Associate, and AmeriCorps State programs since its first group of national service members in 2006. These members serve hunger- and poverty-relief initiatives throughout Ohio, including bolstering The Ohio Benefit Bank and supporting Ohio's 12 Feeding America foodbanks.

Annual Awards Recipients and Honorees:

Edward M. Kennedy National Service Lifetime Leadership Award
Senator Thad Cochran (Mississippi)

Citizen Service Award
Jon Bon Jovi and Eduardo Padrón, President, Miami Dade College

Outstanding National Service Advocacy Award
Governor Pat Quinn (Illinois) and Governor Terry Branstad (Iowa)

Distinguished Service Award
Senator Richard Shelby (Alabama) and Representative Norm Dicks (Washington)

Outstanding New Member Award
Senator Chris Coons (Delaware) and Representative Steve Stivers (Ohio)

State and Local Leadership Award
Mayor Mitch Landrieu (New Orleans, LA) and Mayor Michael Nutter (Philadelphia, PA)

Service in Media Award
David Gergen

Franklin D. Roosevelt Service and Conservation Corps Leadership Award
Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar

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