



e-Volunteer Newsletter Community Thread

AUGUST 2010

Why Volunteer?

Special points of interest:

- Why Volunteer?
- Volunteer Opportunities—Where can you help this month?
- The Story—Woodbury Days



e-Volunteer Newsletter is a monthly newsletter for individuals interested in volunteering, supporting their community, and making a positive impact on those around them.

When asked, “Why do you volunteer?” most people would probably respond, “To give back” or “To make a difference.” Certainly these are the answers we hope for, and we appreciate community members who seek to make an impact through their volunteer efforts. Many volunteers also express, however, that they gain much more than they give. Have you ever thought about the many benefits you could receive through volunteering in your community?

Build Skills/Resume

Volunteering in general, but especially in a field of interest, looks terrific on a resume. 73% of employers would recruit an employee with volunteer experience than one without. In addition, volunteering allows you to build skills toward a future career, or just for personal growth. Volunteers can work with youth, do construction or landscaping, assist with marketing projects, write grants, serve on a

committee or as a board member, or countless other opportunities. There are also a number of supervisory positions available for those hoping to grow their leadership skills.

Meet People

Who among us is not looking to meet new people and expand our networks? Volunteering is a great way to interact with a diverse range of people, including fellow volunteers as well as the recipients of your volunteer efforts. Working together toward a common goal can unite people, build friendships, and present new opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Get Active

All volunteer opportunities provide a means to get active in the community and learn about local issues. By getting involved, you can contribute to the overall health of the community, and can often see a very measurable difference. Many volunteer opportuni-

ties also provide an opportunity to be active physically. Planting a garden, helping someone move, or shoveling snow are great ways to get in shape while giving back. What a great combination!

Expand Comfort Zone

Finally, by stepping out of your comfort zone, you are able to have new experiences and develop new interests. Maybe volunteering with refugees has developed your interest in international affairs. Perhaps volunteering in garden has inspired you to plant one of your own.

Get Involved

So get started today! Whether you want to volunteer weekly, or just once a year, there is an opportunity for you. Contact the Volunteer Center today!



Announcements

Summer Tuesdays! Come visit us on August 3rd or August 17th at Stillwater’s Summer Tuesdays. We will have information about our programs and services, an engaging activity for kids, a drawing for a free T-shirt, even a sneak preview of our upcoming jewelry sale! Come for the fun, and learn how to get connected. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Building Better Lives Volunteer Expo!

Tuesday, September 21st

4:00-7:00pm

Save the Date!

On Tuesday, September 21st, from 4:00-7:00pm, Community Thread and the United Way will host the Building Better Lives Volunteer Expo. Come learn about the many organizations that use volunteers in our community. More info to come next month!



community thread

Connecting People. Enriching Lives

Lisa Joyslin, Volunteer Center Program Director
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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!*

Volunteer Opportunity Highlights—What you can do this month!

East Metro Women’s Council-St. Paul: East Metro Women’s Council is looking for volunteers to serve as child activities assistants. Help run programs for children while the parents take classes on budgeting, resume writing, and parenting classes. The schedule is flexible and evening and weekend hours are available. Volunteers 15 years of age or older are welcome! Contact: Cheryl Schindler at caschindler@emwc.org

Stillwater Veteran’s Memorial-Stillwater: Stillwater Veteran’s Memorial would like a few volunteer photographers to help take pictures of the site, ceremonies, and events. Timing is flexible. Please contact: John Kraemer at jakraemer@live.com or 651-439-4350

Community Thread-Stillwater: Community Thread seeks a volunteer to work with the Neighborhood Service Exchange, a volunteer time bank program for people of all ages and abilities who live in or work in Washington County. Core duties include data entry, making phone calls, helping with surveys and reports, and other tasks. Hours are flexible, one day a week during the daytime. Contact: Cathy Dyball at cathy@communitythreadmn.org or 651-439-7434.

Lakeview Hospital-Stillwater: Lakeview Hospital is recruiting volunteers to help with their Teddy Bear Clinic, a program that helps kindergarten children learn about the hospital. Volunteers can help by giving tours of the hospital, “doctoring” their teddy bears, and helping them become comfortable with the hospital environment. To get started volunteering, please contact Kim Klisch at kkklisch@lakeview.org or 651-430-8522

Christian Community Homes and Services-Hudson, WI: Christian Community Homes and Services is seeking an aviary caretaker to clean their bird aviary. Cleaning needs to be done on a weekly basis, but scheduling is flexible. To get started, please contact: Brenda Magadzanz at Brenda.magadzanz@cchudson.org or 715-381-4205

The Story– Woodbury Days

Woodbury Days, a three-day community event in Woodbury, MN, began in 1978. Planned by the Woodbury Days Council, an all-volunteer group of community members, Woodbury Days will have around 30,000 attendees this year. In 2010, the event will take place on August 27-29.

The event is free to the public and offers a business fair, the “Taste of Woodbury”, entertainment and music, a car show, three community bike rides (of different lengths), a parade, the “button of savings”, and, of course, fireworks.

Some of the entertainment events planned for this year are dance and fitness lessons, cooking demonstrations, puppet shows, and martial arts demonstrations. Music will be provided by Boogie Wonder-

land and The Dweebs. No matter your age or interests, Woodbury Days will provide entertainment and fun!

In order to ensure successful programs and events, Woodbury Days relies heavily on volunteers to help in a variety of capacities. This year, Woodbury Days hopes to recruit around 200 volunteers to make the event a success! Individuals, families, and groups are welcome to sign up as volunteers for this event, but volunteers should be 16 years or older.

Open positions include helping with the bike ride, bingo, the business fair, the parade, trash pickup, staffing the volunteer booth, and several other areas. Shifts are usually around 3-4 hours, but volunteers can sign up for several if desired.

Whether you have just a few hours, or a few days, Woodbury Days can put you to work!

If you’ve decided you would like to get involved, check out the Woodbury Days website: www.woodburydays.com or contact Jane Zugschwert at jzugs@comcast.net. Give a few hours to make a difference in the community!

