

VOLUNTEERS wanted

Helping Volunteers Help

(NAPSA)—You don't need much time on your hands to lend a helping hand. In the year 2000, 83.9 million adults volunteered for an average of 3.6 hours per week. Yet their work represented the equivalent of more than nine million full-time employees at a value of \$239 billion, according to the Independent Sector.

In 2001, President Bush called for citizens to perform two years—or the equivalent of 4,000 hours—of their lifetimes in citizen service; groups like the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network are making it easier for people to answer that call. By visiting www.1800VOLUNTEER.org or calling 1-800-VOLUNTEER, you can find volunteer projects in your community that fit your interests and time. “Our nearly 450 Volunteer Centers stand ready to help residents get connected to their communities through volunteering on a regular basis or on the national days of service that we've assembled on our Seasons of Service calendar,” said Robert K. Goodwin, president and chief executive officer of the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network. The Seasons of Service calendar is a list of theme-based volunteer activities that occur annually.

The 2003 Seasons of Service dates are:

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**—the third Monday in January, encourages volunteers to spend the national holiday helping others. The theme is “A day on ... not a day off!”

- **National Youth Service Day**—April 11 to 13, 2003—recog-



Robert Goodwin volunteers on Make A Difference Day.

nizes young people for their volunteer efforts.

- **National Volunteer Week**—beginning the last Sunday in April—is the official time to celebrate volunteers locally, statewide and nationally. The week will be the official wrap-up of the Unity in the Spirit of America initiative—a national program to create living memorials through volunteering in honor of lives lost on September 11, 2001 (www.usa.pointsoflight.org).

- **Join Hands Day**—the third Saturday in June—unites young people with adults to create new and better working relationships.

- **Make A Difference Day**—on the fourth Saturday in October, millions of men, women and children make a difference in their communities.

- **National Family Volunteer Day**—the Saturday before Thanksgiving—engages families in volunteer activities to strengthen families and transform neighborhoods.

You can find out even more at: www.pointsoflight.org, then click on programs and scroll to Seasons of Service.