Principles of Excellence for
Corporate Volunteer Councils

HandsOn Network has developed Principles of Excellence for Corporate Volunteer Councils to better serve developing and well-established CVCs. It is HandsOn Network's goal that these Principles will serve as benchmarks for CVCs, guiding their work to improve and expand their organization. The Principles of Excellence for Corporate Volunteer Councils are:

CVC Purpose: The CVC has a clearly articulated purpose and mission designed to support, encourage and provide venues for businesses to more effectively address community needs through their employee volunteer programs.

- Does the CVC's purpose or mission statement reflect the unique needs and attributes of its community?

- Does the CVC communicate its social vision consistently to its member companies (internal), the business community at-large and nonprofit community leaders (i.e., through newsletters, annual reports, CVC membership manual, by-laws, website, brochures, press releases, etc.) in order to encourage greater corporate community involvement?

- Does the CVC participate in leading the CVC "movement" by continuously recruiting new member companies and sharing their expertise (challenges and successes) at the local and national level?

- Has the CVC established policies, procedures and goals to achieve its mission? Is it managed effectively and efficiently?

- Does the CVC work in collaboration with community volunteer referral agencies such as HandsOn affiliates, or their local Chamber of Commerce? Are these referral agencies partners or members of the CVC?

CVC Activities: The CVC's structure and activities are clearly connected to its purpose and ultimately support businesses interested in developing or strengthening their employee volunteer programs.

- Are national initiatives (i.e., Make a Difference Day, National Volunteer Week, Awards for Excellence in Corporate Community Service, etc.) promoted and encouraged?

- Are member companies kept informed of local and national trend examples or best practices?

- Does the CVC provide or arrange for training to meet the needs of member companies? Is specialized training offered to companies with new programs, as well as those with advanced needs?

- Are opportunities for networking offered that encourage members to share their expertise, program materials and experiences with one another?

- Does the CVC recognize or award member companies or individuals who have exhibited standards of excellence through their commitment, leadership and impact within the community?

Evaluation and Measurement: The CVC seeks to continuously improve its effectiveness and performance and that of its members.

- Is the CVC structured and managed in such a way to be able to respond effectively to the professional development and networking needs of its member companies? How?

- Does the CVC ensure that its membership is informed of the problems effecting the local community

- Does the CVC evaluate its efforts and effectiveness, including the impact on the community and its member companies?

- Does the CVC membership have a voice in planning its activities (i.e. programming, volunteer projects, annual events, etc.)?