



## Expanding and enhancing opportunities for older volunteers

- 1 WHEREAS America boasts and will continue to boast the largest, best-educated, and most vigorous population of older adults in our nation's history;
- 2 WHEREAS the older American population is living longer after retirement and is sharing a wide range of its talents and experience;
- 3 WHEREAS the older adult population is often overlooked as a valuable resource, and relatively few mechanisms exist to assist older persons in fulfilling their potential;
- 4 WHEREAS the country is in desperate need of help to address growing needs in education, health care, social services, public safety, the environment, and other fundamental areas of American life; and
- 5 WHEREAS 20 to 30 percent of older Americans are actively involved in volunteer activities and another 15 percent report that they would like to be;

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:***

- 6 Reauthorize and expand the National and Community Service Trust Act as a means of reaffirming the National Senior Service Corps programs (i.e., Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and the Retired and Senior and Volunteer Program);
- 7 Charge the Corporation for National Service to take a leadership role toward the goal of recruiting and enrolling at least 1 million older volunteers by the year 2000;
- 8 Facilitate collaboration at the national, State, and local levels of organizations involving senior volunteers such as the Area Agencies on Aging, Volunteer Action Centers (VACs), National Council on Aging (NCOA) programs, and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and encourage intergenerational involvement;
- 9 Develop Federal, State, local, private, and public sector partnerships that provide additional resources to support senior volunteers as a resource;
- 10 Encourage the Federal Government to provide education on the value of volunteering for people's well-being and self-esteem;
- 11 Encourage the training of volunteers by qualified public, private, and non-profit entities to enhance the effectiveness of older volunteers;

- 12 Create incentives for older volunteers including full-time, part-time, and episodic service opportunities, stipends, and the flexibility these provide;
- 13 Encourage research to identify and fill gaps between volunteer participation and the productive potentials of older persons.



*First Lady's Forum*