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*Inspiring, strengthening, and
supporting volunteerism in*



Bimonthly Newsletter--Volume V, Issue 3

May/June 2005



BIG Sweep Results!

The 4th annual *BIG Sweep*, Volunteer Frederick's collaborative fundraiser/service project, held on Saturday, April 16, was the largest and most successful to date! The *BIG Sweep* helps local nonprofits raise funds and provide a great service to our county. Structured like a walkathon, participants solicit sponsorships from family, friends or colleagues, but instead of walking, they pick up trash from roadsides and stream-sides in Frederick City and County.

More than 930 volunteers participated in this year's *BIG Sweep* – an increase of more than 200 from 2004. They collected almost sixteen tons of trash, recyclables and bulk items and 420 tires while raising more than \$46,500 for their respective nonprofits. *BIG Sweep* volunteers cleaned up more than sixty-eight sites throughout the county and city, including Cunningham Falls State Park and Pinecliff Park, which each hosted multiple teams.

This year's top three fundraisers were Girl Scout Troop 1024 (\$4,000), the Frederick County Senior Recreation Council (\$5,776), and Hood College (\$6,471). The Senior Recreation Council also had the most volunteers – 91! - while Hood had 90!

Many thanks to our sponsors (see back), our 48 participating organizations, all who participated in the clean-up and contributed money to our *BIG Sweep* teams, and our terrific partners with The City of Frederick (Stuart Frazier) and Frederick County (Donnie Crum, Phil Harris, and Lee Lambert). Together we made a *BIG* difference! ●

Agency Profile:



Since 1976, the Frederick Arts Council has sought to be the "primary catalyst and advocate for arts opportunities in Frederick County" according to Executive Director Marilyn Orsinger. Major local arts organizations, such as the Delaplaine Visual Arts Education Center, the Weinberg Center for the Arts, and the Frederick Festival of the Arts, were all associated with the Frederick Arts Council in their early days, and they continue to help arts organizations get established in Frederick County.

Though the Frederick Arts Council supports Frederick's arts community in many ways, one of their primary responsibilities is to help raise and distribute funds to local artists. As one of twenty-four arts councils in the Maryland network, they help to disperse Maryland's Community Arts Development Grants to Frederick County arts organizations. They also disperse Arts Education Grants, grants intended to promote and strengthen arts education, to local elementary and secondary schools. With their Arts Affiliate program, they can provide "a series of services" to members for a small fee, said Orsinger, including discounted advertisement and access to a color copier. But, Orsinger stresses, the Frederick Arts Council will help anyone who is looking to get involved in the arts.

The Frederick Arts Council plays an important role as the primary source for arts education in the county – it is often the first stop for people looking to get involved in the local arts scene. On their website (www.FrederickArtsCouncil.org) they include a comprehensive directory of local arts organizations, as well as a calendar of upcoming events. They also maintain brochures and flyers about the arts at their offices in the Cultural Arts Center at 15 West Patrick Street in Frederick. The Cultural Arts Center is another service that the Frederick Arts Council can offer local artists; it is a place where artists of all disciplines can work, rehearse, perform, teach classes and conduct workshops.

Volunteers contribute in many ways to the Frederick Arts Council's success. A volunteer is needed to serve as a Volunteer Manager; this person would help recruit, train and motivate volunteers. As one of the primary sources of arts education to the public, they also need volunteers to serve as docents at their Arts Information Desk, and to set up displays in the Cultural Arts Center's eight storefront windows (visual display skills are required for this position). The Cultural Arts Center, which is used by "hundreds of patrons, students, actors, dancers, musicians" each week, also needs a volunteer to perform basic maintenance chores.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the Cultural Arts Center or the Frederick Arts Council, contact Ms.Orsinger at 301.662.4190 or morsinger@frederickartscouncil.org. ●



Frederick County Youth



As a part of Volunteer Frederick's National Volunteer Week Celebration, 75 youth volunteers and Frederick County Public School's service-learning leader, Max White, were honored during

Frederick County's annual Youth Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. "Frederick County youth volunteers share their time and talents to make a difference in our community and truly live up to this year's National Volunteer Week theme – Inspire By Example!" said Rebecca Pack, youth service director at Volunteer Frederick. The youth were recognized for volunteer service as mentors, companions to youth with disabilities, event planners, and fundraisers. Agencies that nominated youth for recognition include Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Tourism Council of Frederick County, the Mental Health Association, and Guiding Eyes for the Blind. Eleven of the nominees also received the President's Service Award. This Award is issued by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation on behalf of the President of the United States to recognize the best in the American spirit and encourage all Americans to contribute to their communities through volunteer service.

"Our local volunteers meet critical needs and help to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods all over Frederick County," said Lisa Orr, Executive Director of Volunteer Frederick. "There is no better way to continue the County's long tradition of service than to instill the value of service in our youth and to recognize them for their important contributions."



Volunteer Frederick also recognized the contributions of Max White, supervisor of Frederick County Public Schools Department of Career and Technology Education and Business

Partnerships. White, who will retire this summer, has also served as coordinator for service-learning throughout the school system. "Max's contributions to our schools and to our community in the area of service-learning are amazing!" said former teacher and Service Learning Fellow, Joey Hoffman. "He has led the students, teachers, service-learning contacts and coordinators, and even the administrators of the Frederick County Public Schools to a better understanding of the value of service and the incredible value of service-learning as a strategy for teaching kids." ●



Last Call! Volunteer Management Training

Volunteer Frederick's Volunteer Management Training Series provides in-depth, low-cost, local training workshops focusing on areas deemed important by local volunteer managers. The 2004-2005 series is coming to a close; however, it's not too late to register for the three remaining workshops being offered.

June 1st will be the final workshop date for "Maximizing Your Relationship with Volunteer Frederick." This is a training you won't want to miss if your agency has not had the chance to attend one of the earlier dates. It is a free, 1½ hour program discussing all of the ways that Volunteer Frederick can be of service to your organization. Included in this workshop is an overview of how to use Community Hub, our new on-line volunteer recruitment tool. Starting in February of this year, Community Hub is quickly becoming an effective resource for agencies with volunteer needs to fill. For the nominal fee of \$15, your agency will receive its own account and unlimited access to the database of over 1,500 volunteers.

Also on Wednesday June 1, the final training on "Best Practices for Volunteer

Management" will be offered. This training is a one-hour, information-packed overview of all the elements your organization needs to operate a successful volunteer program.

On Thursday, May 26, the workshop "Measuring Program Effectiveness and Evaluating Volunteers" will be held from 9am – Noon at the Browning Building in Pinecliff Park. This workshop covers topics such as the importance of evaluation, deciding what information to track, how to collect data and turn that data into findings to improve your program, and how to conduct effective, meaningful volunteer evaluation.

Volunteer management training helps build the capacity for effective local volunteering. Take advantage of these final workshops and strengthen your volunteer program! To register, contact Carol Bliese at 301.662.5214, ext. 6# or carolb@volunteerfrederick.org.

Volunteer Frederick would like to acknowledge and thank Carol for doing a fabulous job of developing and implementing our workshop series. Carol has been serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA member since last June and concludes her year of AmeriCorps service on June 6th. She is moving on to a fellowship at The Population Connection in DC. There she will be developing curricula and materials for teachers about how population issues relate to natural resource conservation and overall environmental sustainability. Best of luck Carol! ●

Volunteer Frederick Partner Agencies

**The Children's Museum of Rose Hill
Manor Park**

* **Community Commons**

* **Frederick Community College,
Tutorial Services**

**Frederick County Landmarks
Foundation**

* **Frederick County Public Schools**

* **The Frederick Arts Council**

**The Frederick Rescue Mission
Fredericktowne Players**

* **Hope Alive**

**Last Chance Wildlife Center
Meals-on-Wheels, Frederick County**

* **Mental Health Association
Pets-4-Pets**

* **Religious Coalition for Emergency
Human Needs**

* **San Mar Children's Home**

* **Thorpewood**

**Tranquility Farm Equestrian
Education and Renewal Center
WindStar Wildlife Institute**

Community Hub Users

**The Community Foundation of
Frederick County
Easter Seals, Greater Washington-
Baltimore Region
Frederick County Public Schools, ESL
Department
Frederick Marathon
Greyhound Welfare
The Historical Society of Frederick
County
Life Skills Workshop
Our House
St. Andrew's Society of Mid-Maryland
US Tennis Association**

* *Charter Partner Agency*

Volunteer Frederick Wel-

comes... Ellen Matheny, Finance and Office Manager



Ellen Matheny joined the Volunteer Frederick team in April to replace Linda Quinn as our new Finance and Office Manager. She has a great deal of past experience in fundraising for nonprofits.

Ellen jumped right in to help with The BIG Sweep and has already helped to obtain a \$1,000 grant from Wal-Mart for our youth service programs.

Ellen enjoys working for nonprofit organizations because she finds nonprofit work more satisfying than the corporate world. She says that nonprofits tend to feel smaller and more personal, and she likes the sense of community she builds with her coworkers.

Ellen has lived in Washington County for over 25 years. She and her husband raise angus beef, so she enjoys a good steak!



Debbie Bauer, RSVP Coordinator

Debbie Bauer joined Volunteer Frederick in May and replaces Marilyn Herbert as the RSVP Coordinator. She will support RSVP Director Carol Haag by

increasing the number of volunteers and local businesses involved in the RSVP program.

Debbie has worked with senior populations for eleven years, so her connections and experience will be a great asset to Volunteer Frederick's RSVP program. She has a degree in recreation and leisure administration and enjoys working in the senior field. She has worked in a wide array of settings such as retirement communities, mental health settings, and community recreation sites such as the YMCA and athletic arenas.

This is not the only field that Debbie has experience with. Every other weekend for the past three years she has been teaching a class on motorcycle safety for the state of Maryland, and she loves it! Debbie is originally from Poolesville, Maryland and although she doesn't care for chocolate, she says she could eat Chinese food every day.

and Bids Farewell to ...

AmeriCorps VISTAs, Carol Bliese & Adrian Verhulst



It is with much appreciation, well wishes (and sadness) that we bid farewell to Carol and Adrian who complete their year of national service on June 6. Both have been tremendous assets to Volunteer Frederick not only because of their very successful designated project work, but also their

helpful can-do attitudes when it came to assisting with any Volunteer Frederick initiative from the VIP dinner to Volunteer Mobilization Center drills. They have brought humor, cheerfulness, creativity and efficiency to our whole operation.

Adrian kicked off her year as SummerServe Express director and moved into family strengthening volunteer projects with the Sagner community. She also assisted with numerous RSVP projects. She will be pursuing a masters degree in social work at Boston University next fall. See page 2 to find out where Carol is headed!

Many thanks for all your contributions and hard work. You will be missed! ●

Volunteer Frederick Launches Campaign

Volunteers Make Frederick County a Better Place to Call Home

Volunteer Frederick launched a new giving campaign in May that reminds real estate linked businesses that volunteers make Frederick County a better place to call home.

"Our growing population and housing market indicate that people are attracted to the quality of life found in Frederick County," said Ann Fisher, board member and chair of Volunteer Frederick's fund development committee. "Businesses benefiting from the housing boom may not realize that volunteers play a vital role in making our communities safe, beautiful, culturally dynamic, and attractive to prospective home and business owners. It's in their interest to support volunteerism!"

The campaign appeals to businesses linked to construction and real estate in order to help increase volunteerism to keep pace with growth.

Volunteer Frederick's core services of promoting volunteerism and referring prospective volunteers to agencies in need

have been performed by AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers for seven years. "We've reached the cap for utilizing VISTA members in these roles, so now we must find new resources to sustain and grow these programs and services," said Lisa Orr, executive director.

Volunteer Frederick offers businesses multiple ways to contribute to the *Volunteers Make Frederick County a Better Place to Call Home* campaign. Options include one-time gifts; donations spread over three years, regular continuing gifts based on a small percentage of current or previous year's profits, or a donation to Volunteer Frederick's Community Investment Tax Credit program (CITC). The CITC program helps provide state-of-the art volunteer management software to any interested business, nonprofit or public service agency in Frederick County. Donors will realize a tax benefit of between \$0.62 and \$0.74 for every dollar donated. The minimum contribution is \$500.

Volunteer Frederick's first major supporters were Marvin and Lisa Ausherman, who pledged \$10,000 a year for three years starting in 2004. This was followed by a \$3,000 contribution from SAIC in 2005.

The first contributor to the new *Volunteers Make Frederick County a Better Place to Call Home* campaign is South Mountain Group, Title, Escrow and Loan Closing Services, a new title recording company that makes charitable giving an integral part of their business plan.

"Giving back to the community on a regular basis is an integral part of the South Mountain Group's philosophy," said Pat Leiby, marketing coordinator. "We will continue to support Volunteer Frederick and other nonprofit organizations as our business grows."

Businesses interested in learning more about the campaign may contact Lisa Orr at LisaOrr@VolunteerFrederick.org or 301.663.5214. ●



Pat Leiby, marketing director for the South Mountain Group, presents a donation of \$273 to Lisa Orr, executive director. The donation is the first in Volunteer Frederick's new *Volunteers Make Frederick County a Better Place to Call Home* campaign.

Volunteer for a Day!

Many people have trouble finding time in their schedule for volunteering, but it is easy to fit in a one-day event. This month we've assembled a list of short term - one or two day - volunteer opportunities (children can participate in most events). You can help out at Frederick's annual arts festival, or play a mock patient at an emergency drill. Try one today!



May 26th: As part of its annual disaster response planning and testing, **Frederick Memorial Hospital** must conduct a live drill using mock patients playing a variety of roles as victims in need of medical care after an incident. This year, the event will simulate an explosion at a sporting event with multiple victims and signs of potential chemical or biological effects on the victims. You will be assigned a role to play at the disaster site, receive EMT care and potentially be transported to the hospital for further care. In this way, **Frederick Memorial Hospital** can test field, transport, and internal conditions and responses. There will even be volunteers detailed to try and enter the hospital without permission to test security. Volunteers of all ages, as well as people with disabilities or special needs are welcome to participate - in fact, it is important to have a diverse group of volunteers in order to challenge the rescuers and simulate a realistic event. For more information, contact Jack Lynch at 301-663-5214 or email jacklynch@volunteerfrederick.org.



June 3rd and 4th: The **American Cancer Society of Frederick County's Relay for Life** is approaching fast and they still need volunteers to help with day and night events. Children and families are welcome. The Relay for Life is an event designed to honor and memorialize those who have battled cancer. Please consider giving a helping hand; they still need help filling and placing luminaria bags around their walking tracks, setting up the survivor reception, setting up tents, handing out and collecting surveys, etc. For a night to remember, volunteer with the American Cancer Society! Contact Dawn Snyder Richards at 888-535-4555 or Dawn.Richards@cancer.org.



June 3rd, 4th, and 5th. The **12th Annual Frederick Festival of the Arts** needs volunteers to serve in a variety of positions. They need people to help artists set up and break down their booths, as well as man the booths while artists have lunch or take a break. Volunteers will greet visitors, distribute programs, and stamp visitors entering and leaving the festival. Volunteers can help in the Kid's Zone - assisting children with creative projects (arts experience is not required). People will also be needed to assist in the various beverage areas, the VIP Tent and to sell tickets to events. For information about these and other volunteer opportunities, contact Martha Roddy at 301-668-4899 or visit www.frederickarts.org.



June 12th/13th. Like Golf? The **Patty Pollatus Fund and Sam Hall** are hosting the **Donnie Hammon and Mark Mosely Celebrity Golf Classic** at **Clustered Spire Golf Course**. Volunteers are needed for a variety of activities on the tournament days. Contact Debbie Williams at 301-663-8316 or debbie@ppfinc.org

June 11th. The **Interfaith Housing Alliance** is looking for volunteers to help at their construction site in Taneytown, Maryland. They will be having a Work Day from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact April Clemons at 301-662-4225 or aclemons@interfaithhousing.org.



July 4th. The **City of Frederick Office of Special Events** needs volunteers to help with the Fourth of July Festival in Baker Park. Volunteers may help out at information booths or assist in the Children's Area selling tickets for train rides and helping visitors on and off the train. The minimum age is 17; youth from 10-16 are welcome to participate if accompanied by an adult. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Carol Williamson at carolwilliamson@adelphia.net or 301-663-4308

A Vacation That Makes A Difference!

Does sitting in your car and office all day make you feel restless? Do you long to be physically active and have an adventure? Get outdoors this summer and do something beneficial for our earth! Spend a week restoring wilderness and learning about the environment. You can find volunteer projects within the United States or across the world with a variety of focuses and skill levels.



American Hiking Society

Does the idea of a volunteer vacation sound enticing, but you don't have much money to spend? All American Hiking Society trips are only \$120 (\$95 for members)!

Visit stunning backcountry locations at state and national parks throughout the country. Work on trail maintenance and reconstruction or invasive plant removal from the Californian coast to the Appalachian mountains and anywhere in between. Search by date, location and work level, from easy to strenuous.

Visit <http://www.americanhiking.org> to find the trip that is best for you!



Giving Global

Giving Global's mission is to connect volunteers and donors with effective international nongovernmental organizations, thereby devoting more resources to deserving communities across the world. Their web site allows you to search for different volunteer opportunities using a variety of subject areas, such as education and literacy, women's issues, conservation, or habitat restoration and cleanup. You can find internships and long or short-term service opportunities around the world, from working in rural communities in West Virginia to promoting AIDS prevention education in Asia or Africa.

See <http://www.givingglobal.org/index.jsp> to find out how you can help.



Earthwatch

Help save leatherback sea turtles from extinction in Costa Rica, study climate change in Australian rainforests, or promote maternal and child healthcare in India! Earthwatch Institute engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment.

You can search for volunteer expeditions by location or area of interest, such as archaeology, cultural diversity, endangered ecosystems, or oceans.

Visit <http://www.earthwatch.org/expedselect.html> for more information about Earthwatch's expeditions.



Sierra Club

The Sierra Club was founded with the notion that people are more likely to work towards protecting the earth if they have experience with nature. Over 100 years ago founder John Muir stated, "If people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish."

The Sierra Club has many week-long outings that touch on themes of conservation and volunteerism, but the most service-oriented outings are the Activist Trips which aim to train the next generation to fight for the wilderness, both through learning about issues and through conservation efforts. Activist Trips scheduled for this summer include:

- *Rafting the Wild Rivers of Alaska*
- *Protecting the Owyhee Canyonlands of Nevada, Oregon and Idaho*
- *Protecting Wild Nevada in the Toiyabe National Forest*
- *Vision for the Maine Woods: Restoring Valuable Wilderness*
- *Utah's Wild West Desert*

See <http://whistler.sierraclub.org/TripSearch/TripSearch.jsp> for more information on wilderness outings.



Global Volunteer Network

The Global Volunteer Network offers volunteer opportunities in community projects throughout the world through its partner organizations in Alaska, China, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Nepal, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda and Vietnam.

- *Join a small team of volunteers working to preserve, monitor, and re-establish the natural environment in New Zealand*
- *Provide education for AIDS orphans in Ghana*
- *Work in a wildlife and environmental conservation program in South Africa*
- *Teach English in the Shandong Province of China*

For more information about programs visit www.volunteer.org.nz/programs/



Youth Make a Difference through SummerServe!

Contact Rebecca Pack to find out how a young person you know can spend the summer helping others through our 2 and 6 week programs.

301.663.5214, ext. 2# or rebeccap@volunteerfrederick.org

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