

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, since the early days of our nation, volunteers have helped us through our greatest challenges and triumphs – patriots fighting for our founding ideals, and ordinary citizens coming to the aid of people in need; and

**WHEREAS**, while our nation continues on the road to economic recovery, volunteer service plays a vital role in addressing national and local challenges, and is an effective strategy to help unite communities while addressing critical unmet needs; and

**WHEREAS**, engaged citizens, many recruited by Volunteer Centers of Washington, and AmeriCorps; VISTA; Learn and Serve America; and National Senior Service Corps participants are improving the lives of our state's most vulnerable citizens, strengthening our educational system, protecting our environment, and contributing to our public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, as we commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which expanded opportunities for more Americans to serve, it is important to honor those who give of themselves for the betterment of their communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim April 18-24, 2010, as

### ***Washington Volunteer Appreciation Week***

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing and supporting those who volunteer and serve.

Signed this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

