

Johnson hails city's surge in work by volunteers

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Sacramentans have combined for 689,000 volunteer hours this year, far surpassing a goal set in March by Mayor Kevin Johnson . Johnson launched his Volunteer Sacramento initiative earlier this year with the goal of generating 500,000 volunteer hours by the end of the year. The initiative is a joint effort between City Hall and the nonprofit Hands on Sacramento. The number of people volunteering in the city is also up significantly, from about 13,000 last year to 17,000 so far this year, Johnson said. "There are so many things to complain about and there are so many challenges, but we as a city have stepped up," the mayor said Wednesday at a news conference inside the Salvation Army warehouse north of downtown. The volunteer hours have generated an estimated \$15 million in savings for the city, the mayor said. Volunteers have walked dogs at the city animal shelter, cleaned up city parks and built a playground in Oak Park. Other volunteer opportunities can be found at www.volunteersac.com.

Memo: REGION IN BRIEF

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