



Making volunteerism a part of everyday life ! **April / May 2010**

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Student Engagement Promotes Global Youth Service Day



Dear Volunteer Center Staff,

Would you like to engage your agency in the largest service event in the world? On Saturday, April 24, students, families, businesses, community agencies, and faith-based organizations will join forces to make an impact in more than 100 countries during Global Youth Service Day (GYSD).

Join this united effort of change! Please consider hosting a three to five hour service-learning project for students across North Texas. You decide the number of students and length of time for your project, and the Volunteer Center of North Texas will spread the word to recruit students.

For more information on being a Global Youth Service Day project site, please contact Jonathan Wallace at jwallace@vcnt.org.

Sincerely,

Kay Dillard
Senior Director of Program Services

1 Million Volunteers

"Give a Day, Get a Disney Day" closes

Due to the overwhelming response to the "Give A Day, Get a Disney Day" promotion, the program has reached its goal of one million volunteers, and therefore, has stopped accepting new volunteers or agencies.

Current volunteers and agencies in the system will be allowed to volunteer and claim their vouchers, but new projects and volunteers will no longer be accepted.

If your agency participated in this promotion, please continue to verify your participants as they still must be verified to claim their vouchers.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this program and all your hard work to help make it a success.

Training News

Make plans for 2010 training

You are cordially invited to attend VCNT Professional Workshops & Trainings!

Wednesday, March 31 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Essentials Elements of Volunteer Management

Tuesday, April 27 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Maximizing Community Partnership

Tuesday, June 15 from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Disaster Awareness & Preparedness

All trainings will be held at the American Cancer Society in Fort Worth, located at 3300 West Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76104.

For more information contact Kim Smith, VCNT Training Manager at ksmith@vcnt.org

To register for any training, contact Cathy Hurst at churst@vcnt.org.

Help available for CVA exam

The exam for the Certification in Volunteer Administration will be given on May 26, 2010. If you need a proctor for the exam or a mentor as you go through the certification process, please contact Celeste Sauls Marks, CVA at csauls@vcnt.org.

Search for Warehouse Space

Donated Goods looks for Tarrant County location

In order to make the Donated Goods Program more available to Tarrant County Partner Members and enhance our services in the Tarrant County area, the Volunteer Center of North Texas is seeking 5,000 to 7,500 square feet of retail or warehouse space.

If you know of any available space, please contact Chuck Buttram at cbuttram@vcnt.org or call 1-866-797-8268, ext. 241.

HandsOn Program

HandsOn presents new initiative to work with agencies

HandsOn Programs is excited to announce the launch of **HandsOn Community**, aimed at increasing volunteer leadership throughout the North Texas region. This new initiative seeks to match our Basic and Partner Members with volunteer and project leaders to engage the community in project-based volunteerism.

As part of our new initiative, we have revised our HandsOn web site to increase ease of use and to more clearly align it with the mission of the Volunteer Center of North Texas! Look for more information about this exciting new program in weeks and months to come!

Recruit volunteers today!

Have you utilized the Volunteer Center to help you recruit volunteers lately?? If not, you are missing out on a valuable opportunity to connect with volunteers who are eager to serve.

In 2009, we had more than **33,000 hits** on the HandsOn Program website (www.handsonorthtexas.org) This is almost 100% increase from the previous year. Do not just take our word for it, hear the success stories from volunteers and nonprofit organizations who have benefited from our volunteer opportunity systems.

"It was one of my family's most memorable experiences. My husband, children and myself really enjoyed ourselves. We were treated as "friends" by everyone that worked at Central Dallas Ministries. My family has agreed to do even more volunteer projects together from now on because it really brought our family closer and we love making a difference by helping someone else."

- Beverly Moore, Volunteer 2010.

"We love you guys. You give us more good volunteers than all of our other sources combined. That includes the papers, web sites, flyers and churches. Thanks so much."

- Brenda Jackson, Battered Women's Foundation (Tarrant County)

Submit your opportunities today. Go to http://www.vcnt.org/nonprofits_submit_opp.html and complete the form and start receiving great people today! In order to receive optimal responses from volunteers, we require opportunities to be submitted three weeks prior to the event date.

Contact Manager of Public Relations & Communications, Ashley E. Hyder, via phone at (214) 826-6767 ext. 236 or ahyder@vcnt.org if you have specific questions related to Partner Member benefits for promoting volunteer opportunities.

Texas Volunteer Management Conference

Participants enjoy workshops, amazing face reading specialist

The 19th Annual Texas Volunteer Management Conference, held on March 5, 2010, provided great networking opportunities for about 200 volunteer managers from around the country. Workshops included working with faith-based organizations, volunteers in disaster and utilizing social media to augment volunteer programs. Speakers included Ashley E. Hyder, Mary Beth Harrington, Tisha Dodge and Andre Johnson, to name a few.



The highlight of the day, however, was Max Fulfer's presentation on face reading. He shared insight about how the proper method of reading people reduces stereotyping and increases understanding of others.

This type of training is not only important for volunteer managers who are trying to place the right people in the right volunteer positions, but it is also very applicable for anyone, in any industry, who works with people. Several people for whom he did a reading were impressed with the accuracy of his assessment.

Pictures from the conference will be posted on www.texasvmc.org soon, and organizers will be periodically updating the site in preparation for the 20th Annual Texas Volunteer Management Conference, scheduled for March 4, 2011.



2010 North Texas Volunteer Challenge

Engage new volunteers, recruit new donors and establish new relationships

Do you need projects completed at your organization? Are you seeking to recruit more volunteers and new supporters for your cause? If so, this is the perfect event for you!

The 2nd Annual North Texas Volunteer Challenge (NTVC) is a four-hour day of service to *"lend a helping hand"* to nonprofit organizations throughout North Texas!

Individuals, families, students, community groups, businesses and the faith-based community are all invited to participate by volunteering with various nonprofit organizations throughout North Texas.

The 2010 event will be taking place on **Saturday, October 23, 2010**, which is nationally recognized as Make a Difference Day.

NONPROFIT FAMILY: If you would like to serve as a project site for this year's NTVC, please complete the agency application and return to the Volunteer Center of North Texas by **Thursday, May 13, 2010**. The application is available at http://www.vcnt.org/special_events_NTVC.html.

For questions about the agency application, please contact Manager of Public Relations & Communications, Ashley E. Hyder, at (214) 826-6767, ext. 236 or ahyder@vcnt.org

2009 Event Summary

The 2009 North Texas Volunteer Challenge was a huge success with more than 202 individuals participating to give 12 nonprofit organizations new face lifts with coats of paint, trash and brush clean up, landscaping, and volunteers as carnival and senior helpers.

Days of Service & Awareness Months

To give you some for promotions in your volunteer programs, we have provided a list of upcoming special days and months:

April

- **April 18 - 24** - National Volunteer Week: To recognize and celebrate the efforts of volunteers at the local, state and national levels
- **April 23 - 24** - Global and National Youth Service Day: To empower young people, highlighting their ongoing contributions to their communities and mobilizing their energy, commitment, and idealism through sustainable service
- National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- National Humor Month
- Stress Awareness Month
- Grange Month

May

- **May 1** - Join Hands Day May: A day of volunteering that brings youths and adults together to improve their own communities.
 - Clean Air Month
 - Get Caught Reading Month
 - National Barbecue Month
 - Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
 - National Mental Health Month
-

OneStar Foundation



Task Force seeks agency input for state legislature

The Task Force for Strengthening Nonprofit Capacity will facilitate public hearings throughout Texas to gather recommendations on strengthening the capacity of faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) providing services to Texans in need. These hearings will address what is working well for FBCOs, what challenges exist for them and what suggestions they have to improve their abilities to service the citizens of Texas.

The Dallas Public Hearing for agencies in North Texas will be from 10 a.m. - Noon on **Wednesday, March 31, 2010** at the Center for Community Cooperation, Oak Corner at 2900 Live Oak Street, Dallas, TX 75204.

For information on how to submit written testimony and other public hearing questions, go to <http://onestarfoundation.org> or contact Anna McElearney at amac@onestarfoundation.org or (512) 287-2026.

Membership

Renew or upgrade Your VCNT Partner Membership

We have begun issuing renewal notices for 2010 memberships. The Partner Member fee will remain at \$150. Please contact Cathy Hurst at churst@vcnt.org if you have any questions about your membership. Partners

who fail to renew will no longer be eligible to shop at Donated Goods, use veriFYI or receive free training benefits.

Any agency interested in upgrading from Basic Member to Partner Member may contact Kay Dillard at kdillard@vcnt.org or Rochelle Luna at rluna@vcnt.org or call (817) 927-7172.

About the Volunteer Center of North Texas

The Volunteer Center of North Texas (VCNT), founded in 1971, is one of the largest and most active volunteer centers in the country. A primary purpose of VCNT is to recruit volunteers, including individuals, corporations and civic and faith-based groups, to serve nonprofits and their clients throughout the North Texas area. For more information, visit www.vcnt.org.

The Volunteer Center helps *make volunteerism a part of everyday life!*

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