



News Release

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GARDENS OF THE WORLD SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP VISITORS

(Thousand Oaks, CA) Gardens of the World, a popular Thousand Oaks visitor attraction owned and operated by the Hogan Family Foundation, is looking to increase the number of volunteer docents that currently assist over 20,000 guests annually. Docents receive complete training and must commit three hours of their time per week for at least one year to lead free, public educational tours of the Gardens.

Christine Hogan, Hogan Family Foundation executive vice president, said, "We are very proud of our docent program that currently has 45 docents assisting our visitors. Some of our docents have been with us since we opened 12 years ago, but every year we need more help to accommodate ever-increasing numbers of individuals and visits from clubs, seniors groups, schools, and other organizations. Additional volunteers help ensure that the guest experience is always of the highest caliber."

Docents receive six to eight weeks of training, including "shadowing" of experienced docents and conducting "mock" tours with staff members. The volunteers can customize their presentations to fit their individual styles, while keeping the educational

elements they impart to guests accurate and consistent. Follow-up refresher sessions are also held periodically to ensure the educational elements presented to the public are accurate and consistent. In addition to the training, docents are provided with Gardens of the World polo shirts and name tags.

Docents are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. Individuals interested in applying should contact Linda Seaman, Gardens of the World volunteer coordinator, at 805-557-1135, extension five or e-mail at linda@hoganfoundation.org.

The Gardens of the World, located across from the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, are designed to reflect the botanical cultures of France, Japan, England, and Italy. Early California history is also highlighted at the Mission Courtyard. An American bandstand and grassy amphitheater is in the central part of the Gardens and serves as an outdoor venue for concerts conducted throughout the year.

Among other programs, the Hogan Family Foundation also operates its Rancho St. Francis program with 50 to 60 volunteers at two facilities near its headquarters in Newbury Park. The ranches are used for the rehabilitation of neglected horses and dogs and to provide specialized support for disadvantaged children and abused women.

For more information on current programs operated by the Hogan Family Foundation, go online at www.hoganfoundation.org. For other volunteer opportunities in your community, visit www.volunteermatch.com.

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