

## **Minneapolis- St. Paul Ranks #1 Metro Area for Volunteering in the U.S.**

Minneapolis-St. Paul topped the list of major U.S. metropolitan areas for the highest volunteer rate in the country – 40.5 percent of Minneapolis- St. Paul area residents volunteer, compared to the nation's average volunteer rate of 28.1 percent, according to a new federal report.

*Volunteering in America: 2007 City Trends and Rankings*, released today by the Corporation for National and Community Service, is the first report of its kind to look at volunteering trends in 50 of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States. Minneapolis- St. Paul ranked first for its volunteer rate and first for its volunteer retention rate of 77.3 percent.

### **Minneapolis- St. Paul Trends and Highlights**

- Minneapolis- St. Paul volunteers contributed \$2 billion worth of service per year, based on the Independent Sector's value of an hour of volunteer time.
- Minneapolis- St. Paul had an average volunteer rate of 40.5 percent between 2004 and 2006, compared with 40.4 percent in Minnesota and 36.5 percent in Wisconsin.
- On average, Minneapolis-St. Paul had approximately 945,000 volunteers, who served 106.7 million hours per year between 2004 and 2006.
- The most popular volunteering activity was fundraising or selling items to raise money.
- Most Minneapolis volunteers – 36 percent – volunteer at a religious organization.

Volunteer rates between the 50 major metro areas varied widely –from 14.4 percent to 40.5 percent. The report identified several factors that affect a metro area's volunteer rate, helping to explain this wide deviation, including:

- Attachment to the community, as reflected by homeownership rates;
- Commuting times;
- Socioeconomic characteristics such as education levels; and
- Prevalence of nonprofit organizations and their ability to keep volunteers.

Minneapolis-St. Paul may find itself at the top of the ranking in part because the area has a high rate of home ownership (70.4 percent compared to the national metropolitan area median of 60.85 percent) and a low percentage of people living in apartments and other multi-unit structures (29.9 percent compared to the metro area median of 33.45 percent). Both of these factors are measures of community attachment and can have an important impact on volunteer rates.

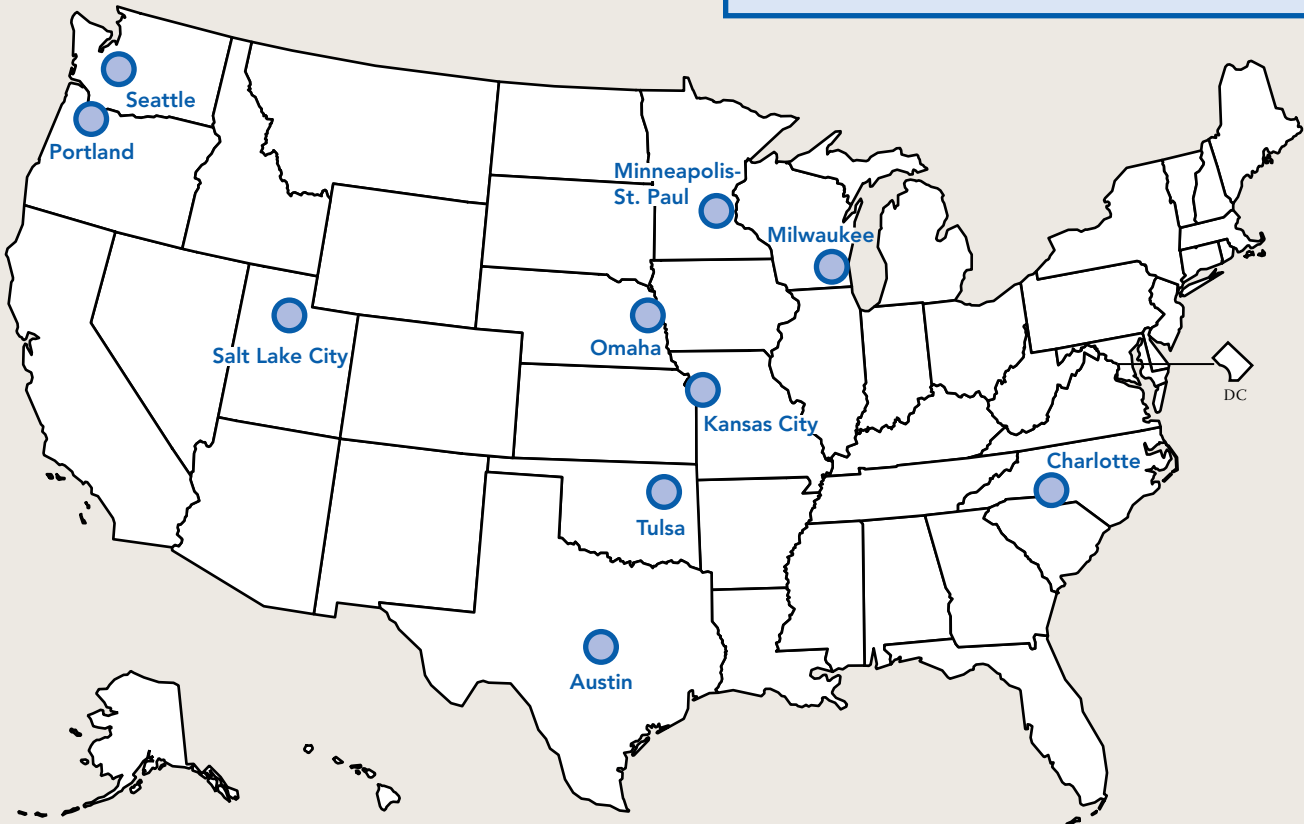
Based on data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, this report presents volunteer rates and rankings of the 50 U.S. major metropolitan areas as well as average volunteer hours served annually per resident in each city. The volunteer rankings are based on a three-year average from 2004-2006. The report was produced by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that administers AmeriCorps, Senior Corps and other programs. Information is available at [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov).

# VOLUNTEER RATES BY METROPOLITAN AREA

This map shows metropolitan areas with the top volunteer rates from across the nation. The volunteer rates and rankings are based on a three-year average of data from 2004, 2005, and 2006. Between 2004 and 2006, the average volunteer rate for the nation was 28.1%, while volunteering rates in metropolitan areas ranged from 14.4% to 40.5%.

## Top Metro Areas

- |                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN | 6. Portland, OR    |
| 2. Salt Lake City, UT       | 7. Kansas City, MO |
| 3. Austin, TX               | 8. Milwaukee, WI   |
| 4. Omaha, NE                | 9. Charlotte, NC   |
| 5. Seattle, WA              | 10. Tulsa, OK      |



# VOLUNTEER RATES BY METROPOLITAN AREA

The volunteer rates and rankings in the table below are based on a three-year average of data from 2004, 2005 and 2006. Metropolitan areas varied greatly in their average volunteer rates ranging from 14.4%.to 40.5%.

RANK	METRO AREA	RATE	RANK	METRO AREA	RATE	RANK	METRO AREA	RATE
1	Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	40.5%	17	Denver, CO	31.5%	34	Detroit, MI	27.0%
			18	St. Louis, MO	30.9%	35	San Antonio, TX	26.7%
2	Salt Lake City, UT	38.4%	19	Nashville, TN	30.5%	36	Philadelphia, PA	26.6%
3	Austin, TX	38.1%	20	Dallas, TX	30.3%	37	Sacramento, CA	26.5%
4	Omaha, NE	37.8%	20	Oklahoma City, OK	30.3%	38	Atlanta, GA	26.1%
5	Seattle, WA	36.3%	22	New Haven, CT	30.2%	39	Houston, TX	25.8%
6	Portland, OR	35.8%	23	Hartford, CT	29.6%	39	Tampa, FL	25.8%
7	Kansas City, MO	34.9%	23	San Francisco, CA	29.6%	41	Phoenix, AZ	23.5%
8	Milwaukee, WI	34.4%	25	San Diego, CA	29.2%	42	Honolulu, HI	23.3%
9	Charlotte, NC	34.3%	26	Baltimore, MD	28.6%	42	Providence, RI	23.3%
10	Tulsa, OK	33.7%	27	Albuquerque, NM	27.8%	44	Los Angeles, CA	22.3%
11	Cincinnati, OH	33.4%	28	Indianapolis, IN	27.7%	45	Orlando, FL	22.2%
12	Columbus, OH	33.3%	29	Richmond, VA	27.6%	46	Riverside, CA	20.6%
13	Pittsburgh, PA	32.6%	30	Boston, MA	27.5%	47	Virginia Beach, VA	19.3%
14	Bridgeport, CT	32.3%	30	Cleveland, OH	27.5%	48	New York, NY	18.7%
15	Washington, DC	31.9%	32	Chicago, IL	27.4%	49	Miami, FL	16.1%
16	Louisville, KY	31.6%	32	San Jose, CA	27.4%	50	Las Vegas, NV	14.4%

The metro areas listed above are geographic regions classified as Metropolitan Statistical Areas which are used by the U.S. Census Bureau in collecting and publishing federal statistics.