

Volunteer? Who me?

## AGRS Employees Heeding Call to "StepUP"

An urgent call is echoing throughout the country from our youth. They want help. American General has answered that call, and since we made our commitment to the volunteer organization, America's Promise, in February, nearly 500 of us - about half from AGRS - have stepped up.

AG's StepUP program was launched at the "Good to Great" nationwide teleconference in February, and a StepUP Volunteer Day celebration was held in April, attended by more than 850 Home Office employees and 14 America's Promise Houston partners.

### Why volunteer?

Let's ask some AGRS folks who have already made their commitments. Claudia Soltys, a senior graphics coordinator in VALIC's marketing communications department, reflects on the opportunity to give back to the community.

Claudia says she's personally seen positive results from volunteer commitments, and feels very strongly that everyone - beginning at an early age - should give some portion of their time and share their particular strengths, talents and joys in life with others, especially with those in need. "I believe this gift of time and self is, in itself, a reward that provides rich and varied opportunities for personal growth," Claudia says.

"Since moving to Houston a year ago, I hadn't gotten around to volunteering," Claudia explains.

"Now, American General has given me an opportunity to do so through the StepUP program. I am proud to be part of this organization."

AGRS' Patricia Seago, a four-year volunteer mentor, tutoring at Woodrow Wilson Elementary School in Houston, continually finds herself inspired by the excitement in a child's eyes when she's able to teach them something new. "American General's new time-off policy will help make it possible for co-workers to experience this same inspiration," she says.

Jesse Rivera, VALIC's manager of Training Production, is volunteering to help the San Jacinto Girl Scouts. His wife and daughter are already involved with the Scouts and he feels this will get him more involved in their activities. "I believe in this initiative wholeheartedly," Jesse says. "Not only can I become more involved in my family's activities, it is also a way for me to give back to my community."

Sharon Glasgow, Marketing Communications, believes it's important to give something back to the community, especially to the children. "I feel very fortunate to work for a company that encourages its employees to volunteer their time and talents to people who need it," Sharon says.

American General has teamed-up with the these Houston partners in StepUP's pilot year:

- Woodrow Wilson Elementary School
- Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas
- Communities in Schools
- Houston Area Women's Center
- I Have a Dream-Houston
- SEARCH-House of Tiny Treasures
- Serve Houston Youth Corps
- Texas Children's Hospital
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts
- Houston's Promise
- March of Dimes
- YWCA and YMCA

Now, won't you "StepUP" to help those in need? You should have received a Lotus Notes e-mail from corporate community relations with a link to



the StepUp registration database. Just open that e-mail, load the database on your computer and click on the volunteer program that interests you! Have questions? Call community relations at extension 6426 for more information.

# AGRSTATOR

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**Core of the Vision**

**Performance Culture Workshops**

**"Enjoying Your Job"**

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