

Sacramento mayor sets volunteer goal: 500, 000 hours in ' 09

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Mayor Kevin Johnson wants Sacramento to be the top city in the state when it comes to volunteerism.

The mayor is pushing a revamped volunteer effort and said Tuesday his goal is for city residents to combine on 500, 000 hours of service this year.

"This is the strength of our city," the mayor said.

According to the mayor, 500 , 000 volunteer hours are equal to a \$10 million jolt to the local economy.

As part of the campaign, the city's volunteer program and Hands On Sacramento are partnering to hook people up with volunteer opportunities through a new Web site, www.volunteersac.com.

In the past, the city's volunteer program attracted helpers with gardening, animal care, arts and crafts and child development programs. In its fiscal year 2007-08 annual report, the city said volunteers contributed 322,281 hours, valued at \$6.3 million.

In the new Web site, those interested in volunteering can log their hours and browse listings through Hands On Sacramento. Opportunities include mentoring, tutoring, working with senior citizens, building playgrounds and working at food banks.

To promote the volunteer drive, the mayor was joined Tuesday by 95-year-old Raynia Kinniston, who started volunteering at a hospital in 1960.

Since then, she has logged 45, 000 hours of service, the equivalent of 22 years of full-time work.

"I enjoy every minute of my volunteer work," Kinniston said. "I wish that anyone who has any spare time, I would say volunteer."

JOIN IN

For volunteer opportunities, a calendar of charity events or posting your group's needs, view sacbee.com/helpingothers

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