

## Hope Thrives Through Our Nation's Philanthropic Spirit

With global tensions and bitter national politics dominating the news, hope continues to thrive through our nation's philanthropic spirit. Hope encouraged where poverty, lack of educational opportunities, and debilitating diseases can lead to despair. Hope fostered through men and women volunteering their time, talent and resources to the benefit of others.

- **Over 81 million:** number of volunteers serving over 1.5 million of our nation's charitable non-profit organizations
- **Over 21 million:** volunteers serving on governing boards of non-profit institutions
- **Over 7.9 billion hours:** volunteered time each year to bring hope to communities large and small
- **Over \$184 billion:** equivalent value of their volunteered time in helping others
- **Over 78%:** volunteers who contributed to their organizations

Boundless energy and initiative from private citizens addressing human needs not otherwise being met.

I was asked recently, given my entire career devoted to professional philanthropy, what non-profit institutions I recalled as my most rewarding consulting experiences. Frankly, I don't associate my most rewarding experiences with organizations. My most rewarding experiences have come from working with and gaining insights from volunteers who are making significant differences in their communities; locally, nationally and internationally. Supporting youth activities. Securing needed funding for scientific research and education. Engaging in efforts to improve the environment. Volunteered effort and resources integrated into our national spirit of service to others.

Each and every one of those volunteers I observed were making significant differences in overlooked areas of our social fabric, fostering hope for the future. And to those men and women I have worked with and learned from over the years, my grateful thanks for your service!