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To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov

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Subject: 9/15 Deadline for Cash Award

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Tapping the Power of Older Adults

The [Vital Aging Network](#) (VAN) in North St. Paul, Minnesota is a volunteer-led organization using [innovative approaches](#), such as [assets-based engagement](#), to work with older adults within communities in meaningful ways.

Results

Through the formation of self-directed teams, educational forums and leadership development, VAN has tapped into the power of individuals 50+ to impact communities across Minnesota. Some of the effects VAN-connected volunteers have had include:

- Establishing a network of support for grandparents raising grandchildren.
- Organizing the community to install refrigeration units within a local food shelf and creating a blueprint for replication.
- Creating a citizen-led initiative to increase wellness among individuals 50+.
- Teaching English to Hmong elders.
- Volunteers gaining fulfillment and personal growth.

[Read the case study](#) for more background on VAN and learn tips for successfully engaging volunteer talent.

Submit Today!

The deadline for the Volunteer Team Awards is **Monday, September 15**. Submit your success story of volunteer teams as soon as possible to be considered for a cash award of up to \$4,000. [Get more details](#) on the awards, including story criteria and how to submit.

Workshop Presentations

- [Check out our calendar!](#)

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Resources

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