



A Helping Hand

Fall
2009

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Volunteers have you thanked your supervisor today?

If not, think about doing just that on **International Volunteer Managers Day, November 5**. It is a day set aside to honor the people who coordinate volunteer programs in nonprofit and government.

Because a 1998 United Parcel Service study indicated that volunteers do not always feel their volunteer experiences make best use of their skills and interests, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the UPS Foundation, and the USA Freedom Corps organized the first national study of volunteer management capacity to better understand the scope of issues confronting charities and congregational social service outreach activities.

One of the conclusions of the study was that devoting substantial staff time to volunteer management is a best practice that contributes to the success of volunteer programs. The Urban Institute summarized this finding as

"the percentage of time a paid staff volunteer coordinator devotes to volunteer management is positively related to the capacity of organizations to take on additional volunteers. The best prepared and most effective volunteer programs are those with paid staff members who dedicate substantial portion of their time to management of volunteers. This study demonstrated that, as staff time spent on volunteer management increased, adoption of volunteer management practices increased as well. Moreover, investments in volunteer management and benefits derived from volunteers feed on each other, with investments bringing benefits and these benefits justify greater investments."

In Marion County this means that without the staff persons who step forward to lead volunteer programs, create volunteer positions and



offer support and guidance to volunteers, there would be fewer volunteer opportunities which would ultimately impact services delivered by volunteers. Many staff who supervise volunteers do so along with many other daily duties.

So if you enjoy the opportunity to contribute to the community and help others, thank the staff person who makes that opportunity possible. This is their day to be honored and appreciated for their contribution to the success of volunteers and volunteer programs in county departments.

Shopping Extravaganza benefits stray dogs

Join the Marion County Dog Shelter for the 9th annual Shopping Extravaganza at Woodburn Company Stores on Saturday, November 7. Event tickets are only \$25 and a portion of the proceeds benefits the shelter.

For the cost of a ticket you will receive discounts at your favorite stores, a catered lunch and dessert from the "Wild Pear", wine, complimentary gift wrapping, free "friends photo", and a special gift. Treat yourself and a friend to a truly special day of fun shopping for a good cause!



Last year the funds received from this fundraiser went into the shelter's medical fund to help defray the cost of treatment for stray dogs. Time is running out! **Purchase your tickets by October 28.** Tickets can also be ordered online at <http://www.shop-woodburn.com/extravaganza.html>. Just be sure to choose **Marion County Dog Shelter** as your organization to receive benefits.

Volunteer gift wrappers are needed by the shelter to work a two-hour shift at the event. If you are interested in helping for a couple of hours, **contact Jolene Bray at 503-365-3177 or jbray@co.marion.or.us.**

2010 offers many days of service opportunities

January 18—Martin Luther King Day of Service

The King Holiday is a time to pause to remember the accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr. it is especially important to connect the King Day of Service intentionally with the principles upon which Dr. King built his life, his service, and the movement that he championed—the principles of nonviolence. Projects during this day of service generally are focused upon helping others.

March 31—Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning

Every Oregonian is asked to remember actions that can bring positive change and hope to our communities. In the words of Chavez, "We don't need perfect political systems, we need perfect participation."

April 22—Earth Day

Traditionally Earth Day projects lean toward ones that improve or protect the environment. Generally this is a time to clean up waterways, beaches and other natural areas. Check www.solv.org for project listings.

April 23-25—Global Youth Service Day

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is an annual global event that highlights and celebrates the contributions of youth to their communities through volunteer service.

For more information about days of service in 2010, contact Oregon Volunteers! at www.oregonvolunteers.org.

Spotlight on two mentors from New Solutions

New Solutions is a team-based program for children with severe mental health issues. New Solutions is strength-based and works with families to develop crisis/safety plans and individualized treatment plans based on the child and family's needs and strengths. Both featured mentors are deserving of recognition for their commitment, time and effort in mentoring a youth served through New Solutions.

Meet Jon Mangis

Jon became a mentor for New Solutions January 2009. Together Jon and his youth have toured the Evergreen Aviation air museum in McMinnville, visited with Governor Ted Kulongoski, went swimming at Dallas Aquatic Center, walked around Willamette University and ate a lot of hamburgers. Jon says he and his youth are most like the two main characters in the movie, "Up." "I am the grouchy old man and he is the young kid. It's something he and I laugh about."

Jon spends approximately 3 hours a week with his youth, doing activities in the community. Jon also participates in the monthly Child and Family Team meetings. He said he became a mentor because his daughter stated, "Dad you need to get a life."

Jon enjoys mentoring; it has taught him that he still enjoys the younger generation and that he has something he can contribute. Jon says that his youth is a good skateboarder, is smart and can do many tricks on his bicycle. "The best thing about mentoring is it has taken some time, but he opens up more to me now. I'd like to see it through conclusion and hopefully it would be him going to college," says Jon.

Jon is an amazing mentor and New Solutions appreciates his dependability, commitment and experience. Thank you, Jon!



Mentor Jon Mangis

Meet Traci Sharp

Traci became a mentor for New Solutions March 2009 and has been mentoring her youth ever since. She meets with her the same time and day each week. Together they have gone to the library, went to the farmer's market, had pedicures and walked around different parks in Salem like Bush's Pasture park and Riverfront Park. Traci says the special thing she and her youth share is they always have chocolate milk together. Traci became a mentor because she has the free time, her children are all grown and she felt she could give something back. Her motto is, "If I could change one kid's life, then it would make all the difference."

Traci spends approximately 3 hours a week with her youth, doing activities in the community. Traci also participates in the monthly Child and Family Team meetings. "I love Kami, the New Solutions Care Coordinator, and how the team is open, honest and supportive towards my youth," says Traci. The team really likes Traci and how supportive she is to her youth, too.

The relationship Traci and her youth have is special and much like having a nurturing friend. Traci has learned to be patient and meeting her youth where she is at versus where Traci thinks she should be. Traci is a very caring person and New Solutions is lucky to have her on the team! Thank you, Traci, for being you—honest, kind and caring!

If you are interested in becoming a Child and Adolescent Mentor for New Solutions, please email Leah Mangis at lmangis@co.marion.or.us or call 503-585-4916.

Marion County's

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Marion County volunteers—
connecting the county to
the community.



Announcements

Contact **Glenis Chapin**, 503-588-7990 or
volunteer@co.marion.or.us

- **Solid Waste Management Advisory Council** has an opening for a representative from public health to serve on the 16-member council. Members are appointed for four-year terms. The council discusses and recommends on solid waste matters and recycling education and opportunities. The council also contributes to the county's solid waste management master plan. Applications available online: <http://www.co.marion.or.us/BS/VOL/forms.htm>.
- **Children's Activities Coordinator** to provide enriching children's activities in the Children's Behavioral Health reception area by reading to children, modeling nurturing behavior for parents, and providing activities during parenting classes, sibling appointments or meetings that do not include the child.
- **Weed Advisory Committee Natural Resources** is looking for an individual representing some facet of natural resources to occupy this position. They may be a member of a natural resource-oriented group/organization, or be employed by an agency or organization whose focus is natural resources. It is a four-year appointed position, and the occupant may serve 2 terms.