

>> I WANT TO WELCOME YOU HERE TODAY. THE FRONT LINE VOLUNTEERS IN THE WAR AGAINST POVERTY.

YOU'VE COME FROM EVERY PART OF THIS COUNTRY, FROM EVERY AGE GROUP, FROM EVERY BACKGROUND.

YOU'VE COME TO SERVE THE POOR AND THE UNFORTUNATE OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.

AND TO OPEN THE DOOR OF AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY TO ALL OF OUR AMERICAN PEOPLE.

YOU WILL HAVE THE ULTIMATE AWARD WHICH COMES TO THOSE WHO SERVE THEIR NATION AND WHO SERVE THEIR FELLOW MAN.

YOU ARE THE FIRST AS SERGEANT SHRIVER SAID, OF THE 3500 VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA.

NO ASPECT OF THE WAR AGAINST POVERTY WILL BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE WORK THAT YOU DO.

AND I HOPE ALL THOSE WITH SKILLS AND DEDICATION TO OFFER WILL COME AND JOIN WITH YOU IN THIS MOST EXTRAORDINARY FORCE FOR GOOD IN OUR COUNTRY.