



ITEMS FOR ACTION

COMMISSION ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE & ACTION

Locally & Globally: CVSA Campaigns to Make the 2030 SDGs a Reality in the U.S.



From the halls of the United Nations to business conventions in Los Angeles, and from classrooms in universities on both coasts to webinars held via Zoom for nationwide memberships of professional associations, Commission on Voluntary Service & Action's (CVSA) Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 SDGs in the U.S. has expanded into new sectors nationally and internationally.

Ajay Jha, co-chair of the Coordinating Mechanism for the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders recognized by the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development at the United Nations, who met CVSA's volunteer delegation at the UN in July 2022 and read the report CVSA submitted titled *Making the 2030 SDGs a Reality in the U.S.*, sent greetings to CVSA on September 6 praising CVSA's work in the United States. He encouraged CVSA to return to the UN for the 2023 HLPF and bring a full-fledged "People's Report" on the status of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals from the perspective of the grassroots organizations affiliated with CVSA.

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Photo: CVSA

Nico Gentile (left), CVSA volunteer and Loyola Marymount University (LMU) student, explains volunteering with CVSA's Campaign for the 2030 SDGs to another student and promotes INVEST YOURSELF at LMU's last weekly Wellness Wednesday Fair before the winter break.

See the 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS on page 7.

The Power of Volunteers in Strengthening Community Ties in a West Virginia Town

by Brian DeRouen, Co-Director, Alderson Hospitality House



Alderson, West Virginia is a small river town in southern West Virginia. It can be found in Monroe County, which does not have a single stoplight and is home to fewer than 15,000 residents. The poverty rate is about 34% and a median household income of \$26,053 which includes the 16% one year drop from the pandemic. It is a quaint little town with two dollar stores, two gas stations, one mom and pop diner and not much else...with the exception of Federal Prison Camp (FPC) Alderson – a women's minimum security facility.

My family and I came to town to take over as co-directors of the Alderson Hospitality House in October of 2009. The Hospitality House is a nonprofit bed and breakfast serving friends and family of women incarcerated at the FPC down the road. We have 13 bedrooms, and when filled to capacity, we can host 56 guests. During pandemic-free times, the prison camp has visitation Friday through Monday, and Hospitality House guests come from all over the country to visit their moms, wives, daughters, grandmas, girlfriends and best friends who are incarcerated. Without the Hospitality house, the cost of transportation, hotel and meals for a few days in Alderson to visit their loved one would make a visit impossible for most families.

It turns out that we are the perfect liaison between these

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CVSA has Special NGO Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, and is a member of the Nongovernment Organizations (NGO) Major Group. The establishment of the HLPF on Sustainable Development was an outcome of the 2012 Earth Summit, and was responsible for coordinating the worldwide process of writing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with its 17 Goals with the involvement of all countries, stakeholders and millions of people. In September 2015, all 193 member nations of the UN, including the U.S., adopted the Agenda and the 17 Goals, pledging to make them priorities in their domestic national policy. The HLPF now serves as the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the SDGs at the global level, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. The U.S. is the only industrialized nation that has not reported to the HLPF on taking any action towards the 17 Goals since they were adopted.

A CVSA delegation of Susan Angus, Executive Director; Jennifer Perez, Membership Coordinator and Alia Cornell, volunteer and recent UCLA graduate, flew from Los Angeles



Photo: CVSA

CVSA's Delegation to the 2022 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held at UN Headquarters gave a presentation "Building a Groundswell of Participation for Implementation of the 2030 SDGs in United States" at the UN Church Center. (Left to right) Jennifer Perez, CVSA Membership Coordinator, Caryn Maxim, Executive Committee Member and East Coast Membership and INVEST YOURSELF Distribution Coordinator, Alia Cornell, CVSA volunteer, Susan Angus, Executive Director.

to New York to be joined by Caryn Maxim, Executive Committee member and East Coast Membership Coordinator based in New Jersey, to attend the 2022 HLPF at UN headquarters and distribute CVSA's 2022 report.

Maxim said in the CVSA staff meeting post the 2022 HLPF, "The people that we met at the UN from around the world and



ITEMS FOR ACTION

COMMISSION ON VOLUNTARY SERVICE & ACTION

ITEMS FOR ACTION is published quarterly by **Commission on Voluntary Service & Action (CVSA)**. CVSA's mission is to promote, interpret, coordinate and extend the field of independent voluntary service and action programs serving people and communities in need of systemic solutions to economic, social and environmental problems.

CVSA is a consultative and coordinating body of nongovernmental, voluntary service organizations based primarily in North America as well as around the world. CVSA publishes **INVEST YOURSELF — The Catalogue of Volunteer Opportunities**; works to expand the ability of individuals to donate their time and services to people in need through organizations and free of government restraint; and promotes full-time volunteer service as a vocational choice toward achieving social change.

CVSA holds Special NGO Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN, thus provides a voice for independent, nongovernmental voluntary service and action organizations and the constituencies they serve, bringing local needs into global context and global context to local efforts. CVSA affirms the tenets of the UN Charter and is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the U.S. and around the world. CVSA mobilizes involvement of U.S.-based volunteer organizations and their allies for the achievement of the universal, transformative and indivisible Sustainable Development Goals in the U.S., in order to end all poverty in all its forms everywhere.

ITEMS FOR ACTION is CVSA's newsletter information service for organizational members. **ITEMS FOR ACTION** reports and provides analysis of news related to the voluntary service field on a national and international level, as well as political and economic developments relevant to the independent voluntary service sector.

Your submissions to **ITEMS FOR ACTION** of information, news, advice, photographs and graphics depicting your work or simply your comments and concerns are instrumental to the process of growth and advancement of voluntary service as a whole. We always look forward to receiving them.

ITEMS FOR ACTION is free to CVSA members. Subscription rate for U.S. residents is \$20/year. Canadians and those abroad please add \$20 for additional mailing costs. Send your order and submissions of articles for publication to CVSA.

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Founded in 1945, CVSA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable corporation with an all-volunteer staff. Volunteers are needed in all aspects of CVSA's work. Your financial contributions are also urgently needed and tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Contact CVSA: 1284 S. Sycamore Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90019 (323) 933-2872 • www.cvsa-investyourself.org



Photo: CVSA

(Left to right) Susan Angus, Executive Director, Alia Cornell, volunteer and Jennifer Perez, CVSA Membership Coordinator at the United Nations Headquarters during the 2022 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

from the U.S. agreed that until the U.S. engages in the process agreed to in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and enacts the policy changes and priorities necessary for the full implementation of the 17 Goals domestically, the U.S. is out of sync with the direction most of the rest of the world is going in and cannot be counted on by other nations as a partner – much less a leader – in building a better future for all people and the planet. And we are the people who need to organize to make it happen.”

Inspired by the encouragement received from UN agency staff, delegates from other nations, and other NGOs from both the U.S. and around the world, CVSA organizers have now begun communication with CVSA member organizations and organizations listed in CVSA’s *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action* catalogue about participating in compiling a “People’s Report” on the status of the 2030 SDGs in the U.S. The report will be submitted to the 2023 HLPF, in order to present positive proposals from grassroots organizations on how each of the 17 Goals need to be and can be achieved in the U.S. CVSA

volunteers will be working on this over the next five months and will involve several dozen *INVEST YOURSELF* volunteer organizations, as well as professional associations and small business representatives, in compiling the report.

Perez explained in the November 13 briefing for new volunteers at CVSA’s office, “The critical importance of fighting for the 2030 Goals to reverse the growing poverty and inequality in the U.S. and solve the inequities in access to clean affordable water, energy, health care and affordable housing that communities across the country are facing has been evident to every business person, teacher, student, nonprofit leader and community organizer that CVSA volunteers and organizers have spoken to here in Los Angeles and in our Zoom meetings with people in other parts of the country. The most common questions from people are, ‘Why haven’t I heard about this before, why has there been no media coverage here on this?!’ and ‘Why isn’t the U.S. government doing more to implement this?!’ That is why we need more volunteers to expand this campaign and involve more organizations. There is strength in numbers, and the more of us pushing, starting at the local level for involvement in planning and monitoring the achievement of the Goals, the stronger we all are.”

Reaching Business and Academic Sustainability Officers at the 2022 NetZero Expo

CVSA was invited to make a presentation at the 9th Annual NetZero Expo held at the Los Angeles Convention Center on August 15, organized each year by the Verdical Group, a leading sustainability consulting firm focused on decarbonizing the built environment and inspiring a net zero future. CVSA had an audience of over 30 business sustainability officers, sustainability consultants, climate-concerned manufacturers, architects, university staff and some local government agency representatives.

The overall Expo attendance was over 1,200 people from 34 states and 13 countries. There were three 50-minute

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presentations going on simultaneously throughout the day, at the same time the Expo featured close to 100 exhibits demonstrating products like a porous sidewalk system that can collect rain water safely, compostable cups that can replace plastic Solo cups, and model homes that are completely energy self-sufficient and non-carbon. CVSA's talk was the only one of over 100 presentations that focused on the 2030 SDGs as a critically necessary and viable plan of action without which governments cannot successfully mitigate or build resiliency against climate change and leave no one behind.

The focus of the presentation made by Angus and Perez on the urgency of building partnerships between businesses, schools, professional associations and community-based volunteer organizations to work together for the implementation of the 2030 SDGs, resulted in a lively Q&A session. Many members of the audience took the time to sign up for follow-up on how they can join CVSA's campaign before they went on to the next presentation at the Expo.

Tania Anders, Ph.D., Sustainability Coordinator for Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California and Professor of Marine Geosciences and Geology, spoke up during the Q&A session, saying she had students looking for involvement opportunities in work on sustainability, and that the presentation was very illuminating. She said she had known about the 2030 SDGs, even has posters about them at school, but had not realized that it was up to us to organize and make them happen. Anders arranged for CVSA to make the presentation to the staff at Mt. San Antonio in November and to make the Key Note presentation at their Faculty Professional Development Day event in February 2023.

Several business sustainability officers asked for more information about how their business could adopt the 2030 SDGs into their business model and said they were inspired by the example of ClearTech, the audio visual company in Altadena, California

Congratulations to the students accepted into the 2023 Min Family Engineering Social Entrepreneurship Challenge

The Min Family Challenge (MFC), established by alumnus of Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California (USC), Bryan Min and his wife Julie Min, empowers future generations of engineers to apply their acquired knowledge and leverage the power of technology to better the world by serving the least fortunate and their pressing societal needs.

Inspired by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, teams of USC students will meet with community-based volunteer organizations to work on solutions to the problems they face.

CVSA is proud to be on the MFC team to provide consultation to students on their projects.

Is your organization a member of CVSA?

- ☐ Be included in *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action*
- ☐ Reach people looking for the best way to invest their time and skills to make a real difference
- ☐ Access CVSA's consultation and training benefit
- ☐ Access CVSA's new benefit in Partnership with SAve — Sustainability in AV
- ☐ Build new alliances for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the U.S. and around the world

**Call Jennifer at CVSA and sign-up today
(323) 933-2872**

which CVSA gave as the case study in the presentation. (See next page.) Some participants said they had heard of the SDGs before but never understood how they were to be implemented, or had not read beyond what the 17 icons say, and now see how they actually address the real systemic change needed and that we can't wait for the government to take the lead.

Women Graduates USA Promoting Goal #4 *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all*

Women Graduates USA (WG-USA) has joined CVSA in calling for the U.S. government at all levels to "involve all stakeholders in creating a national roadmap for achieving the SDGs and commit to a regular calendar for reporting SDG progress at both the domestic and global levels based on real data." WG-USA is a membership organization of women college graduates who have an interest in issues affecting women and girls worldwide, and is the U.S. affiliate of Graduate Women International (GWI), the leading girls' and women's global organization run by and for women, advocating for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training.

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Introducing

SAVe: A Second Life



Taking action against e-waste

Attention CVSA Members:

A new benefit is available to you through CVSA's Partnership with SAve - Sustainability in Audio Visual

Contact CVSA for information about how you can participate and apply for donations of needed audio visual equipment.

Call Abhishek at CVSA (323) 933-2872



SDG Campaign Update:

New Nonprofit Launched: SAVE

Organizing for Sustainability in the Audio Visual Industry — Focus is on Goals 12 & 17

by Abhishek Devarajan, CVSA Liaison to SAVE, and Jennifer Perez, CVSA Membership Coordinator



Electronics have become central to work and social life in developed nations, and increasingly in developing nations as well.

With the rise of technological advancements, promotional sales, planned obsolescence and the marketed belief that “newer is better,” institutions and individual consumers are upgrading their electronics more and more frequently, with an increase in unregulated, unsustainable electronic waste. Over 80% of electronic waste is not recycled and ends up in landfills and dumping grounds around the world and throughout the U.S., contributing to environmental and human health disasters. This also contributes to greenhouse gas emissions because the materials that could be recycled from the discarded equipment are wasted and more materials, including rare earths, continue to be mined and manufactured unnecessarily.

The audio visual industry contributes to that problem, and Christina De Bono, President of ClearTech AV, an audio-visual integration company based in Altadena, California, and a sponsor of CVSA’s *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action*, decided to do something about this. Inspired by CVSA’s Campaign for the 2030 Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs) in the U.S., De Bono and her staff at ClearTech adopted the SDGs into their business model.

They soon concluded that as one business, they could have little effect on the industry as a whole. De Bono, along with Thuy To Chin, ClearTech Director of Operations and Joe Perez, ClearTech Chief Technology Officer, founded a new nonprofit to tackle an industry-wide problem with industry-wide solutions: SAVE — Sustainability in AV. SAVE is the first industry-wide U.S.-based organization to bring stakeholders in the audio visual (AV) field together to take concerted action to achieve the 2030 SDGs.

“The AV industry has been part of the problem. But it’s equally true that we can help drive the solution. SAVE exists to harness our ingenuity, imagination and commitment to ensure a sustainable future for us all,” De Bono explained.

SAVE and CVSA Build Partnership

SAVE’s focus is on Goal 12: “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns,” and Target 12-4: “...achieve



Photo: SAVE

Christina De Bono, SAVE Founder and Kelly Perkins SAVE Board member and Sponsorship Committee Coordinator, introduced SAVE to the industry in June at the largest annual trade show for Pro AV and larger low-voltage industries, InfoComm, held in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Photo: Graphic Online- Ghana

Agbogboshie, Ghana is home to the world’s largest e-waste dump site, creating toxic water and air pollution problems from the chemicals released when components are manually taken apart or burned, but people searching for materials that can be sold, causing them to suffer respiratory diseases and other life-threatening conditions.

the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impact on human health and the environment.”

In line with Goal 17 to build partnerships for the SDGs, SAVE and CVSA have established a partnership starting with CVSA closely collaborating with their new “SAVE: A Second Life” program to minimize the amount of e-waste produced by the AV Industry. This initiative gives AV equipment a second life at the end of its first one by donating it through connections

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Transform Our World: The 2030

What is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

On September 25, 2015, all 193 member nations of the UN, including the United States, voted unanimously to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and strive to achieve these Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 in every country — developing and developed — as national domestic and international policy priority.

Each country, including the U.S., signed on, stating: “... *We can be the first generation to succeed in ending poverty; just as we may be the last to have a chance of saving the planet.*”

Who wrote it?

Millions of people were involved. The Rio+20 Summit held in 2012 (20 years after the first Earth Summit in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro) was attended by 172 governments and over 2,400 representatives of NonGovernment Organizations (NGOs), indigenous groups and other stakeholders from all continents. A major outcome was the establishment of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development to launch the process to write the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and Goals (SDGs) that would address the systemic transformations needed to both end poverty and save the planet.

Through this framework, the UN coordinated the largest, most inclusive and transparent international consultation program in its history over a three-year period. Input was received from thousands of local and regional consultations and surveys held in communities of all sizes in most countries around the world.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with the 17 interrelated Goals and 169 Targets is a voluntary, nonbinding agreement that each nation pledged to carry out, and requires the participation of the people of each country to ensure it is achieved. It says:

“It is ‘we the peoples’ who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments as well as parliaments, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community — and all people. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this Agenda. It is an Agenda of the people, by the people and for the people — and this, we believe, will ensure its success.”

CVSA’s Call for the Implementation of the SDGs in the U.S.:

CVSA calls on the U.S. government to carry out its pledge to implement the 2030 SDGs in the U.S. and form a national SDG Coordinating Council. State and local councils should also be set up to oversee data collection, draw up implementation plans, coordinate policies and monitor the progress of implementation in their state and submit those to the national coordinating body. Make the process public and open.

Members on the councils at all levels should include representatives from nongovernment volunteer organizations, faith-based service organizations, social service administrators, educators, labor leaders, scientists, low-income people’s representatives, family farm leaders, health advocates, legal justice specialists, environmental specialists, religious leaders, credit unions and community banks, small business representatives and other stakeholders.

In the absence of U.S. governmental action to date towards this promise, we call on CVSA member organizations and all other stakeholders to “take ownership” of the SDGs in your work and seek partnerships with others on the local level for the 2030 SDGs. CVSA can provide consultation, coordination and tools to:

- Promote the SDGs in your community through the work your organization is already doing, bring more stakeholders into this discussion and build alliances.
- Raise the demand for the 2030 SDGs to your local government, demanding involvement and accountability.
- Contribute information to include in CVSA’s People’s Reports on the SDGs in the U.S. to the UN based on your organization’s direct experience.
- Join CVSA in building this movement to increase our collective strength and transform our world while insuring no one is left behind.

Sustainable Development Goals



Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries



Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*



Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Goal 15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Read the whole 35-page document: *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, in the Appendix of *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action*, or at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

**Schedule a CVSA
“Taking Ownership of the
2030 SDGs” workshop
(in-person or virtual)**

**with your organization, school,
workplace, community or place of
worship. Call CVSA at
(323) 933-2872**

**CVSA’s
2023 People’s Report
on the 17 SDGs in the U.S.**
needs your knowledge of the
problems, and your proposals
for the solutions

**Call Jennifer for more information
and deadlines at (323) 933-2872**

Locally and Globally: CVSA Campaigns to Make SDGs a Reality

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Their initiative is a result of a June 15 CVSA interactive webinar titled “Taking Ownership of the 2030 SDGs: Global Goals Through Local Action” hosted by the Global Impact Committee of WG-USA, and attended by approximately 30 members across the U.S. and several from other countries. WG-USA is now mobilizing members to “advocate to achieve the 2030 SDGs in our cities and towns, workplaces, professional associations, schools and places of worship,” and “to increase education about the SDGs among local government officials, develop proposals for closing the gap between the current condition of education in the U.S. and the achievement of Goal 4,” as explained in their newsletter *The Flame*.

Maryella Hannum, M.Sc., spearheaded organizing the June CVSA webinar for the WG-USA membership. Hannum had previously asked CVSA to provide a workshop via Zoom for her students at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey, who were preparing to participate in the 2022 Global Model UN event, held at UN headquarters in New York City, which is an educational simulation in which students learn about diplomacy, international relations and the United Nations. Her team of students earned a “distinguished delegation” honor for how well prepared they were. Hannum was inspired by the workshop with her students to bring this to the whole WG-USA membership. Laura Rojo MacLeod, WG-USA Program Convener and also director of *Amherst Bilingual Studio* in Amherst, Massachusetts, along with Kathy Horvat, WG-USA Global Outreach Convener, are now coordinating the follow-up and coordination with CVSA on the SDG campaign.

As they explain in their article about the SDG initiative in WG-USA’s *The Flame*, “An analysis of 49 SDG targets using 56 indicators based on data through 2019 shows that even before the pandemic, the U.S. was not on track to fully


achieve a single SDG. For 75% of the trajectories analyzed, the U.S. must completely reverse trends that were moving in the wrong direction or greatly alter its approach to cross the relevant threshold by 2030. Flashing red warning signs suggest that the future status and well-being of America’s youth, women and minority racial and ethnic groups requires urgent attention. In terms of SDG 4, even before COVID, the U.S. had gaps in the areas of adult literacy, gender disparities in education, education for sustainable development and inclusive and safe learning environments.”

SDG 4: “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” is of particular importance to the mission of WG-USA and GWI, and the interconnected nature of the Goals is easily demonstrated with Goal 4 as it relates in very specific ways to all 17 SDGs.

Kathleen Laurila, a member of the Iowa chapter of American Association of University Women, also asked CVSA to hold this interactive webinar with their membership, which was held on November 30 with over 30 attendees. Laurila is also a member of GW-USA and attended their June CVSA/SDG webinar.

CVSA is looking forward to making our “Taking Ownership of the 2030 SDGs” presentation to more professional organizations in the U.S. and assisting them in developing their own SDG campaigns, and is providing training to any CVSA member organization or volunteer, in how to lead the presentation in order to multiply its reach.

Join this Winning Strategy

Volunteers are urgently needed at CVSA to continue to expand the Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 SDGs in the U.S., and to expand the distribution campaign of *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action* volunteer opportunities catalogue. We have a CVSA/SDG Organizers Training Program available for staff members of any of the organizations listed in *INVEST YOURSELF*. Call Jennifer Perez at (323) 933-2872 for more information about how you can participate. 



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New Nonprofit: SAVe

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that SAVe has established with CVSA and also with Higher Education Technology Managers Alliance (HETMA). Through CVSA, SAVe can reach out to nongovernment volunteer organizations associated with CVSA that could put AV equipment to good use versus a premature disposal. Through HETMA, SAVe is making similar connections via their network of over 600 higher educational institutions.

SAVe is calling for responsible manufacturing, reuse, repurposing, recycling and reduction of energy use at every stage of product life cycle. The UN defines e-waste as any discarded product with a battery or plug and features toxic and hazardous substances such as mercury that can pose severe risk to human and environmental health. In 2019, over 50 million tons of e-waste — including displays, cables, power supplies and other AV equipment — was generated in North America and Europe. This number has increased 21% over the last five years. The industry has no unilateral process, system or policy to deal with where the equipment goes at the end of its life cycle.

Tim Alevizos, Co-coordinator of SAVe's Education Committee and Board Member from Minneapolis, stated during the SAVe leadership training visit to the CVSA office on October 23, 2022, "The point is, nothing's going to happen unless we make it happen... all of us in AV who care about the future of our businesses, industry, communities and planet have to organize, strategize and fight for needed change."

Integral to creating organization, SAVe is implementing an education program and presented the first of a multi-part educational series on October 23, 2022 titled "Controlling E-Waste: There Is No 'Away' When You Throw It Away," which was produced by John Thomas, Co-coordinator of SAVe Education Committee and Board member from Cleveland, Ohio. Each module will be presented in a hybrid webinar format, recorded and made available on the SAVe website. On November 13, 2022, CVSA hosted the first hybrid joint educational session with SAVe Board members and CVSA organizers and volunteers, with a presentation titled "52 Years of Earth Day Celebrations — Why More Hasn't Been Achieved and What Will it Take?"

Building Partnerships for the 2030 SDGs

CVSA and SAVe are calling on business owners in all industries to truthfully examine the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, and their intersection with poverty and inequality — and what role their industry is currently playing in perpetuating the problems. "The status quo cannot continue," says De Bono. "The challenges we face are profound, diverse — and getting worse. We must address them as nations, as individuals and as businesses before it's too late. What's called for is leadership to steer the industry in the right direction."



Photo: SAVe

Susan Angus, CVSA Executive Director (left) and CVSA Liaison to SAVe, Abhishek Devarajan, (second from left) met with the SAVe staff (left to right) Thuy To Chin, SAVe Volunteers Coordinator; Joe Perez, Coordinator of the Save A Second Life project and Christina De Bono, SAVe Founder and President, at SAVe's office in Altadena, California on November 11, 2022 to set the first steps of the partnership between the two organizations.



Photo: CVSA

(Left to Right) Debbie Williamson, President of Tempest Technologies based in Seattle, Washington and SAVe Board member; Christina De Bono, SAVe Founder and President; Roshan Hargens, CVSA volunteer; Susan Angus, CVSA Executive Director; Jennifer Perez, CVSA Membership Coordinator and Thuy To Chin, SAVe Volunteers Coordinator, outside the CVSA office in Los Angeles on September 25, 2022 for a day of organizer training and education with CVSA.

SAVe provides a vehicle for the industry to achieve sustainable development and serves as a bridge to other industries, NGOs and partner organizations who share the conviction that we must take urgent action to preserve the health of our planet, communities and people.

AV managers, business owners and staff of AV integration companies, manufacturers and other stakeholders in the AV industry interested in becoming part of the solution can contact SAVe by going to their website: saveav.org.

CVSA member organizations and other nongovernmental, community-based organizations serving communities in need interested in partnering with a SAVe certified AV company near you and making a request for donated AV equipment and installation as a CVSA membership benefit, contact Jennifer Perez or Abhishek Devarajan at CVSA at (323) 933-2872.



West Virginia Community

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Photo: Alderson Hospitality House

Kayla Wiser (second from left), a full-time staff volunteer at AHH finishing up after dinner cleaning with the help of some of the guests.



Photo: Alderson Hospitality House

Alderson Hospitality House (AHH) has welcomed over 50,000 overnight guests from all over the world since it opened in 1976.

out-of-towners and the local community, as we seem just about as out of place here as many of them do. We have tattoos, piercings and progressive politics; yet, in this time of extreme political polarization are an accepted and included family in a town that is deeply Red politically.

An average Saturday night dinner at the House will have between 20 and 40 people eating with us. There will be a grandma and her granddaughter visiting from Detroit, a family from Georgia, a man from Nebraska in to visit his wife and a woman from New York visiting her wife. There will be several red MAGA hats and t-shirts proclaiming 2nd Amendment rights, a few NPR shirts, some Wu-Tang swag, lots of Simply Southern, a few women wearing hijabs and lots of laughter. In a room of contrasts and ideologies spanning the breadth of the political spectrum, everyone gets along because, despite the myriad differences, almost everyone has one thing in common...they have traveled to Alderson to visit a woman close to them who is incarcerated.

There are also dinner guests that are not from out of town and are not visiting anyone in the prison camp. They are there because every meal served at the Hospitality House is open to anyone that shows up hungry. A few of our neighbors join

us for dinner because they do not have food to eat at home, some show up because they want to help us cook the meal and others just don't want to eat alone. Some are worship leaders at their church, and a few are struggling with addiction and the heat and water are shut off at their place. In this house, everyone is welcome and accepted as they are.

The spirit of a place like the Hospitality House can't help but spill out into the streets. Its foundation is, of course, grounded in the mission statement, but when all are welcome, all show up.

With friends and neighbors coming over for dinners, the needs of the community quickly became evident. We learned that the Alderson Ministerial Association food pantry needed a volunteer director, the town didn't have a farmers market, the artisan gallery was looking for someone to teach a few classes, there was no recycling program in town, the volunteer fire department needed new members, the elementary school needed adults for the walking school bus program, folks wanted to start a community garden, shut-in seniors needed a warm meal and a friendly visitor to stop by once a week – the list goes on and on.

As we made Alderson our home we realized meeting each of these needs brought us in touch with different neighbors from around town and they quickly became friends.



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For over two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, visitation was suspended at federal prisons nationwide, and is now opening up again. At Alderson, we still had guests staying with us through that period. For instance, the night before a woman is scheduled to turn herself in to begin her sentence and (more joyfully) the night before people come to pick up their loved one upon her release. Unfortunately, our dining room table and the majority of our guest rooms were mostly empty during these crazy two years. However, despite this fact and the significant loss of donations which has resulted, the Alderson Hospitality House continues to thrive.

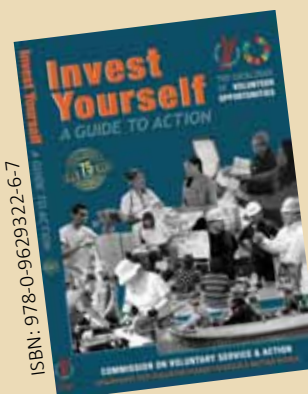
When we moved into the Hospitality House 12 years ago, we saw it as a short-term volunteer service opportunity, but we are still here. Founded as a Hospitality House serving outsiders visiting their loved ones in prison, it has grown into a cornerstone of the community. This is because it became *grounded in*, as opposed to being limited by, its mission of serving women who are incarcerated and their families.

Editor's note: 2.2 million persons are in prison in the United States, the highest percentage of a nation's population in the world. Approximately 200,000 individuals are in the 122 federal system of prisons. Alderson Federal Prison Camp is minimum security and one of nine Camps in this system, housing only women, with an inmate population of 640 to close to 1,200 at times. Women are there mostly on drug use convictions and non-violent white collar crimes, and come from the streets of New York, Washington, DC and other northeastern cities.

Alderson Hospitality House is listed in *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action*, and needs more full-time and part-time volunteers. Contact them at (304) 445-2980.

There are more organizations in other parts of the U.S. also serving the needs of incarcerated women and their families and organizing for change in the U.S. legal and justice systems. Contact CVSA for more information about how you can help. 

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Organizing Our Volunteer Power to Build a Better World!

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All CVSA volunteers and staff of CVSA member organizations are welcome to participate in our organizer training programs which include on-the-job practical training as well as classes in history, strategy and methods of organizing and current world affairs.

INVEST YOURSELF Publications Production

On-the-job training is provided in publications work sessions. If you have skills in writing, editing, proofreading, desktop publishing or Photoshop, you can become one of the trainers!

Community Outreach Events and *INVEST YOURSELF* Distribution

Volunteers participate in information tables and speaking engagements. This is CVSA's most valuable means of connecting with people from all walks of life looking for meaningful and productive volunteer opportunities.

Membership Organization Communications, Consultations and Training

Volunteers participate in our site visits, consultations and training workshops with member organizations of CVSA, help maintain and build more arenas of communication with member organizations around the country and collect news for the newsletter.

Nationwide Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

Volunteers learn to give presentations to community groups; coordinate the collection of reports to be submitted to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the UN; do research and develop tools for CVSA member organizations, mobilize community groups, businesses and faith-based groups to build a groundswell of involvement for implementation of the 2030 SDGs in the U.S. On-the-job training provided.

Volunteers are needed at CVSA's headquarters in Los Angeles. You can also volunteer from wherever you are by being an *INVEST YOURSELF* representative, or taking on other special projects and roles. Call us at (323) 933-2872 for more information or to schedule a time to come in or to take an assignment from wherever you are.