

e-Volunteer Newsletter

Community Thread

SEPTEMBER, 2009

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Special points of interest:

- Help a neighbor—Rake a Difference Day is Saturday, October 24th, 2009.
- Volunteers help make strong schools, and strong schools make strong communities.

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

It's September and another school year is starting. Maybe you have thought about volunteering in the past but have put it off. Why not give it a try now? Schools and our young people can really use your help. Volunteers are a key component to strong schools, strong communities and well educated young people. You have a lot to offer and a lot to gain by volunteering in your local school.

Volunteering in schools can be flexible. You can volunteer once a week, once a month, or on a one time basis according to your availability and interests. Volunteer needs range from tutors in math and reading, classroom helpers, speakers at career day or at a class studying a subject in the volunteer's expertise to chaperoning at dances or helping at fundraisers- the possibilities are endless.

If you don't have the time to physically volunteer in a school, you can support schools by donating money, school supplies, gift certificates, or store bought baked goods. Just ask your local school what their needs

are— you will be appreciated!

Volunteers need to complete an application, pass a background check, attend an interview and go through an orientation. It may seem like a lot of work, but it is important to keep our children safe by screening all volunteers.

Here are a just a few volunteer opportunities in South Washington County Schools:

- ArtSpark Volunteers, assist with art lessons
- Buddy Brigade Volunteers, help a child learn to read
- Volunteers for Special Events, such as, the Daddy/Daughter Dance and Super Hero Day.

For more information contact Jessica Yannarely, 651.458.6630, jjannare@sowashco.k12.mn.us.

For volunteer opportunities in Stillwater Public Schools contact the individual school you are interested in. For a listing of schools in

Stillwater check their web site at: www.stillwater.k12.mn.us.

Specific volunteer needs include:

Lily Lake Elementary, Malinda Lansfeldt, Principal, 651.351.6806, lansfeldtm@stillwater.k12.mn.us

- Classroom Volunteers for Kindergarten—6th grade, Monday—Friday, 8:00—2:20.

Rutherford, Elementary— Stephen Gorde, principal, 651.351.6406, gordes@stillwater.k12.mn.us,

- Reading Enrichment Program volunteers for all grades. Prefer commitment of three days a week for the whole year.

For a listing of all schools in Washington County see:



www.co.washington.mn.us

Announcement

Give a little—you'll get back so much more!

October 24th, Rake a Difference Day, is Washington County's effort for "**Make a Difference Day**", which is the most encompassing national day of helping neighbors. It is an annual event that happens on the fourth Saturday of every October throughout the nation.

Rake a Difference Day is a volunteer project benefiting seniors

and persons with disabilities who, with a little help from their neighbors, are able to live independently in their own homes. It is an opportunity to give a little of your time, to gather with other members of the community, to work with kids and seniors across generational lines and have fun. Groups of two or more are welcomed and needed! Just make sure that at least one adult, 18 or older, is participating in your

group. **How to register?**

Download Rake a Difference Day information and registration forms off of Community Thread's website, www.communitythreadmn.org and return completed registration forms by **Friday, October 9th**.





community thread

CONNECTING PEOPLE.
ENRICHING LIVES

Lisa Thalacker, Volunteer Center Program Director
Robin Halloum, 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 for your interest in volunteering!*

When you teach your son, you teach your son's son. Talmud

Manicurist-Hudson Christian Community Homes & Services, Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. weekly. Socialize and give a manicure with older residents; must be 15 years of age or older. Contact Brenda Magadan at 715.381.4205, brenda.magadan@cchudson.org, www.cchudson.org, Hudson, WI.

Sunshine Tour Guide-Stillwater It's great to be outside! Help residents of the Good Samaritan Society go outside on their grounds on nice days to enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. Push wheelchairs or walk with residents. Times are flexible with volunteers' schedule but afternoons are preferred. Contact Laura Kramer at 651.275.8363 or e-mail lcarmich@good-sam.com

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities You can make a difference in a young person's life by giving your time and talents to be a positive role model that will have an impact on the future of the children in your community. Call 651.789.2400 to volunteer, www.bigstwincities.org.

East Metro Women's Council, White Bear Lake Assist low-income and homeless families by volunteering! Contact Cheryl Schindler at 651.773.8401 x116, caschindler@emwc.org, www.emwc.org.

Washington County Volunteer Program Are you interested in learning first hand the many nuances of the justice system? The Washington County Volunteer program is looking for volunteers who will greet, direct, and provide assistance to visitors of the courthouse. In the process, you'll get to see the justice system up close. Located at the Washington County Courthouse in 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.

Volunteering—The Story

Stillwater Schools—Carissa Nelson, Communications

The Stillwater Area Public Schools are alive with excitement, energy, and learning. Every day amazing things take place in classrooms across the district. Wherever you go in our district, you can witness excitement for learning, and watch as our exceptionally trained, knowledgeable and caring staff members challenge students to achieve and succeed.

Stillwater has built and maintained an exceptional reputation for excellence across the state and nation. That reputation is in large part a result of the outstanding community support offered to our students and staff. There are

countless ways for members of our community to be involved in our schools, and thousands of people take advantage of these opportunities every year. From coaching young athletes, to reading with primary students, assisting teachers in correcting papers, or accompanying students on a field trip, the opportunities to be involved in the schools are many. Volunteers are always needed, and the rewards of volunteering are incredible.

"I've found that volunteering has been a wonderful gift to me," said Mary Keefer, who has volunteered at Stillwater Junior High since before many of the school's students have been alive. "No matter what task I've undertaken, the following has been true: I always feel as though I

I get more out of it than I give, I always learn something new, I always meet interesting people."

To learn more about the volunteer opportunities available in a school near you, please contact the school's principal.

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We Learn Not for School, But for Life

