



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

Karl F. Dean
Mayor

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Mayor, Hands On Nashville, Center for Nonprofit Management Unveil Excellence in Volunteer Engagement *Certification program is first in the nation*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Mayor Karl Dean joined Hands On Nashville and the Center for Nonprofit Management today to unveil Excellence in Volunteer Engagement (EVE), a new initiative to recognize high quality volunteer management by nonprofits and to help increase the number of volunteers in Davidson County. It is the first such certification effort in the nation.

The Excellence in Volunteer Engagement certification initiative will recognize nonprofit agencies with effective volunteer programs and encourage other agencies to join them in improving their volunteer opportunities so that they can maximize their resources and provide the best quality services possible. EVE was presented to the directors and board chairmen of Nashville nonprofits this morning during a program at the Nashville Farmers' Market.

“This initiative will recognize nonprofits that utilize volunteers in a way that has an actual impact on the services provided by that nonprofit,” Dean said. “Potential volunteers will be better informed about high quality volunteer experiences available in our community. In doing so, we will hopefully increase the number of volunteers in our city and strengthen their impact on the nonprofit agencies they serve.”

Hands On Nashville and the Center for Nonprofit Management will implement the initiative. A panel of judges representing the community will determine which agencies qualify for the certification. Recognition is effective for two years. Applications for the first round of EVE Certification will be due in January 2012. Information is available at www.hon.org or www.cnm.org.

“Every day volunteers dedicate their time and talents to make a difference for nonprofits and the people they serve,” said Brian N. Williams, executive director of Hands On Nashville. “The EVE program will ensure that volunteers’ gifts are well used and that the results of their service are impactful. This is important because Nashville has developed an amazing culture of service. The EVE certification is an extension of that culture.”

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Lewis Lavine, President of the Center for Nonprofit Management, said, “EVE will give nonprofit leaders an incentive to manage excellent volunteer programs, successfully carry out their missions and be recognized for their efforts.”

Excellence in Volunteer Engagement is part of the Mayor’s Office “Impact Nashville” initiative, which Dean launched on Sept. 30, 2010, as part of the national Cities of Service movement.

Impact Nashville directs volunteerism toward two top priorities, public education and the environment, and since its inception, some 2,520 volunteers have spent 18,626 hours on its initiatives. Aligned with the goals of the Cities of Service national coalition, Impact Nashville strives to improve the impact of volunteerism across our city in four areas: the impact for those being served, the impact for the volunteer, the impact on the agency’s mission and the impact on our community.

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