

*This search ended in July, 2007, with the selection of Kathy Spangler, national partnerships director at the National Recreation and Park Association, where she has held a variety of senior management positions since 1987.*

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**Job Announcement**  
**America's Promise**  
**Senior Vice President for National Action Strategies**

(Posted: May, 2007)

America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth in Alexandria, Virginia, has retained Slesinger Management Services to recruit a seasoned leader and manager to serve as senior vice president for national action strategies. A new position, reporting to the organization's chief operating officer, the senior vice president's primary responsibility will be to lead a coalition of youth-serving organizations dedicated to improving the lives of at least 15 million of the nation's most underserved youth.

This is an excellent opportunity for a person with a deep commitment to improving the lives of disadvantaged children, experience working successfully on relevant issues at the local and state level, and an ability to work collaboratively at the national level with a coalition of diverse organizations.

Applications will be accepted until this search is completed. But we are eager to fill this position with the right person quickly.

**The Organization**

America's Promise is a nonprofit alliance whose mission is to mobilize corporations, other nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and communities throughout the United States to ensure that every child has five resources required to succeed. These resources, to be considered promises America makes to its youngest citizens, are:

1. Caring adults: where ongoing relationships with parents, mentors, tutors, or coaches offer children support, care, and guidance.
2. Safe places: where there are structured activities that provide opportunities for children to learn and grow.
3. Healthy start: where adequate nutrition, exercise, and health care pave the way for healthy bodies, healthy minds, and smart habits for adulthood.
4. Effective education: where youth obtain marketable skills that help them navigate the transition from school to work successfully.
5. Opportunities to help others: where opportunities to give back through service enhance self-esteem, boost confidence, and heighten a sense of responsibility to the community.

The America's Promise Alliance was founded after the Presidents' Summit for America's Future, held in Philadelphia in 1997. Presidents Clinton, Bush, Carter and Ford, with First Lady Nancy Reagan representing her husband, challenged the nation to make children and youth a national priority and fulfill the five promises for every child. President George W. Bush reaffirmed that commitment in 2001. The unprecedented gathering — co-sponsored by the Corporation for

National and Community Service, the Points of Light Foundation, and United Way of America—brought together governors, mayors, community delegations, business and faith leaders, and several thousand concerned citizens.

Today, the America's Promise Alliance, which began under the leadership of founding chairman General Colin Powell, and is now chaired by Alma Powell, brings together communities, individuals, companies, and organizations from all sectors to improve the odds for children and youth. Its president and CEO is Marguerite Kondracke, who joined the organization in 2004 after a distinguished career in business and government. Based in Alexandria, Virginia, the organization has a staff of about 45 people and a budget of \$15 million. Revenue comes primarily from grants from foundations and corporations, and the federal government.

The new national action strategies, which the new senior vice president will oversee, seeks to mobilize more than 100 partner organizations to collaborate on high-impact, measurable strategies that deliver at least one additional promise to at least 15 million young people. This collaborative effort will focus on three strategies that were identified in a recent meeting of participating organizations:

- All Kids Covered – to enroll more children in SCHIP and Medicaid.
- Where the Kids Are – to deliver more of the five promises to the most disadvantaged children through school and community based programs that help them and their families.
- Ready for the Real World – to engage middle school students in meaningful opportunities for service as well as career exploration so that they will be more motivated to succeed and achieve, especially in school.

For more information about America's Promise, please go to [www.AmericasPromise.org](http://www.AmericasPromise.org).

### **The Position and its Principal Responsibilities**

Reporting to the organization's chief operating officer and working closely with the CEO and the rest of the senior management team as well as leaders from partner organizations, the senior vice president for national action strategies will be responsible for:

1. Refining and implementing the operating plan to accomplish the goals of this new initiative.
2. Working closely – and highly collaboratively – with the leaders of partner organizations whose local chapter and affiliates will take the lead in delivering services and programs to the 15 million children who this initiative is intended to benefit.
3. Hiring and leading a small team (three to five people) at America's Promise that will coordinate all the activity being carried out by partner organizations throughout the country.
4. Setting up a system to measure and evaluate this initiative's ability to meet its ambitious goals. This most likely will be done by engaging a respected, independent evaluation firm.

### **Desired Skills and Characteristics**

As the person overseeing this new initiative, the senior vice president for national action strategies should be:

1. Knowledgeable about the work of youth-serving organizations at local level. Significant operating experience at the city or state level is essential; this is not a job for a person whose

experience is only at the national level, or only in policy-formulation (although those experiences would be valuable if they're in addition to local experience).

2. Skilled at organizing campaigns, building and leading coalitions, and working collaboratively with a diverse set of organizations, many of which have extensive experience in delivering programs and services to children.
3. Capable of insuring that efforts that are truly collaborative and highly participatory do not get stuck in process, but in fact move forward, make progress, and achieve the agreed-upon goals.
4. Able to lead, motivate, and supervise a small staff who have highly specialized knowledge of their areas of responsibility.
5. An excellent communicator, in writing and orally.
6. A person with enough maturity, confidence, and presence to be able to work effectively with dynamic and accomplished leaders of organizations throughout the country.
7. Able to be part of America's Promise Alliance's senior management team, and contribute to the overall success of the organization.
8. Committed to the mission of the America's Promise Alliance, as evidenced through work experience or volunteer activity.

### **Experience**

The ideal senior vice president for national action strategies will have at least 10 years of broad-based senior management experience with, ideally, local, state, or national organizations that work with disadvantaged children. Significant experience with coalition-building and program management is highly desirable. Professional experience working with children and youth is clearly desirable, but is not required if there is relevant campaign or coalition experience in other fields.

### **Compensation**

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. America's Promise offers a generous benefits package.

### **To Apply**

Please **e-mail** (or mail) 1) cover letter that explains why you're interested and qualified, 2) resume, and 3) three-year salary history (which will be held in strict confidence) to:

Larry Slesinger  
Slesinger Management Services  
5016 Westpath Terrace  
Bethesda, MD 20816  
301-320-0680

E-mail: [Larry@SlesingerManagement.com](mailto:Larry@SlesingerManagement.com)

(please include "America's Promise" in subject line; attached files in Microsoft Word or PDF only)

(This job announcement can also be found at [www.SlesingerManagement.com](http://www.SlesingerManagement.com).)

*America's Promise is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*