

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER PROCLAIMS JANUARY 2009 AS MENTORING MONTH

Sacramento – Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed January 2009 as “California Mentoring Month”, CaliforniaVolunteers announced today.

“I was fortunate to have many great mentors in my life, and it is my hope that the people of our state will take the opportunity to share their time and talents with young Californians,” said Governor Schwarzenegger.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Maria Shriver
Honorary Chair

Karen Baker
Executive Director

Research has shown that mentors can play a powerful role in academic achievement, and mentored youth are less likely to be involved with gangs, violence, teen pregnancy, alcohol and drug use.

“My gratitude goes to the many wonderful Californians who are devoted to seeing our youth succeed in life,” noted Governor Schwarzenegger. “Mentoring Month is a special time to recognize their deeds and is also a time to encourage more people to become mentors.”

“Becoming a mentor is one of the most rewarding acts of service a Californian can perform,” said Karen Baker, California’s secretary of service and volunteering. “At CaliforniaVolunteers.org we have made it simple to find the right opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of our state’s youth and our communities.”

California Mentoring Month coincides with the eighth annual National Mentoring Month, designed to demonstrate how individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits can work together to increase the number of mentors and therefore assure brighter futures for our nation’s youth.

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CaliforniaVolunteers is the state office that manages programs and initiatives to increase the number of Californians involved with service and volunteering, including the state AmeriCorps program, California Citizen Corps and the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning. Through the innovative Web site, CaliforniaVolunteers.org, individuals and families can find more than 45,000 volunteer opportunities throughout the state involving the arts, education, animals, disaster preparedness, the environment and other areas of interest. Karen Baker, the nation’s first state cabinet secretary of service and volunteering leads the organization and First Lady Maria Shriver serves as the honorary chairperson. For more information, please visit www.CaliforniaVolunteers.org.

To view the full text of the proclamation, visit: <http://www.gov.ca.gov/proclamation/11366/>

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