

Blue Print

For the Future of Michigan Volunteer Centers



Volunteer with the Heart of West Michigan United Way at the Day of Caring

"In a nation of millions and a world of billions, the individual is still the first and basic agent of change."
-Lyndon B. Johnson

6 Simple Ways to Add Family Volunteering to Your Existing Programs

Family volunteering encourages members of a family to volunteer as a unit. Family volunteering can be done by the whole family together, by one parent and one child, by siblings together or by extended family such as grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Family volunteering can mobilize thousands of new volunteers and instill in the next generation a lifelong commitment to volunteering – no matter which project they choose.

1. Ask call-in referrals if they will bring their family to volunteer.
2. Make a list of family-friendly opportunities.
3. Identify family-friendly organizations for easy referrals.
4. Include photos of families in Volunteer Center marketing.
5. Add family volunteer opportunities to Day-of-Service projects and events.
6. Recruit volunteers at family-friendly locations.

Don't forget that national Family Volunteer Day is November 18, 2006. More ideas and information on family volunteering can be found at www.familyvolunteerday.org or www.pointsoflight.org.

DOORS – Flint Resource Center

DOORS is an initiative through the Points of Light Foundation in Washington, D.C. designed to serve consumers who are persons with disabilities (primarily—but not limited to—veterans). Flint, Detroit, and six other cities across the nation were selected to participate in a three-year experience designed to increase economic empowerment for people with disabilities. Here we will highlight one of the two Michigan sites, the Flint Resource Center. Here's how it works: partner agencies identify people with disabilities who may be interested in the services that these agencies provide. In collaboration with the Resource Center, the agency's representative will invite the consumer to consider volunteering in the community, at a site of his or her choice. The volunteer can gain pre-employment experience, help others, and make a difference while building contacts for future economic improvement.

The process is simple; the agency representative will determine whether the consumer is interested in volunteer work. If **no**, the agency will provide their usual range of services. If **yes**, the agency representative will work with the Resource Center to help the person select a setting and activities that meet the individual's interests, time and other factors. The Resource Center maintains an extensive database of volunteer opportunities from over 300 nonprofit agencies, accessible through www.volhere.org, an interactive (and free) website.

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Middleville Board Walk volunteers from the Barry County United Way Day of Caring

Resources & Opportunities

Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

Volunteer Centers who offer the Michigan Student Service Award may want to consider taking recognition a step further by nominating youth for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. The deadline is October 31, 2006. You will find applications and additional information at www.prudential.com/spirit.

YouthRising Grants

Youth Service America announced a YouthRising grant program. This opportunity offers up to \$2,000 for organizations to engage high risk and/or gang-involved youth in volunteer service. Eligible organizations must have documented success in prevention/intervention work with high risk and/or gang-involved youth. The deadline is October 12, 2006 and information is available at www.YSA.org/awards

Affiliation Agreements

Don't forget to submit you affiliation agreement between the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network and your Volunteer Center. Affiliate agreements and information can be found at <http://www.pointsoflight.org/centers/membersonly>

Family Volunteer Day Neighboring Mini-Grants

Are you interested in engaging low-income and underserved families in volunteering? Check out the Family Volunteer Day mini-grants available at <http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/neighboring/> The deadline is October 10.

Technology Resources

Volunteer Center Technology Purchasing Guide

Thinking about purchasing a new laptop? Weighing your web hosting options? The Technology Purchasing Guide is a helpful resource that will give you a starting point when thinking about and researching new equipment and services. Check it out at www.npowermichigan.org/services/consulting/vcmproject.htm

Staffing for Technical Support

Technology staffing can be a challenge, especially when technology isn't your strong suit. This downloadable guide from NPower NY helps nonprofits navigate the process, from sourcing and hiring to managing and spending. <http://ga0.org/ct/tdSy55E1pX-r/>

Calendar of Events

September 14 – “Do Something Good” Fundraiser, Volunteer Center of Northwest Michigan

September 15 – AVSO/Forks 5K Run/Walk, Albion Volunteer Service Organization

September 25 – VCM Leadership Academy Conference Call (Diversification of Funding) 10-11:30 a.m.
Call in number: 1-800-244-9194 code: 826492

September 26 – VCM Leadership Academy Conference Call (Diversification of Funding) 3-4:30 p.m.
Call in number: 1-800-244-9194 code: 826492

September 27 – MNA Nonprofit Day
<http://www.mnaonline.org/nonprofit06.asp>

October 15 – An Evening with Friends Dinner Fundraiser, Volunteer Center of Otsego County

October 25 – Shaping Mentoring's Future Conference
<http://www.michigan.gov/mentormichigan>

October 28 - National Make a Difference Day
<http://www.makeadifferenceday.org/>



**Your Volunteer Center
Could Be Famous!**

Submit your photos and stories to the Volunteer Centers of Michigan and you could be featured in future editions of the resource update and other publications of the ConnectMichigan Alliance. Submit best practice articles and pictures to Allison Treppa at atreppa@connectmichiganalliance.org

Tell us what you think! Send your feedback on this newsletter to Allison at atreppa@connectmichiganalliance.org.