

Serve Rhode Island Call to Service Campaign 2012 *Volunteer Mobilization for Education*

Goal: To plan and implement a volunteer recruitment, training and placement initiative to create **318 adult school volunteers**, including parents, to assist in the education of middle school students in four pilot middle schools: Gilbert Stuart and Roger Williams in Providence and Goff and Slater in Pawtucket. This pilot will inform the expansion of the model to a total of 11 schools in 2013 and 21 schools in 2014, assisting 2,400 underperforming middle school students annually.

Volunteer Jobs: Volunteers will be recruited and trained for a range of tasks within the school day:

- **School Hall Monitors:** adults to walk halls and around facility to support class attendance
- **School Greeters:** greeting students as they come to school and begin school day
- **Mentor/Tutor Group Leaders:** work in teams of two to provide academic and guidance support to small groups of low-proficiency students
- **Parent Zone Coordinators:** work to recruit parent volunteers and increase parent involvement in schools
- **Youth Engagement/Service Learning Coordinators:** work with groups of 15 students to explore, design, implement and evaluate service learning projects; create **generationOn Clubs**
- **Service Project Coordinators:** work with school administrators to plan physical improvement projects involving parents, students, teachers and community members
- **Service Project Participants:** participate in community and school service projects

Need: Within walking distance of SRI's office, among 6th graders alone, there were 972 students reading below proficiency levels (NECAP 2010) attending Providence's two lowest-performing schools--Roger Williams Middle School and Gilbert Stuart Middle School. In Rhode Island, thousands of public school students are failing to be grade-level proficient in reading and math. Among public junior high/middle school youth (grades 6, 7 & 8) alone, 9,548 (30%) had Fall 2010 NECAP reading scores below grade level proficiency and 14,097 (44%) were below proficiency in math. For urban public schools proficiency levels in reading and math is more alarming. In Providence's middle schools the percent of students testing below grade level proficiency in reading and math was 57% and 71%, respectively. There is an enormous need for tutorial, mentoring and other kinds of volunteer services in these schools. Without intervention, Rhode Island will continue to face a "tsunami" of student failure, lost human potential and a future of poverty, producing an under-skilled labor force perpetuating the state's economic struggle.

Opportunity: Rhode Island has a volunteer engagement gap (or volunteer deficit) of 17,500 volunteers presenting a tremendous opportunity to bring new human resources to the aid of urban middle school education. (The volunteer engagement gap is calculated based on the difference between RI's volunteer rate of 24.4% and the national volunteer rate of 26.5%. If RI had a volunteer rate of 26.5%, we would have 17,500 more volunteers engaged today.)

Approach: SRI seeks to partner with Providence and Pawtucket middle schools, RI businesses, funders and others to make this volunteer resource a reality over the next year. SRI will continue to work directly with principals, teachers, students and parents in designing the various ways adult volunteers can be of assistance to the educational process. Marketing for volunteer recruitment will be through sponsored and cause-marketing promotions and advertisements. RI's educational and political leadership will be enlisted to promote and support the campaign.

Timeline: Launch campaign in January 2012; Reach full complement of more than 300 volunteers by Fall 2012.

SRI is the state volunteer center and commission for national and community service, located at 655 Broad St., Ste. 202, Providence, RI 02907. Phone (401) 331-2298. Website: www.serverhodeisland.org.