

e-Volunteer Newsletter

Community Thread

NOVEMBER, 2009

Giving Thanks

Special points of interest:

- Give Thanks and Give Back this holiday Season
- Support and learn more about Community Thread. Attend the Anniversary Breakfast.
- The Story- What is restorative justice and how does it work?

Wondering how to help others this holiday season? It's easy. Contact one of the organizations below and you will help make the holidays a little easier and a little brighter for those in need. Your support is needed!

Community Thread-Stillwater, Holiday Bureau Program— a holiday giving program serving the St. Croix Valley for over 40 years. The Holiday Bureau program provides a unique community connection, a happy holiday filled with individually chosen gifts and a holiday meal. *The Holiday Bureau program relies on the help of many, many volunteers to ensure that we can meet the needs of our program participants.* Opportunities to get involved include being a sponsor, donor or volunteer. Families, low-income seniors, and adults with disabilities are matched with organizations, businesses and individuals to provide a happy holiday filled with individually chosen gifts, and a holiday meal. For more information contact Jammi at 651.439.7434 x 213, or email her at holidaybureau@communitythreadmn.org or visit our website at www.communitythreadmn.org

Christian Cupboard Food Shelf-

Lutheran Church. Provides Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets serving the residents of Woodbury, So. Maplewood and Oakdale. Call 651.332.9042 for more information.

St. Andrews Lutheran Church-Mahtomedi. Provides Thanksgiving food baskets to the residents of Hasting to Scandia, (East Washington County) not Woodbury or Lake Elmo, Maplewood N of 94 and N. St. Paul. Call 651.426.3261 for more information or refer to their website at www.saintandrews.org.

East Metro Women's Council—White Bear Lake. Home for the Holidays is a giving program that supports low income families. Many volunteer opportunities available. Contact Cheryl at 651.773.8401 x 116 for information or refer to their website at www.emwc.org.

Friends in Need Food Shelf Share— St. Paul Park. Share the Joy is a program that provides Thanksgiving and Christmas support for residents of

Cottage Grove, Gray Cloud Island, Newport, and St. Paul Park. For more information call 651.458.9638, or refer to their web site at www.allsaintscg.org.

Neighbor, Inc., -South St. Paul. Love Your Neighbor is a holiday giving program serving the residents of Inver Grove Heights, Lilydale, Mendota, South and West St. Paul. Call 651.455.1508 for more information or refer to their web site at www.neighborsmn.org.

White Bear Lake Food Shelf. Provides Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and toys. Serving the residents of Birchwood, Gem Lake, Hugo, Little Canada, N Oaks, Vadnais Hts, WBL, and Mahtomedi. For more information call 651.407.5310.

Community Helping Hand Food Shelf-Forest Lake. Provides Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners serving the residents of Forest Lake, Hugo, and the White Bear Lake school district. For more information contact the food shelf at 651.464.6831 to volunteer at 651.464.0061 or refer to their web site at www.communityhelpinghand.org

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

Woodbury Lutheran Church. Provides

Community Thread Anniversary Breakfast

8:00 - 9:00 am., Friday, November 13, 2009.

This annual event is free and a light breakfast is served. Join us and be inspired by the stories you hear and the people you meet. To receive an invitation, please call, 651.439.7434 or email Kris-ten@communitythreadmn.org

More details are available at Community Thread website, www.communitythreadmn.org.

from 7 am to 10 am.

Location: Best Buy Rotunda, Mall of America

Contact: info@walktoendhunger.org or call 612.807.2228, or see their web site at www.walktoendhunger.org

A great way to start your Thanksgiving Day! The Walk to End Hunger is an initiative developed to raise awareness and funds in order to end hunger in the nine-county metro area of Minnesota by 2013.



It is a 5k walk through the mall with activities and entertainment along the way. It is also a food drive so bring nonperishable food items along.

Community Thread Holiday Wreath Sale—

October 1—November 10th, 2009.

Are you planning to buy a wreath, garland or door swag this holiday season? Order from us and you'll support Community Thread at the same time!

Stop by Community Thread to place your order. *Thank you for supporting Community Thread this holiday season.*



community thread

Connecting People. Enriching Lives

Lisa Thalacker, Volunteer Center Program Director
Robin Halloum, Volunteer Center Program Coordinator

VOLUNTEER CENTER
2300 WEST ORLEANS
STREET
STILLWATER, MN 55082
PHONE: 651.439.7434
FAX: 651.439.7616
E-MAIL:

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!*



Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love. -Hamilton Wright Mabie

Caroling—Stillwater Linden Health Care Center, 651.439.5004, and the Golden Living Center-Greeley, 651.439.5775, are looking for groups to entertain seniors during the holidays.

Holiday Shopping Spree-Baldwin, WI Gift wrappers and volunteers are needed to help support a holiday shopping event held at Greenfield Elementary School in Baldwin. Children can come and purchase gifts for parent, siblings, etc., at very low cost. Contact Mary Handrahan, Family Resource Center of the St. Croix Valley, at 715.684.4440 to volunteer for this event.

East Metro Women's Council -White Bear Lake Help with the East Metro Women's Council Multi-Cultural Holiday. Plan, supervise, entertain and play with a group of children to celebrate various holidays. Must provide all supplies such as crafts, materials, snacks, etc. Flexible, Monday through Thursday during the day. Work with a group of no more than ten young people. For more information contact Cheryl at 651.773.8401 x 116.

Merrick, Inc.-Vadnais Heights An organization that provides meaningful work for adults with disabilities, is in need of a quartet or small choir to sing carols mid-December to Christmas from 10:30 - 12:30 p.m. during lunch times and 12:30—1:30 during the social hour. This could be a one time volunteer opportunity for one or a few different groups. Contact JoAnn at 651.789.6207 or e-mail her at joannl@merrickinc.

Christian Community Homes and Services-Hudson Help needed to set up artificial Christmas trees the week of November 30—December 4th. Best time would be between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Contact Brenda at 715-381-4205 to volunteer or for more information.

Woodbury Health Care Center-Woodbury. Carolers wanted during the holidays. Contact Mary Bjerke at 651.287.6564 to volunteer or for more information.

Minnesota Children's Museum-St. Paul. Volunteers needed to help with the Sparkel-rama New Year's Eve event on Thursday, December 31st from 5 pm to 8:45 pm. Contact Kara Good at 651.225.6046 or e-mail her at kgood@mcm.org for more information.

Volunteering—The Story

St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program— Kris Miner, Director

Have you ever been stranded by the side of the road? Has a stranger ever held the door for you at the grocery store or post office? When people we don't know extend kindness it helps us feel part of a community. Volunteering is a way to help people that you don't know. The gift of volunteering goes both ways and the kindness that is extended boomerangs back so the giver becomes the receiver.

That's the experience of St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice volunteers. SCVRJP provides an array of restorative justice services. The programs range from victim impact panels of 60 people to small talking circles of 5 people. The mission of SCVRJP is to build a

culture of peace and belonging utilizing restorative justice principles and programs in our community.

SCVRJP has been operating since 2001. In 2006 the Restorative Justice Center opened in River Falls, WI. The nonprofit serves both Pierce and St. Croix Counties. Sessions have been held in Somerset, New Richmond, Ellsworth and Prescott, WI.

Volunteers serve an important role in Restorative Justice. A key component to Restorative Justice is the involvement of 'community' in repairing harm. Crime and conflict are viewed as harm to people and relationships— not just a violation against the state or school code of conduct. Volunteers represent the community by participating in processes that identify the harm and suggest

ways for the community to be repaired.

SCVRJP offers monthly volunteer orientation sessions for those interested. You can download a volunteer application from www.scvrjp.org or review the website for more information on Restorative Justice. Volunteer coordinator Debbie Boileau can be reached at the Restorative Justice Center (715) 425-1100 or scvrjpdeb@gmail.com



Participants in Talking Circle

Because we get so many requests for volunteering opportunities we've added another page to the November eVolunteer issue. The following might be of interest to some of you. Thank you for all the volunteering that you have done in the past and your help during

Thanksgiving Meals on Wheels-Cretin Derham Hall High School 550 S. Albert Street, St. Paul. Volunteer drivers needed. A minimum of two adult volunteers per car to deliver meals to families on Thanksgiving morning. Assignments and meals passed out on Thanksgiving Day starting at 7:00 A.M., just need to show up. You may have to wait in line for up to two hours to receive your assignment. Call 651.699.5404 for more information.

Salvation Army- Bell Ringing. Starts Friday, November 13 through Thursday, December 24th located throughout the metro. You can sign up for a time, date, and location that is convenient for you. After your timeslot has been confirmed, simply show up at the appointed location. A kettle and bell will be waiting for you. Start ringing and wish people a Happy Holiday. Call 651.746.3519 or visit the Salvation Army web site at www.thesalarmy.org for more information and more volunteer opportunities.

Union Gospel Mission-St. Paul Volunteer with the Thanksgiving meal baskets program, Naomi Children's Christmas Shopping, or by preparing and serving a Friday meals. Call 651.228.1800 for information about Naomi Children's Christmas or 651.789.7562 about Thanksgiving basket program. More volunteer opportunities are listed on the Union Gospel Mission's web site at www.ugmtc.org.

Catholic Charities-Mpls./St. Paul Support the **Sponsor a Family** program by providing holiday gifts to families in need. For more information call the Minneapolis office at 1-866-620-2236 or the St. Paul office at 1-800.285.3014 or visit their website at www.sponsorfamily.org The **Giving Tree** program runs from November 27 – December 23, 2009 and is located in Bloomington's Court at Mall of America. Pick up an ornament that lists holiday items requested by homeless and low-income community members. Shop for the item listed and return the unwrapped holiday gift to the Giving Tree. The gifts can be as basic as a winter hat and gloves or as large as a set of pots and pans. Volunteers are also needed to staff the Giving Tree. For more information on the Giving Tree program call 612.664.8600 or visit their web site at www.cccpm.org or send an e-mail to volunteer@cccpm.org.

Operation Help-Hudson, WI families in Hudson School District in need of holiday assistance should contact markjlu-kas@hotmail.com, the requests will be followed up by a telephone call so a telephone number is required with each request. Response time to e-mail will be the quickest, but those unable to use e-mail can contact Operation HELP at (715) 377-9990 during evening hours. Requests for assistance must be received by Dec. 10.

Operation Christmas Child-Stillwater the world's largest Christmas project, is calling on kids, families, churches, businesses, schools and community groups to **fill shoe boxes** full of gifts for the children overseas who are suffering from disease, famine, war, terrorism, and natural disaster. Our Savior's Lutheran Church located at 1616 Olive Street West in Stillwater is a drop off site. Call 651.439.5704 or visit their website at www.oslcstillwater.org for more details.

14th Annual Alternative Gift Market-Stillwater Seeking special gifts for your loved ones? Gifts that Give Around the World. Fairly-traded handicrafts, foods, toys, clothing and more! Gifts of donations to nonprofit organizations with established track record of helping people and the environment. Eco-friendly, reusable fabric gift bags. Enjoy homemade treats boty days and a simple soup lunch on Saturday only. Ash or Check accepted. **Saturday, November 21st, 10 am—4 pm, Sunday, November 22, 9 am—1 pm, First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, 6201 Osgood Avenue North, 651.439.4380. www.fpc-stillwater.org**

East Metro Women's Council-White Bear Lake Looking for people interested in donating Christmas Trees and decoration, also looking for help with their **Resident Holiday Dinner** (Volunteers to serve and to donate pies) on **Thursday, December 10th, 5—6 pm or 6-7 pm**. Contact Cheryl Schindler at 651.773.8401 x 116.



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651.439.7434 www.communitythreadmn.org