

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Regional Center for Volunteerism Announced

SACRAMENTO (March 21, 2014) – Community Link today announced creation of The Regional Center for Volunteerism, the region's only full-service volunteer center, to help promote volunteerism in El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties.

"Since 1998, we have offered multiple kinds of volunteer services for multiple nonprofits, employers, government entities and individuals—primarily in Sacramento County," said Steve Heath, president & CEO of Community Link. "But this is a regional community and the community needs us to offer these services throughout the region. There are no other full-service volunteer centers in the five counties."

Community Link also is changing the name of its online volunteer matching service, "HandsOn Sacramento," to "HandsOn Superior California" for the same reason. "We have been helping to connect nonprofits with volunteers for 15 years and have about 9,000 registered volunteers in our database. About 40% of them live outside Sacramento County. So the name 'HandsOn Sacramento' no longer makes sense," said Heath. "We want people, nonprofits and government entities in all five counties to know we can help them work together."

Heath said that all types of 501c3 nonprofits and government agencies—environmental, animal, arts, education, health and human services—can work with The Regional Center for Volunteerism and HandsOn Superior California to post their volunteer needs online.

"As the only full-service volunteer center in the region, we don't believe in limiting the kinds of opportunities for which people can volunteer. It is important to encourage and support volunteerism in all parts of the nonprofit sector," said Heath.

HandsOn Superior California is one of several The Regional Center offers according to Heath: "We will work with employers to create and manage customized group projects—a great way to build teamwork and reinforce a culture of community engagement. We can help any employer manage their own group activities, or manage everything for them from start to finish—including tracking and reporting of hours of service. We can also consult with nonprofits on how to create and manage projects.

"And during disasters and emergencies, our HandsOn Superior California and 2-1-1 information and referral service will be integral parts of disaster response. We have been the State-designated 'lead' for emergency volunteer coordination for inland Northern California, from Stanislaus County to the Oregon border," said Heath.

Heath said that Community Link will be transitioning its website to the new identities over the next couple of weeks but that in the meantime, nonprofits, employers and individuals from throughout the region can use www.handsonsacto.org or call Center director Valeri Mihanovich at (916) 447-7063 x326.

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