



Making Volunteerism a Part of Everyday Life!

November/December 2009

**IN THIS ISSUE**

## Holiday Time in Dallas County!

[TRAINING INFORMATION](#)

[MEMBERSHIP](#)

[VCNT UPDATES](#)

[STUDENT ENGAGEMENT](#)

[SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS!](#)

[SEND VOLUNTEERS TO DISNEY](#)

[FREE WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT!](#)

[FUNDING OPPORTUNITY](#)

**QUESTIONS?**

A. Celeste Sauls Marks, CVA

2800 Live Oak

Dallas, TX 75204

[csauls@vcnt.org](mailto:csauls@vcnt.org)

214-826-6767, ext. 237

With the stress of the current economic climate and the need to provide more services to more clients, we recognize an even greater need for volunteers during the holiday season. The Volunteer Center is happy to announce agency members were contacted to develop a list of holiday needs. A special Holiday Link can be found on our web site to take volunteers directly to those holiday opportunities.

Donated Goods Warehouse will have its traditional Holiday Shopping Day for Partner Members from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Dec. 4. Additionally, Basic Members will have a chance to experience the Donated Goods Sale from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Nov. 20.

If you have never shopped at the Volunteer Center's Donated Goods Warehouse, this is certainly a great time of year to bring joy to your agency, your clients, and your family by stretching dollars! See article below for more detailed information.

Working with you and for you.

Celeste Sauls Marks, CVA

Partner Services Director, Dallas County

## Educating, Engaging and

## QUICK LINKS

[REGISTER FOR TRAINING](#)

[RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#)

[SUBMIT NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership level names have changed: Volunteer Source Plus

is now **Partner** Member and Volunteer Source

is now **Basic** Member.

At the Partner Member level of \$150 your volunteer jobs are publicized in *The Dallas Morning News* and other VCNT media sources.

Download application [Membership](#).

# Enhancing North Texas Volunteers in 2010!

Educating, engaging and enhancing volunteers are three key components VCNT's Training Department will use to enrich the professional development experience for the North Texas Community.

Training and educational seminars are offered through-out the year for our Corporate Partners, Non-profit agencies, Core Agency Members, Agency Partners, School Systems, Faith Based and Community Citizens.

Want to be a part of the excitement in 2010?

Click on the link below to learn more about VCNT's Training Outreach or contact Kim Smith, VCNT's Training Manager, directly at 214-826-6767, ext. 242 [ksmith@vcnt.org](mailto:ksmith@vcnt.org)

We are excited to help you help our community!

-

[Click here for Professional Development Opportunities!](#)

## MEMBERSHIP

## Policy reminder for volunteer opportunities

To ensure all our member agencies are receiving their volunteers we are tracking complaints and will advise agencies under the following guidelines:

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.

If the agency updates VCNT with their correct information, the volunteer opportunity will remain active.

If the agency does not respond to VCNT within a reasonable amount of time, their opportunities will be made inactive until the problem can be resolved. The appropriate Program Services staff will be notified that a problem exists.

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.

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.

## VCNT UPDATES

### **Online Volunteer Opportunities Form**

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

**Reminder:** Ongoing opportunities are automatically deleted after 12 months.

## MLK Day of Service

The HandsOn Program will be partnering with FedEx and VCNT's Student Engagement Department for our first annual MLK Day of Service! Volunteers will be mobilized in both Tarrant and Dallas counties to perform neighborhood clean-ups and foster a sense of community engagement.

The Dallas County project will center on the Arlington Park neighborhood, a neighborhood with deep ties to the community and a great sense of history. For more information, please visit [www.vcnt.org](http://www.vcnt.org).

## ExxonMobil CSJP: Grant Deadline 3 Weeks Away!

Looking for extra help during the summer? Want to provide a dynamic internship experience for college students? Then the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program is for YOU!

Grant applications are due no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, December 7, 2009**, including all attachments. Applications are NOW available to 501(c)(3) nonprofit or government-funded organizations located in Dallas County. For complete eligibility information and to download the grant application, visit [www.vcnt.org](http://www.vcnt.org).

ExxonMobil is pleased to sponsor the 20th annual Community Summer Jobs Program in Dallas County. With the administrative assistance of the Volunteer Center of North Texas, ExxonMobil will provide grants in the amount of \$2,750 to 75 local nonprofit agencies. Grants enable nonprofits to hire undergraduate college interns during the summer to assist in providing essential services to the community.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All agencies that submit a grant application will be notified in writing by January 14, 2010 as to whether or not their application was approved. If selected, the Intern Supervisor and/or Executive Director/CEO must attend the Selected Agency Training on February 2, 2010. Attendance is MANDATORY.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Millicent Boykin at [mboykin@vcnt.org](mailto:mboykin@vcnt.org) or 214-818-9846.

Administered by the Volunteer Center of North Texas since 1991.

## **Volunteer Center Donated Goods Warehouse Pre-Holiday Events!**

**November 20, 2009, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

- Non-partner member agencies (2 employees per agency; no one under 12 admitted)
- Must have a copy of the email announcing the sale to be admitted
- Shop-R-Tunity only happens once or twice per year
- Kids Bean Bag Chairs...just in time for Christmas -- 3/\$25
- Men's Neckties -- 2/\$1
- Ladies Purses -- \$5.25
- Area Rugs -- \$30
- Payment Methods - Cash, VISA, MC, Discover (sales taxes apply on all purchases)
- Don't want to shop? No problem, join us for coffee, cider, and cookies

**December 4, 2009, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

- Partner member agency employees + 1 guest each (no one under 12 admitted)
- Must have a pass to gain admission, passes available in Donated Goods Nov 23-25 or on will-call basis
- DG will be closed Nov 26-Dec 3 for Thanksgiving and to prepare for the Fundraiser.
- Kids Bean Bag Chairs ... just in time for Christmas - 3/\$25
- Men's Neckties - 2/\$1
- Ladies Purses -- \$5.25
- Ladies Slacks -- \$0.50
- Area Rugs -- \$30
- Payment Methods - Cash, VISA, MC, Discover (sales taxes apply on all purchases)
- Come help us celebrate the upcoming holidays and enjoy coffee, cider, and cookies

Want more information? Call Julie Saldana, 214-826-6767, ext. 261, option 4, or send email to [jsaldana@vcnt.org](mailto:jsaldana@vcnt.org).

## **Disney Give a Day, Get a Day**

We are excited to announce our partnership with the Disney Give a Day, Get a Day promotion! Starting January 1, 2010, volunteers who volunteer with the HandsOn Program and our \*Partner or Basic Members, will be eligible to claim a free one-day pass to Walt Disneyland in California or Disneyworld in Florida. (Tickets will be available through December 1, 2010 or once all tickets have been distributed.)

There have been a lot of questions about how you can get involved and how we will be working with

Disney to make sure that volunteer projects count. We wanted to provide information that will help your organization decide if you want to be involved in this great opportunity for volunteer engagement.

First, referral projects (\*projects you send into us) will **not** be counted as Give a Day, Get a Day projects unless you take the following steps.

1. You will need to register your organization at [vop.handsonnetwork.org](http://vop.handsonnetwork.org).

2. After you have received your verification, you will be given instructions on how to post your opportunity to their web site. This is a separate posting from your normal Volunteer Opportunity Posting. You will still need to submit your volunteer opportunity to us as well to appear on our HandsOn web site for volunteers to view.

The following organizations qualify for the promotion:

- HandsOn Network Affiliates.
- Customers of HON's, 1-800-Volunteer, and HandsOn Technology (HOT) technologies.
- Referral partners of 1-800 and HOT customers.
- 501(c)(3) organizations with a valid tax ID/EIN.
- Subordinates and local chapters of large nonprofit organizations: with submission of their parent organization's EIN and a letter from your parent organization confirming your charter as a chapter or program.
- Accredited Schools: with registration on state or national dept of education web site OR letter from an accredited agency licensed with the US Dept of Education OR Articles of incorporation. Required to submit a letter on official letterhead explaining the type of volunteer opportunities you will make available to the community.
- Healthcare Organizations (hospitals, senior centers, assisted living, etc.): registered on state department of public health web site or upon submission of a copy of license.
- Government Park and Recreation Organizations (national, state or local): upon presentation of statement of incorporation on official letterhead.
- Faith-based organizations: must appear in a national directory of religion or denomination OR submit a charter letter from your religious governing body and a letter on your organization's letterhead that specifically states that your volunteer opportunities will be open to anyone, will not be part of a religious service or ceremony, and will not include the act of evangelism.

In order for volunteers to receive their ticket you must record the total number of volunteer hours completed. Hours are recorded using the [vop.handsonnetwork.org](http://vop.handsonnetwork.org) web site, **NOT** [www.vcnt.org](http://www.vcnt.org) or [www.handsonnorthtexas.org](http://www.handsonnorthtexas.org). We cannot record this information for you unless it is a HandsOn or VCNT managed project.

Feel free to direct volunteers to [www.disney Parks.com](http://www.disney Parks.com). They can find information related to the promotion there, including restrictions and volunteer requirements. We hope this clarifies some of your questions related to this promotion. If you have additional question, visit the FAQ located at

<http://www.handsonnetwork.org/disney/faq>.

**Apply Now - Only Two Days Left!**



**Does your organization web site or database need improvements? Would you like to see that work completed over a weekend by high-level technology professionals FREE of charge? If so, don't miss this opportunity!**

Up to 20 nonprofit organizations throughout the North Texas region will be selected as beneficiaries of the 2010 We are Microsoft Charity Challenge weekend, taking place January 15-17, 2010.

This 3-day event matches developers with charities to develop new web sites or applications for those charities. At the end of the 3-day time period, all of the participants will vote and the winners will be proclaimed champion coders.

The deadline to submit project proposals is **THIS Friday, November 20, 2009**. Visit <http://www.wearemicrosoft.com/WAM/FAQ.aspx> to read about the initiative and see the list of information to be included in your proposal.

Remember, **the deadline is THIS Friday, November 20!** If you have additional questions about the initiative and how your organization can get involved, please contact Event Organizer, Toi Wright, at [toi@wearemicrosoft.com](mailto:toi@wearemicrosoft.com)

**Playground Funding Available in Dallas**

Apply with KaBOOM! today!

KaBOOM! is a national nonprofit that envisions a great place to play within walking distance of every child in North America. KaBOOM! brings together parents, community leaders and corporate partners to facilitate the planning and design of new community playspaces. The goal is to not only build a new playspace but use the project to strengthen existing support networks and build new community relationships.

We currently have a funding partner that will cover the majority of the funding as well as provide volunteers to help build a playground in Dallas, TX in Spring of 2010. The Volunteer Center is helping KaBOOM identify nonprofit organizations serving children that would benefit from and embrace the process of a community built playspace partnership.

For more information and an application, please contact Celeste Sauls-Marks at [csauls@vcnt.org](mailto:csauls@vcnt.org).

**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 nonprofits, government agencies and schools throughout Collin, Dallas, Denton 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!***