

TOURISM CARES FOR AMERICA

Our Impact to Date



ELLIS ISLAND 2003 - More than 300 tourism industry volunteers spent a combined 1,120 hours raking leaves, painting and cleaning up derelict areas on Ellis Island. The project was the first annual national project of the Tourism Cares for America program.

NEW ORLEANS 2004 - 350 members of the tourism industry came together to restore St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 in New Orleans. The 215-year-old cemetery is the final resting place of some of New Orleans most well-known residents, including voodoo priestess Marie Laveau. There, volunteers donated an estimated 2,450 hours in service to the cemetery by restoring tombs, repainting gates and walls, and replanting trees, all while keeping its historic ambiance.

"The value of the work performed in New Orleans can't be captured in man hours or painted fence posts. The value resides in the hearts and minds of those who gave, those who received, and in the investment made in the city's recovery" - Mike Valentino, President & CEO, Valentino Hotels

MOUNT VERNON 2005 - Nearly 400 industry volunteers spent 2,500 combined hours carrying and dragging logs, limbs and trees in order to clear 300 acres surrounding Mount Vernon. The forest surrounding the home of George Washington was damaged by Hurricane Isabel in 2003 and covered in 50 years of debris that has been allowed to accumulate on the forest floor.



MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST 2006 - More than 330 volunteers from the tourism industry put in nearly 5,000 volunteer hours at a number of coastal sites in Gulfport, Biloxi, D'Iberville and Long Beach to help restore the area after the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. Examples of the work included removal of debris, raking, planting, painting and general cleanup.

"This kind of concentrated effort makes us feel like we moved mountains in just a few days."
- Craig Ray, Director of Tourism, Mississippi Development Authority

VIRGINIA CITY 2007 - Nearly 300 tourism professionals met at Virginia City and provided approximately 2,400 hours to help restore seven historical sites within Virginia City, NV. Virginia City is an Old West mining town that once was "the richest place on earth" when silver was discovered in the mid 1800s and had 30,000 inhabitants. Mark Twain was the editor of the newspaper. John Barrymore, Lillie Langtree and Harry Houdini graced the stage of Piper's Opera House.



NEW ORLEANS 2008 - Nearly 350 participants painted, scraped and landscaped the 33 acre Louis Armstrong Park and completed various landscaping projects that truly improved the overall appearance of the park. Louis Armstrong Park plays a significant role in the history of New Orleans, particularly African-American history and the development of jazz music.

GETTYSBURG 2009 - Volunteers came together to kick off a major restoration of the Spangler Farm, a Civil War field hospital in historic Gettysburg, PA. A day full of removing brush and clearing debris off of civil war era buildings completely transformed the farm.

To further the restoration of the Spangler Farm, Tourism Cares and Trip Mate provided The Gettysburg Foundation with a grant of \$10,000.

"It's amazing that these people put this kind of effort into someone else's community and I'm absolutely amazed at how much they have accomplished ... It's 100% different."
- Joe Curtis, Owner of Mark Twain Book Store and Volunteer Fire Chief, Virginia City

ANGEL ISLAND 2010 - 300 volunteers gave back in San Francisco Bay, removing eighty-five cubic yards of slash and undergrowth to greatly reduce the spread of wild fire and protecting the historic site for many years to come. Also, volunteers helped split and stack two cords of wood to provide 3 months of firewood for the Environmental Living Program. The wood will be used as fuel for cooking meals for hundreds of inner city school children who will experience what life was like as a soldier during the Civil War in the late 1800s.

MYSTIC SEAPORT 2011 - 400 Tourism Industry volunteers came together and made a huge impact. According to the Mystic Seaport staff, the Tourism Cares volunteers completed more than 1 mile of fence painting, using approximately 135 gallons of paint, 30 additional paint projects on the historic buildings and sailing vessels and major landscaping projects utilizing 50 cubic yards of mulch as well as spreading hundreds of pounds of crushed oyster shells throughout the property.

