

e-Volunteer Newsletter

Community Thread

AUGUST, 2009

Special points of Interest:

The future—our teens

Don't miss the Best Sale of the Summer!

Volunteer Bailiff Program— needs you!

Neighbors helping Neighbors—The Story

e-Volunteer

Newsletter

is a monthly newsletter for individuals

interested in volunteering,

supporting their community — and

making a positive impact on those around them.

Teens—Volunteering

Summer volunteering is a great time to explore career fields, gain valuable learning experiences and add to your repertoire for future employment and/or college entrance requirements. It is also a known way to increase self-esteem, meet new friends and develop new skills.

Things to consider

Age: If you are 14 or under, most volunteer jobs will require that you are accompanied by an adult. Consider volunteering with a parent, at your place of worship, or with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

If you are 15—17 years old, there are many places where you can volunteer without an adult. Some examples in our area are: Stone Soup Thrift Shop, Hope House of St. Croix, and the Minnesota's Children's Museum.

Organizations invest time in you and if you can stay longer than the summer, the payoff is well worth it. You'll have a better chance at networking and developing long-term positive relationships with adults who may be willing to support you as a mentor and/or a reference for you in the future when applying for college or paid employment.

What are the top five volunteer interests of teens?

1. **Animals.** Working with animals like at the Animal Humane Society. animalhumanesociety.org
2. **Seniors/People.** Volunteering at nursing homes by reading, visiting, or playing board games with seniors.
3. **Environment.** Teens interested in the environment might like to be part of Great River Greening's Million Acorn Challenge, restoring our natural oak savannahs. See greatrivergreening.org for more information.
4. **Political.** Teens can help with campaigns and causes by canvassing-distributing literature, answering phones or doing mailings. Call your local representative or visit www.legis.state.mn.us, (MN) www.legis.state.wi.us (WI)
5. **Place of Worship.** This is a great place to start. Call your local Church, Synagogue or Mosque.

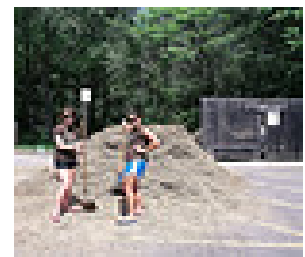
Resources for Teens:

1-800 Volunteer.org. An easy way to find a variety of volunteer opportunities available near you. Go to: communitythreadmn.org and click on 1-800 Volunteer.org.

Girls Incorporated is a leading advocacy organization dedicated to extending girls' voices, issues and concerns, visit girlsinc.org

Campus Outreach Opportunity League-cool. The mission of "cool" is to educate, connect, and mobilize college students and their campuses to strengthen communities through service and action. cool2serve.org.

National Youth Leadership Council-St. Paul, nylc.org. Promotes community service learning.



Announcements



Food Shelves run low during the Summer.

Please do your part to help ease hunger by donating or making a cash donation to your local food shelf. Washington County Food Shelves, 651.430.6544, Hunger Solutions, 651.486.9860, hungersolutions.org.

Stillwater Senior Center "Baubles, Bangles and Bobbers— Used Jewelry Sale."

Featuring classic to funky used jewelry, jewelry boxes, purses, a room for the "guys" and scrumptious baked goods, too— something for everyone! **Thursday, August 20th** at Community Thread. Questions? Contact Karla Bataglia, 651.439.7434.

The Washington County Bailiff program. Are you interested in learning first hand the many nuances of the justice system? The Washington County Bailiff program is looking for

volunteers who will greet, direct, and provide assistance to visitors of the courthouse. In the process, you'll have a chance to get to know the judges, bailiffs and county staff and get to see the justice system up close. Located at the Washington County Courthouse, 14949 62nd Street North, Stillwater. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., minimum of four hours per week. For more information contact Lisa Spreeman, Hearing Officer, at 651.430.6286 or by e-mail, lisa.spreeman@courts.state.mn.us.



community thread

CONNECTING PEOPLE.
ENRICHING LIVES

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**Many More Online Volunteer
Opportunities Available!**

Simply go to:

Communitythreadmn.org



Click on **1-800 Volunteer.org** and you will be guided through the login procedure. *Thank you for your interest in volunteering!*

“The only ones among you who will be truly happy will be those who have sought and found how to serve.” Albert Schweitzer

Piano Players—Bayport

Can you play the piano? Croixdale, a residence for seniors, is looking for volunteers with musical talent who would like to come and play the piano for sing-a-longs, Sunday ecumenical worship service at 1:45 p.m. each week, or just for entertainment. For more information contact Mary Jo Ducklow at 651.275.4842, or e-mail mducklow@preshomes.org.

Valuables Appraiser—St. Paul Park

Do you enjoy antiques and have a working knowledge of their value? Stone Soup Thrift Shop is in need of volunteers to help handle/appraise the valuables and antiques they receive as donations. Many more volunteer opportunities are available as well. Volunteer times are Monday through Saturday in the mornings or afternoons. For more information call Becky at 651.458.9786.

Art Festival Volunteers—Stillwater

ArtReach Alliance is sponsoring a free arts festival for children and their families that has lots of hands-on activities and stations to make cool art projects. Volunteers are needed to help lead different art stations and walk children through their projects. The festival is in Pioneer Park in Stillwater on Saturday, August 15, 2009. Times to volunteer are 12:30—3:00 or 3:00—5:30 p.m. For more information on other volunteer opportunities call 651.439.1465 or e-mail info@artreachalliance.org.

Public Relations Specialist—River Falls

Positive Alternatives is a resource for at-risk youth, young adults and their families that equips them with the social, emotional and developmental skills needed to flourish. A volunteer is needed to publish their internal newsletter every other month and their external newsletter two times a year. Also update their Publisher documents as needed (flow chart, parent handbook, and fliers). For more information call 715.235.9552.

Volunteering—The Story

Stone Soup— by Majel Carroll, Board Member

Have you heard about Stone Soup Thrift Shop, located in St. Paul Park? Our mission is: “To engage the community in supporting families and individuals by providing access to gently used clothing, household items, and furniture in a convenient, dignified manner.”

The following is from a letter sent to us by a customer. It tells—better than we can—about the services we provide to this community.

“By shopping at Stone Soup Thrift Shop, we’ve furnished our home, clothed our family and saved money, saved natural resources, and helped preserve the

environment. Over the years we’ve always been able to make our mortgage payment and keep our house. We were always able to provide our children with some of life’s niceties. If it hadn’t been for Stone Soup, I don’t know how we would have done it. I don’t have the records to show the thousands of dollars we’ve saved over the years by purchasing used goods at Stone Soup, but today when so many families’ homes are in foreclosure, they need Stone Soup Thrift Shop more than ever to help them save money.”

Stone Soup always needs volunteers to help keep us organized. Volunteers help by receiving donations, testing items, cleaning glassware, sorting & hanging

clothes, setting up eye catching displays, helping customers, and more.

New opportunities are always being introduced! Is there something you can do that would benefit Stone Soup? Maybe we need you and don’t even know it! Please stop by and see Becky, our manager, or call us at: 651.458.9786, stonesoup.org

