

# Community



## Bank of America's Hero of the Month

Bank of America honors the contributions of these heroes by publicly recognizing these role models. The FAN proudly honors Bank of America Local Hero Award winners each month in a "live" interview during Primetime. For more information or to learn more about Bank of America Hero Awards visit [www.bankofamerica.com/foundation](http://www.bankofamerica.com/foundation)

### **BANK OF AMERICA LOCAL HERO AWARD WINNER: Andy Nelson**

In my role as executive director of Hands On Portland, I follow one basic belief: ordinary people have more ability than they realize to solve community problems. People have a lot to give. And when they do, they change things.

At Hands On Portland, volunteers without specific training or expertise make meaningful changes in our community every day of the week. They read to kids, feed the homeless, care for elders, and restore urban green spaces. In actuality, they are doing the heroic work. They are a big reason why our community maintains an international reputation for livability.

Bank of America understands this, and I thank them for their support of Hands On Portland and our work to energize 10,000+ volunteers over the next year. Bank of America will be a part of that success as they make volunteering accessible and meaningful to their employees while encouraging people from the larger community to get involved.

Perhaps the biggest barrier that we will face is the sense that one person can't really make an impact on issues like homelessness or illiteracy. They can and do all the time. At Hands On Portland, we are working to let people know that we have opportunities right now that allow them to make a change. What's more, these are opportunities that match people's schedules and interests. Many of our volunteer projects take place after work or on weekends. No training or special skill is required. Of course, if you do have a skill to share, we want to hear from you, too. And we are always looking for people who want to walk the talk as volunteer leaders. But don't think that you have nothing to offer or can't make an impact.

I can think of no better job than mine: helping people connect with an opportunity to give back. At the end of the day, that's what we all want a chance to do. So, when you are ready, give us a call at (503) 413-7787 or visit our website at [www.handsonportland.org](http://www.handsonportland.org). We're looking for new heroes every day.