



Catholic
Network of
Volunteer Service

Connecting People, Transforming Lives

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**CHRIS MATTHEWS, NEWS ANCHOR AND POLITICAL COMMENTATOR,
SPEAKS OF FAITH-BASED VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

Chevy Chase, Md. – “[Volunteering is] the most life-changing experience spiritually and psychologically.”

Chris Matthews, a former Peace Corps volunteer, journalist and host of “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” shared with the crowd at the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service 3rd Annual Bishop Joseph A. Francis Award for Service to the Community. The event was held June 24, 2010 in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Matthews spoke about his service experience as a member of the United States Peace Corps in Swaziland from 1968 to 1970. He served as a trade development advisor. The experience living and working in Swaziland had a profound impact on him. Reflecting on the experience, Matthews said, “if you’ve done volunteer work, you know you are different when you return.”

CNVS honored BB&T Bank with the Bishop Joseph A. Francis Award for Service to the Community at the event. In the past year, through the BB&T Bank Lighthouse Project, they have invested more than \$3M dollars and deployed their 30,000 employees to donate more than 60,000 volunteer hours to help their home communities, including the Washington, DC metro region.

The Award is named in honor of Bishop Joseph A. Francis, S.V.D., who served as auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Newark. Bishop Francis was CNVS’ episcopal advisor and liaison to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 1976 until his death in 1997.

Established in 1963, CNVS is the leading non-profit association for domestic and international volunteer and lay mission programs. Currently, more than 13,000 volunteers and lay missionaries serve in its member programs throughout the U.S. and in over 100 other countries worldwide.

Each year, CNVS publishes a directory of full-time, faith-based volunteer opportunities – RESPONSE. Last year more than 30,000 copies of this resource were distributed to schools, churches and individuals interested in service. In addition to its annual directory of volunteer opportunities, CNVS also hosts a website (www.cnvs.org) promoting service opportunities for potential volunteers and volunteer program staff, administers AmeriCorps Education Awards to members, and hosts an annual conference.

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