



Making volunteerism a part of everyday life ! November/December 2009

IN THIS ISSUE

- [TRAINING INFORMATION](#)
- [SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS](#)
- [MEMBERSHIP](#)
- [COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS](#)
- [FREE WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT!](#)
- [TARRANT COUNTY EVENTS](#)
- [VCNT UPDATES](#)

QUESTIONS?

Kay Dillard
 Senior Director of Program Services
 3740 S. University #101
 Fort Worth, TX 76109
kdillard@vcnt.org

QUICK LINKS

- [REGISTER FOR TRAINING](#)
- [RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#)
- [SUBMIT NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES](#)
- [CONTACT US](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

VCNT offers two holiday opportunities for agencies



Dear Volunteer Center Staff

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 we contacted all our agency members to develop a list of holiday needs and have a special **Holiday Link** on our website that will take volunteers directly to those holiday opportunities.

Opportunities are listed by county and by date to make it easier for volunteers to find the best holiday opportunity for their families.

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 and stretch dollars! See article below for more detailed information.

We hope everyone will have a joyful holiday season!

Kay Dillard
Senior Director of Program Services

[Training News](#)

Make plans for 2010 training

Educating, Engaging and Enhancing North Texas Volunteers in 2010!

These 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 here to learn more about VCNT's Training Outreach! We are excited to help you help our community!

For information about training opportunities, please contact Kim at ksmith@vcnt.org or call directly at 214-826-6767, ext. 242.

DONATED GOODS

Basic Members have rare opportunity to shop

Basic Members Introduction Sale: Nov. 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.

Sample items and prices:

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, joins us for coffee, cider, and cookies.

For more information, call Julie Saldana, 214-826-6767, ext. 261, option 4, or send email to jsaldana@vcnt.org.

Partner Holiday Sale: Dec. 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. Come help us celebrate the upcoming holidays and enjoy coffee, cider, and cookies.

Membership

Policy reminder on 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.

Renew or upgrade your VCNT Partner Membership

We have begun to issue renewal notices for 2010 memberships. The Partner level fee remains at \$150. Please contact Cathy Hurst at churst@vcnt.org if you have any questions about your membership.

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

Community Connections

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 *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.
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 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 website 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 website 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 web site, NOT www.vcnt.org or 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.disneyparks.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 and 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

Youth Service Projects

MLK Day of Service

The HandsOn Program will be partnering with FedEx and Student Engagement 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 around the Arlington Park neighborhood, a neighborhood with deep ties to the community and a great sense of history.

Make a Difference Day 2009

Make a Difference Day 2009 was a resounding success! The HandsOn program mobilized volunteers from the University of Phoenix and the local community to help revitalize Clean South Dallas and help it to once again look like the cornerstone of the community that it has been.

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!*