

United We Serve

President and Mrs. Obama have announced a nationwide service initiative, **United We Serve**. Officially launched by Michelle Obama at the National Conference on Volunteering and Service on June 22, 2009, United We Serve will span 81 days, culminating with a National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11. These 81 days will be the beginning of a sustained, collaborative, and focused effort to meet community needs and make service a way of life for all Americans.

Boston Cares is offering a challenge to answer the President's call to service; to make volunteering a permanent part of your life and to create tangible community impact. Read the instructions below and join us in this nationwide effort! ***If you are not yet a member of Boston Cares, welcome! Please sign up to attend a New Volunteer Orientation after you fill out this form in order to complete the United We Serve Challenge.***

Instructions:

1. In order to successfully complete the United We Serve Challenge through Boston Cares, volunteers must:

- ✧ Complete the task in Column A
- ✧ Complete 1 task in Column B (choose at least 1 from list of options)
- ✧ Complete 1 task in Column C (choose at least 1 from list of options)

*****Please note that your choices may change throughout the course of this Challenge. As long as the tasks in each column are completed, it is up to you to decide what you choose.**

<p>Column A Volunteer <i>Respond to the needs of Boston Cares' nonprofit partner agencies.</i></p> <p>Sign up for and attend 5 Boston Cares projects.</p>	<p>Column B Engaged Citizen <i>Take your service a step further by learning about issues facing your community, and using your knowledge to lead and motivate others.</i></p> <p>Attend a Citizen Academy educational program (Social Cinema, Explorations) AND attend the service project that the program is linked to.</p> <p>Attend a Serve & Learn project.</p> <p>Use the Boston Cares "Invite a Friend" feature to bring a friend to a project and spread the word about volunteering (your friend must attend the project with you).</p> <p>Become a trained Project Leader.</p>	<p>Column C Project Organizer <i>Embrace the Obamas' initiative to develop self-organizing volunteers by taking your ideas to serve and turning them into action. Whenever you complete one of the tasks below, share it with the White House and the nation by posting it on http://www.serve.gov.</i></p> <p>Develop and organize a service project to do in your community; choose whether you want it to be listed on the Boston Cares Calendar to get more people involved (embed registration form link).</p> <p>Organize a drive for a community nonprofit (ex. canned food, toiletries, clothing).</p> <p>Engage in acts of neighbor-ing (ex. volunteer to conduct an energy audit and change a neighbor's light bulbs, offer to help your elderly neighbor shop for groceries,</p>
---	---	--

		<p>babysit for neighbors' kids so they can run errands, etc.).</p> <p>Become a Project Developer (consult with Boston Cares to adopt and develop a project that responds to a partner agency's needs).</p> <p>Create a portable project to be donated to a nonprofit agency (what is a portable project? Click [embed link] here for resources, information and examples).</p> <p>Complete a skills-based project for a nonprofit agency (contact an agency with which you have a relationship and ask what they need: ex. website development, building/repair/construction, painting, etc.).</p>
--	--	--

2. Pledge your hours that you will complete over the course of the United We Serve initiative. Boston Cares is setting a goal for challenge participants to complete **2,000** hours by September 11. What will you contribute to this effort? (*Note: All planning hours that you contribute to your Column C choice will count toward your pledge total.)