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## Just a Few Issues Having an Impact on Volunteerism –2009

*(from the perspective of Susan J. Ellis)*

### In the World at Large

- The economic crisis and a new President in Washington, DC
- Continuing shifts in racial/ethnic demographics: color, culture, and language diversity; aging of the population; Baby Boomers retiring
- Redefinition of the concept of "family"; divorce, single parenting, delayed parenting, choice of no children; the "sandwich" generation
- The effects of 24/7 communication; new "social networking" forums such as podcasts, blogs, LinkedIn, YouTube, MySpace, etc.; convergence technology
- Global warming and climate change; severity of recent natural disasters; cost of energy

### In the Volunteer Field Itself

- Changing vocabulary of volunteerism; divestiture from the word "volunteer"
- The new Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (2009)
- Universal desire of new volunteers for short-term, goal-oriented assignments; proliferation of one-time days of service
- Cyberspace resources for recruiting volunteers and for educating/connecting volunteer program managers (globally); "virtual volunteering" options; social networking as an option for nonprofits
- Similarities of Baby Boomers and the Millennials in approach to volunteering



- Interest in "entrepreneurial," "highly-skilled," and "pro bono" volunteering"; "voluntourism"
- Development of the international volunteer community; professional associations around the world); new research
- Continuing questions about "mandated" service

*Now...what does your crystal ball tell you?.....*