



# e-Volunteer Newsletter

## Community Thread

SEPTEMBER 2010

### Building Better Lives Volunteer Expo

**Special points of interest:**

- Building Better Lives Volunteer Expo
- Volunteer Opportunities—Where can you help this month?
- The Story—United Way of Washington County-East

**You're Invited!**

On Tuesday, September 21st, Community Thread, in partnership with the United Way of Washington County-East, will host the Building Better Lives Volunteer Expo. The Expo will take place at Community Thread, and will be held from 4:00pm-7:00pm.

This event will bring together over 25 nonprofit organizations from around the St. Croix Valley. Each nonprofit organization will feature a booth where Expo attendees can meet a staff

member, receive information about the organization, and essentially “shop” for volunteer opportunities.

There will be information about both long-term volunteer opportunities as well as one-time events, so attendees can find a good fit for their schedules and interests. The Volunteer Expo is also a great place to find volunteer opportunities for a group, such as a church group, girl scout troop, corporate group, or even your family!

Some of the organizations attending include Art Reach Alliance, Hope House, Store to Door, East Metro Women’s Council, Bridging, Minnesota Children’s Museum, Valley Outreach, and many more.

The Volunteer Expo will be family-friendly, featuring refreshments, door prizes,



kids’ activities and a scavenger hunt, so bring the whole family!

No need to RSVP—just stop by on the 21st to join in on the fun and find out how you can volunteer in the St. Croix Valley. We look forward to seeing you there!

Can’t come to the Volunteer Expo? Don’t worry! There are plenty of volunteer opportunities listed on our online database, 1-800volunteer.org. Otherwise, feel free to stop by the Community Thread office on Tuesdays from 1-3 or Fridays from 10-12 to meet with Lisa or Elena.

**The Building Better Lives Volunteer Expo!**

**Tuesday, September 21st**  
**4:00-7:00pm**

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

**Rake a Difference Day**—On Saturday, October 23rd, Community Thread will host “Rake a Difference Day,” in association with National Make a Difference Day. This event brings community members together to rake the lawns of local seniors and people with disabilities. Put together a group from your office,

church, friends, or family, or register as an individual to help rake the lawn of a community member.

**Holiday Bureau**—Mark your calendars for Community Thread’s Holiday Bureau program, a holiday giving program that provides Christmas

gifts and a holiday meal for families in Washington County. Holiday Bureau will be seeking sponsors (to be matched with an individual or family), donors (financial or gift donations), and volunteers for the event. For more info about either program, contact Lisa or Elena at 651-439-7434.



## community thread

Connecting People. Enriching Lives

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

### VOLUNTEER CENTER

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### Many More Online Volunteer

#### Opportunities Available!

Simply go to:

[Communitythreadmn.org](http://Communitythreadmn.org)



Click on [1-800 Volunteer.org](http://1-800 Volunteer.org) and you will be guided through the login procedure. *Thank you!*

### Volunteer Opportunity Highlights—What you can do this month!

**Volunteer Coordinator-Let's Go Fishing:** Let's Go Fishing is looking for a Volunteer Coordinator to coordinate the scheduling of boat staff volunteers for their fishing and pontoon rides. Hours are very flexible. Please contact Bob Bailey at 651-292-4778 or [stillwater@lgfws.com](mailto:stillwater@lgfws.com).



**Prairie Restoration-Great River Greening:** Great River Greening seeks volunteers on September 25th from 8:30-12:30 to help with a prairie restoration event in Woodbury, MN. Volunteers will help collect seeds, build birdhouses, and remove invasive species. For more information, contact Mark Turbak at 651-665-9500 ext. 11 or [mturbak@greatrivergreening.org](mailto:mturbak@greatrivergreening.org).

**Youth Squad Volunteers-Minnesota Children's Museum:** The Minnesota Children's Museum is recruiting Youth Squad Volunteers for the 2010-2011 school year. Youth must be entering 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Volunteers will play with children in the galleries and lead creative arts programs. Contact Jay Haapala at [jhaapala@mcm.org](mailto:jhaapala@mcm.org) or 651-225-6006.

**Board Member-Merrick:** Merrick seeks dedicated individuals to serve on their board of directors. For more information, contact Jo Ann Lizakowski at 651-789-6207 or [joannl@merrickinc.org](mailto:joannl@merrickinc.org).

**Meal Project Volunteers-Hope House:** Hope House seeks individuals or groups to help provide the evening meal. Meals can be made at home and dropped off, or prepared in the on-site kitchen. Volunteers can then stay and eat with residents if desired. Contact: Kat Hill at [hopehoused@aol.com](mailto:hopehoused@aol.com) or 651-351-0361.

## The Story— United Way of Washington County-East



The United Way of Washington County-East (UWWCE) is a small, independent, locally governed United Way located in Stillwater, MN. UW-

WCE serves the eastern part of Washington County, and their mission is to "unite our communities and local resources to give each person the opportunity to build a better life." To work toward this mission, UWWCE has four areas of focus.

The first focus area is Youth. UWWCE provides funding and programs based on youth development, wellness and prevention education, and interventions for at-risk youth. In addition, their Youth United

Way program involves local youth in leadership, volunteering and philanthropy.

The second focus area is Basic Needs. United Way focuses funding on shelter, food, and vocational programs to help meet resident's basic needs. In addition, United Way partners to deliver discounted groceries through Fare for All and education on eating well on a budget, as well as other initiatives.

The third focus area is Health. UWWCE supports programs that improve access to health care and support elders and those with disabilities, including eldercare services, hospice, prescription drug programs, rehabilitation services, free and reduced cost health care and health insurance programs. United Way also offers a prescription discount card for

those without health insurance.

The fourth focus area Self-sufficiency. To address this area, UWWCE supports transportation programs, resource listings, advocacy and legal services, services in emergencies and abuse, and a volunteer center. United Way offers a 24 hour help line, 2-1-1, to help people connect with services.

In order to accomplish these goals, UWWCE relies on volunteers to assist in a variety of capacities, including Fare for All, weekly office work, communications, outreach to the community, and campaign events. If you are interested in learning more about UWWCE, or signing up to volunteer, please contact the United Way office at [info@uwwce.org](mailto:info@uwwce.org) or 651-439-3838 for more details!