



MAY 2010

Community Involvement Awards

Special points of interest:

- 2010 Community Involvement Awards
- Volunteer Opportunities—Where can you help this month?
- The Story—Courage Center St. Croix

On April 22nd, Community Thread and the Washington County Board of Commissioners honored the volunteer work of several community members. The 2010 Community Involvement Awards recognize outstanding volunteers for the positive impact they have had in the community. Awards were given in the categories of Outstanding Group Volunteer, Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award, Outstanding Volunteer Award, and Lifetime Volunteer Award.

The Outstanding Group Volunteer Award was given to two groups this year. The first group to be honored was the AARP tax aide program. The program focuses on assisting seniors, low-income households, and individuals with disabilities for no cost. In 2010, a team of ten trained professionals assisted over 700 households in filing their income and property taxes.

The second group to be awarded the Outstanding Group Volunteer Award is the FamilyMeans Power of the Purse Planning Team. The Planning Team worked together

to organize the event, solicit donations, and conduct marketing for the Power of the Purse fundraising event. The 2010 Power of the Purse event had over 250 attendees and raised money for FamilyMeans, a non-profit that builds strong families.

The Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award went to 15-year-old Andrew Lee, who volunteers on a regular basis at the Minnesota Children’s Museum as a member of the Youth Volunteer Squad. Balancing a busy schedule of schoolwork, music, and social activities, Andrew makes time to volunteer 2-3 times per month. Andrew enjoys volunteering because he says it is fulfilling to help kids grow and develop.

Michelle Witte was the recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Award. This award recognizes a single volunteer for commendable service in at least one organization during a span of at least one or more years. Michelle was honored because of her work with the Woodbury Arts Connection, where she has volunteered

for over six years. Michelle also volunteers with the Humane Society, her daughter’s Girl Scouts troop, and with projects such as Feed My Starving Children.

The Lifetime Volunteer Award is granted to a single volunteer who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to volunteerism. In this case, however, the award went to married couple Cub and Judy Davis of Stillwater. Cub and Judy Davis have volunteered for Golden Living Center Linden by calling bingo and befriending the residents. They rarely miss a week, and say they plan to continue volunteering at Linden as long as they are able.

Congratulations to all of the winners of the 2010 Community Involvement Awards! Your work has truly made a difference in the community.



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

Announcements

Spring Into Service Event

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped make the Spring Into Service Event on May 1st a huge success!

Approximately 140 volunteers gathered at 8 different nonprofit sites for a morning of service work, including gardening, painting, spring clean-up and landscaping work. Overall,

volunteers contributed nearly \$9,000 worth of service work to the St. Croix Valley community in just 3 and a half hours!

Spring Into Service is an annual event so stay tuned for next year’s date—we’ll be announcing it soon!



Volunteers build a raised garden for seniors at Linden Health Care Center in Stillwater on May 1st.



community thread

Connecting People. Enriching Lives

Lisa Thalacker, Volunteer Center Program Director
Elena Ballam, Volunteer Center Program Coordinator

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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!

Office Assistant—Hope Adoption and Family Services, Oak Park Heights

Help staff members with a variety of office tasks, such as copying, preparing training manuals, sending out flyers and newsletters, etc. Flexible hours, Monday through Thursday. Contact Nancy Okerman at 651-439-2446 x107 or nokerman@hopeadoptionandservices.org.

Lakeview Hospital Volunteers, Stillwater

Lakeview Hospital is seeking volunteers for the information desk, gift shop, and surgery waiting area. Piano players are also needed to play relaxing music in the lobby. Contact Kim Klisch at 651-430-8522 or kklisch@lakeview.org.

Photographer—Stillwater Veterans Memorial, Stillwater

Photograph the Veterans Memorial site, events and ceremonies. Hours are flexible but usually daytime, and may depend on event scheduling. Contact John Kraemer at 651-439-4350.

Public Relations/Development Intern Volunteer—HSI, Oakdale

Position requires knowledge of Microsoft Office applications and basic office machinery operations along with good written and verbal communication skills. The ability to handle multiple tasks and prioritize work load needed. Knowledge of graphic design, layout and Adobe Creative Suite products preferred. A commitment of at least 5 hours per week for a minimum of 1 month is required. This volunteer position may be used to fulfill intern/volunteer requirements for a class/program. Volunteers must be 18 years or older. Contact Sara Umbreit at 651-275-4306 or sumbreit@hsicare.org.

Activities Assistant—Christian Community Homes and Services, Hudson

Assist therapeutic recreation staff in assisting resident to do active type games; such as bowling, horseshoes, etc. Volunteers are needed on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6:15-8:00. Contact Brenda Magadan at 715-381-4205.

Courage Center St. Croix—The Story

Have you been looking for a unique and meaningful volunteer opportunity in the St. Croix Valley? Look no further than Courage Center St. Croix, a Stillwater organization whose mission is to empower people with disabilities to realize their full potential in every aspect of life. Volunteers can get involved in all aspects of this mission, including hands-on volunteer work like assisting with the Courage Riders Horseback Riding Program or volunteering in the warm rehabilitation pool as an aquatics assistant.

In 2009, Courage Center St. Croix utilized approximately 300 volunteers who gave 13,250 hours to the organization. Courage Center volunteers come from many places—and some are even former clients of the organization. According to Lisa

Gacek, Volunteer Coordinator at Courage Center St. Croix, “We have had a few youth recently, who have “grown up” in our programs and have been impacted by volunteers working with them. It’s so fun to watch them blossom even further through their own volunteering for others.”

Currently, Courage Center St. Croix is gearing up for summer aquatics and golf programs, and is also looking for volunteer help with several office positions. If you’re interested in getting involved with Courage Center, please contact Lisa Gacek at 651-351-2337.

Chances are, once you start volunteering at Courage Center, you’ll be hooked! “So many of the volunteers who get started at

Courage Center St Croix are so dedicated to their programs and clients,” says Gacek. “They stay for a long time which creates such good teamwork with staff and consistency for clients. We just gave some volunteer awards out during National Volunteer Recognition week to volunteers who had been here 15 years!”



Participants take part in the aquatics program at Courage Center St. Croix.