

David L. Caprara

David Caprara is project director and nonresident fellow overseeing the Brookings Institution initiative on International Volunteering and Service. The initiative has four strategic elements: public policy development, assessment, global corporate volunteering, and civic engagement through the Building Bridges Coalition with over 250 nongovernmental organizations and universities.



He formerly directed Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the Corporation for National and Community Service in Washington, D.C. and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), promoting mentoring programs, asset development, and other initiatives to strengthen children and families throughout the country. Caprara conceived and codirected the International Roundtable on Volunteering and Service with Points of Light Foundation, US AID, and the Corporation for National and Community Service. In 2006, he co-directed the International Conference on Faith and Service the National Conference on Citizenship. In the spring of 2006, over twenty-five interfaith youth services projects were launched through this initiative in the US, Africa and Middle East during Global Youth Service Day.

His hands on international service work in research, policy and on the ground programming support has included serving on the board of the Africa Conference on Volunteer Action for Peace and Development and Vice-President for the Global Peace Festival Foundation. He has traveled extensively assessing and promoting service initiatives in the Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, Latin America and North and South Asia as well as the United States with the vision of a globalized peace corps grounded in evidence of results and local/regional empowerment.

Caprara formerly served as deputy assistant secretary and director, Office of Resident Initiatives, under Secretary Jack Kemp at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Subsequently, he served as director of the Virginia Governor's Commission on Citizen Empowerment and as director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. He conceived and launched the Hands-Across-Virginia initiative, overseeing disaster volunteer efforts following severe flooding in the mountain region.

Caprara helped craft and directed the nationally acclaimed five-city "Violence-Free Zone" gang intervention initiative at the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise (CNE) which led to Congressional appropriations for grassroots initiatives. He also guided successful tenant management, entrepreneurship, and homeownership demonstrations that led to the authorization of landmark Congressional legislation and key presidential initiatives. In addition, he developed family strengthening provisions for the White House Task Force on Disadvantaged Youth, developed nationwide state legislative policy exchanges, and co-founded the bicameral, bipartisan Congressional Empowerment Caucus.