



Making volunteerism a part of everyday life!

September / October 2009

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Focus on Fall!

Volunteer Numbers Growing!

Dear Volunteer Center Staff,

The Corporation for National and Community Service released *Volunteering in America*, the most comprehensive data on volunteering in the U.S. ever assembled. The report indicates that volunteerism overall is on the rise.

Volunteering in America is based on surveys completed by thousands of Americans, and contains detailed, multi-year information from all 50 states. This thorough report offers insight into service trends and demographics across the country, according to Neil Bush, Chairman, Points of Light Institute. Complete results may be found at <http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/TX/Dallas>

Locally, the numbers reflect the same trends. The Volunteer Center is now able to review volunteer referrals made since the launch of our new web site June 1. Those numbers show us volunteers increased 39% percent in Dallas County and 24% in Collin County. Volunteer referrals have tripled since the launch with a 52% increase in hits on our site. Please review our new policy below regarding referral of volunteers.

We hope your agency is utilizing ALL of the resources offered by the Volunteer Center as we not only promote growth in numbers of volunteers but also help stretch your resources at this critical time. Please call to let us know how we may assist your agency.

Working **with** you and **for** you . . .

Cathy Hurst

Support Services Coordinator

Training Information

Kim Smith joins VCNT staff

Kim has more than six years of direct non-profit experience in the areas of Volunteer Management, Program Development & Implementation, and Community Education & Coalition Building.

She worked with the Boy Scouts of America, SPCA of Texas and has more than six years of experience in Corporate Account Management and Marketing. Kim grew up in Granbury, TX., is a Graduate of Tarleton State University and lives in Fort Worth with her Scottish Terrier, McEwan.

For information about training opportunities, please contact Kim at ksmith@vcnt.org.

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPATION



OneStar Foundation is conducting focus groups during the months of September and October to gather input about a pilot geo-mapping project that we are currently undertaking called the Texas Connector.

OneStar is partnering with the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to address an identified need for a statewide system that provides a snapshot of our social service resources. This pilot of the online geo-mapping tool displays information on nonprofits in the Dallas/Fort Worth region. The initial prototype is funded by the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor and will display nonprofit information in a geo-coded database - including name, location, type of organization, and service area. Features of the tool include:

- The ability to search for nonprofits within a geographic area,
- Analysis of nonprofit infrastructure in general or in relation to particular needs or social indicators, and
- Customized statistical reports for their region of interest.

Focus groups will be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 22 at the NCTCOG (Arlington, TX)
- Wednesday, October 14 at OneStar Foundation (Austin, TX) - in person/webinar
- Monday, October 19 at the NCTCOG (Arlington, TX)

For more information on time and exact location, contact Erin Brackney, OneStar's Manager of Research, Evaluation and Learning at erin@onestarfoundation.org.

Membership

New policy on volunteer referrals

With the launch of our new website, now know when a volunteer has submitted their information and when an agency has not followed up with that person. We do understand how easy it is to fall behind from time to time, but at the same time we want to ensure volunteers are not overlooked. The following policy is now in effect:

If VCNT receives complaints from volunteers about not being contacted, we will take the following steps:

1. If one or more volunteers indicate to VCNT that they have not received a response after submitting their information to a nonprofit through a VCNT outlet, VCNT will contact the agency via phone or email to resolve the issue.
2. If the agency updates VCNT with their correct information, the opportunity will remain active. If the agency does not respond to VCNT within a reasonable amount of time, their volunteer opportunities will be made inactive until the problem can be resolved. The appropriate Program Services staff will be notified that a problem exists.
3. If the agency requests that the opportunities be removed from VCNT's systems, the opportunities will be made inactive. Inactive opportunities can be reactivated at a later date with a written request from the nonprofit agency that has been signed by the Executive Director.
4. If VCNT continues to receive complaints from volunteers, the agency's opportunities will be made inactive and an email will be sent to the Executive Director and the Volunteer Coordinator informing them of this action in hopes that the issue can be resolved. Only the Executive Director may request reactivation of the agency's privileges. Such requests must be in writing

Renew or upgrade your VCNT membership

Two of the major changes we have made this year for your membership include:

1. Your renewal date will be based on when the membership fee is actually paid rather than on a calendar year. What that means is when you renew or upgrade to the Partner Level, you do not have to pay again for 12 months. Reminders will advise 60 days in advance of invoicing.
2. We have renamed the membership levels: Volunteer Source Plus is now a Partner and Volunteer Source is now a Basic Member.

As a Partner, you will have your volunteer opportunities publicized in the Dallas Morning News and along with other media sources. Your membership includes one free Essentials of Volunteer Management Training and 60% discount on all other trainings, as well as access to the Donated Goods Center and other benefits.

Click here for the membership form: [Membership](#).

Please contact me by phone or email for questions and how we can better serve your agency.

Community Connections

Community College Districts Provide Job Postings

Are you looking for the perfect candidate for a position recently vacated? Are you looking for the perfect position? If so, look no further than your local University or Community College District. Their free services can assist in your search.

Dallas County Community College job board: Nacelink.

Website: <https://dccc-d-csm.symplicity.com/employers>

To register go to https://dccc-d-csm.symplicity.com/employers/index.php?signin_tab=2

Texas Christian University Career Services

Phone: (817) 257-4141

Website: www.careers.tcu.edu/employers.htm

Email: frogjobs@tcu.edu

To register go to www.myinterfase.com/tcu/employer

University of Texas at Arlington Career Services: Hire A Maverick

Phone: (817) 272-2932

Website: <http://careers.uta.edu/>

Email: careers@uta.edu

To register go to www.myinterfase.com/uta/employer/

Texas Wesleyan University Career Services

Phone: (817) 531-6595

Website: www.txwes.edu/careerservices

Email: careerservices@txwes.edu

Tarrant County College Career and Employment Services

Phone: (817) 515-6692

Website: www.tccd.edu/Student_Services/Career/Job_Search.html

Email: careercenter.council@tccd.edu

To register go to www.tccd.edu/Student_Services/Career/Job_Search.html

Collin County Community College District Career Services

Phone: (972) 881-5790, ext.6747

Website: www.cccd.experience.com

Email: estewart@cccd.com

To register go to www.cccd.edu/studentresources/career/studentemployment/employer_info.html

Collin County Upcoming Events

- **Meals on Wheels** hosts the second annual Taste of Watters Creek 3:30-9:00 p.m. September 10. This signature event benefits Meals on Wheels and features delicious food from area restaurants, plus wine and cocktail tasting. Tickets go on sale to the public August 10 and are limited. Proceeds benefit Collin County Meals on Wheels.
- Wish 100 is a 60-mile bicycle ride through Collin County on October 3, 2009. Route options are available. This event benefits the **Make-A-Wish Foundation** in Collin County.
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Collin County** are hosting their annual Chrysalis Ball Event Saturday October 29, 2009. Call now to participate.
- On the first Sunday of each November, hundreds of motorcyclists travel from McKinney to **Collin County Children's Advocacy Center** with a donated Teddy Bear. Bears are used to comfort abused children. Contact Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County to help.
- Dinosaurs Alive! **Heard Museum** October 1 - January 31

- **Samaritan Inn** Anniversary Gala, October 17, 2009 to benefit the homeless population.

VCNT UPDATES

Online Volunteer Opportunities Form

Remember to send your volunteer opportunities using the online submission form three week prior to the occurrence or need. Click here for the [Promote Your Volunteer Opportunities Form](#).

Reminder: Ongoing opportunities are automatically deleted after 12 months.

The Volunteer Center of North Texas (VCNT) offers programs and services to more than 1,655 nonprofit agencies across North Texas. In addition, we provide customized services to nonprofit and government agencies and schools throughout Collin, Dallas, and Tarrant counties. Basic & Partner Member agencies are the foundation of VCNT.

The Volunteer Center will continue to help *make volunteerism a part of everyday life!*