

Dear Educator,

On January 19, 2009, the people of the United States celebrated the fourteenth annual National Martin Luther King Day of Service by participating in 13,000 community-service projects in all 50 states. The record-setting effort was in part a response to President Barack Obama's call to action—the first overture of his administration's push to increase volunteerism in America. Among its many initiatives, the new national service agenda includes plans to significantly extend service-learning in our schools.

Touchstones Discussion Project recognizes that motivated educators play an important role in their communities, shaping minds and hearts through service and leading by example. Since its inception, Touchstones has shared this commitment to fostering community engagement. We would like to show our support for these efforts by providing educators with an easy way to bring dialogue about community service into the classroom.

Today, February 11, 2009, Touchstones is excited to announce the release of an updated and expanded second edition of *Courage to Care, Strength to Serve*. Originally commissioned by former Maryland Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, *Courage to Care* is a volume of readings and reflections on the importance of community service, designed to help service-learning groups and classes hold meaningful, dynamic discussions about their relationship to one another in a larger community.

In her foreword to the new edition, former Lt. Governor Townsend reminds us that, “At a time when the young feel encouraged and mobilized by the changes around them, the simple acts will reinforce their confidence

and the courage to try”. Touchstones hopes that *Courage to Care, Strength to Serve*, will be a tool for all who seek to make a difference in the lives of others now and in the future.

For more information, contact Touchstones Discussion Project at 1-800-456-6542 or visit our website at www.touchstones.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Howard Zeiderman

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