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*Inspiring, strengthening, and
supporting volunteerism in
Frederick County.*



Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2005/2006

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING

Many people try to give back during the holidays by donating their time to a worthy cause. But so many people want to volunteer around the holidays that it is often difficult for volunteers not already affiliated with an organization to find a position. We've listed some tips for holiday volunteering below; be sure to check our insert for more suggestions!

Be flexible. Try not to get your heart set on one particular activity. Even if you can't find a spot serving at a soup kitchen, for example, you may be able to work a shift at Big Brothers Big Sisters' gift wrapping booth, or ring a bell for the Salvation Army. If you're trying to organize something for a group, be prepared to divide your group (or work in shifts) to accommodate agency needs. Organizations not typically associated with holiday volunteering still need volunteers. If you love animals, for instance, consider helping at the Frederick County Animal Shelter or Humane Society, or volunteer at one of Frederick County's many historical sites with the annual "Museums by Candlelight" celebration.

Create your own volunteer activity. Organize a gift drive with your friends, family, or co-workers and donate the proceeds to the MHA's Operation Santa Claus program, The Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs, the Salvation Army or the local chapter of Toys for Tots. Food, some types of clothing, or hygiene items are needed year round. Hold a drive to collect these items, but contact agencies before you begin to verify what their needs are.

If you can't find your ideal holiday volunteer position this year, here are a few tips to keep in mind for next year:

Plan early. Some types of volunteer activities, such as meal serving, are particularly popular

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Agency Profile:

Frederick County Humane Society

Frederick County Humane Society (FCHS) is a venerable Frederick County institution — founded in 1901 - which seeks to support animals and people in the local community. FCHS' work encompasses several areas. They serve as advocates for animal welfare, work to reduce the homeless pet population and provide education for pets and their owners. Volunteers provide essential support for many programs; animal lovers can participate in a variety of short and long term activities at FCHS, depending on their skills and interests.

Volunteer opportunities are roughly divided into three categories, including humane education, community support services for animals and people, and finally, fundraising. Like all chapters, FCHS is an independent and totally self-funded nonprofit organization.

Prospective volunteers who are interested in education or outreach have several options. Writers can either contribute to the quarterly newsletter, or help keep the website up to date. Outreach volunteers can join the "Speakers Bureau" to visit local schools and describe FCHS programs, and they can help man FCHS booths during special events such as the Frederick Fair or Pet Photos with Santa.

Volunteers at these special events also help set up and break down event venues, as well as talking to members of the public. One special project that needs a committed volunteer is the revival of the KINDness Club, a program for children aged 6-12.

FCHS and its dedicated volunteers offer many services for animals and/or pet owners in Frederick County. Volunteers who assist with these programs often work hands on with animals. For example, FCHS partners with local animal rescue organizations, such as Friends for Life Animal Rescue and Small Angels, for pet adoption events. Volunteers help with the adoption process during these regular events, and also are active in the rescue of "hurricane dogs" — pets stranded during this past hurricane season. Other short term volunteer opportunities include helping with paperwork and other tasks at rabies and microchip clinics held three or four times a year. Volunteers who enjoy hands on work with animals and can make a longer term commitment may want to learn more about the foster care program recently developed by FCHS.

Fundraising is an important activity at FCHS (as at any nonprofit) and volunteers can get involved in these initiatives as well. They help plan and implement fundraising events, such as Walk-n-Wag or Hogs for Dogs. Creative volunteers can participate in the "Humane Crafters Guild." The Guild meets once a month and is a social occasion as well as a work session!

Whether you want to provide services to animals and their owners, or prefer to support the agency by working behind the scenes, FCHS has a meaningful position for you. To get involved or find out more about volunteering at Frederick County Humane Society, visit their website at www.fchs.org or contact Brigitte Farrell (director@fchs.org) or Jen Tucker (info@fchs.org) at 301-694-8300. ♦



Human Society's 2005 Walk N' Wag

Faith-Based Organizations Play a Big Role in Disaster Relief and Recovery

A good start to this story is a comment made by Rev. Brian Scott of Frederick's Religious Coalition: "The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina has made people aware of what's often invisible." A recent meeting with Rev. Scott centered on the role of churches in relief of human suffering, and their congregations' outreach to those in need as part of their mission. Before describing some impressive initiatives, it's important to note that what follows are only a few examples of how Maryland's faith-based organizations and their volunteers are helping.

Catholic Charities raised \$53M nationwide for Katrina-Rita relief; of that \$9.4M came from parishes in Maryland. According to their resources, some parishes are "adopting" parishes in the storm-damaged area and some others are adopting individual families to provide, in either case, funds, equipment, supplies, and personalized support to those in need after the storm.

Referring back to "...what's often invisible...", Rev. Scott pointed out that many middle-class families do not qualify for various kinds of social service support. Their incomes must be listed (even though they're now lost). Further, aid from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is often forthcoming for such families, but the agency is swamped with applications for assistance and is often slow in responding.

In Frederick, Asbury United Methodist Church has taken in four families. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has taken in two. Walkersville Ministerium has coordinated efforts among the congregations there to provide for four families, and Holy Family RC parish in Middletown is providing for another four. Two Methodist organizations, Volunteers In Mission (VIM) and United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) were active before, during, and after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma devastated parts of our nation. VIM's mission emphasizes training, and UMCOR sponsored three pickup points for aid to victims; Trinity United Methodist Church was the dropoff location in Frederick.

Maryland Adventist Community Services, in support of the Adventist Disaster Response (nationwide), has been collecting items such as bedsheet sets, pillows, blankets, soaps, baby formula, and clothing. But things that you might not expect such as buckets, shovels, new wheelbarrows (boxed), hammers, nails, furring strips, and ladders are also being assembled. These supplies are items requested directly by FEMA and volunteer relief agencies working in

the affected areas. Many shipments of equipment have not reached those in need because storage and distribution systems were not considered, so Adventist Disaster Response is operating seven warehouses and multiple distribution sites to overcome this problem.

Some of the invisible things that need to be provided for should be stressed: Food, shelter, and clothing come quickly to mind. But what about insurance? Relocation tasks can come in all shapes and sizes. Careers were swept away by wind and storm surge, and even such things as tax records need to be dealt with, even if they can't be created again.

Salvation Army units are on the ground in the disaster area, feeding and sheltering thousands of storm victims. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Ministries are there doing similar tasks, and their cleanup/repair/demolition teams are providing equipment and hard labor to ease the suffering of survivors.

A close-to-home story about the latter effort relates to the deployment of Baptist Disaster Teams from Frederick and Washington Counties. The Blue Ridge Baptist Association's Disaster Relief team deployed for two weeks in southeast Louisiana conducting recovery operations. A total of 15 volunteers from various Southern Baptist Churches in the association worked on 24 homes, removing trees, making emergency repairs, and conducting Flood/Mud Out Operations. This team is part of the Southern Baptist North American Missions fleet of over 600 volunteer disaster units. Even though the unit is part of a national disaster fleet, the local unit is solely supported by the local congregations.

Having told you some of what's been happening, it's now important to stress that the problems won't go away for a long time after the wind's died and the water's been pumped out. People are still in hotels, motels, and other temporary housing. The Religious Coalition is coordinating the process of identifying those who continue to be in need and moving them on in the recovery process. Rev. Scott gave an

example of an elderly evacuee, a woman aged 77. She was sheltering in a motel and making do with donated clothing, food vouchers, and so on. But she needed to be moved to permanent quarters and Religious Coalition was also able to coordinate assistance so that she could be established as a legitimate claimant for longer-term assistance from FEMA.

But the timeline will continue on into the near and distant future. Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and New Year's are all just a few weeks away and many storm victims will not be able to celebrate in any way close to their traditions if they do not continue to receive assistance. Donations of goods, services, and funds are all part of what will be needed. The examples above show how many have put their faith into action.

The Religious Coalition is not the only outlet for action by community members, but it is a good point of coordination. To contact them for donations or volunteering, call 301/631-2670.



AmeriCorps VISTA member, Al Caho, tarps a roof in Louisiana. Al is a member of the Blue Ridge Baptist Assoc.'s Disaster Relief Team.

Holiday Volunteering

Continued from Page 1

during the holidays. Accordingly, they are the first to fill up and regular volunteers will get first pick. Some organizations have long standing agreements with churches or other civic organizations for their holiday volunteer opportunities. Contact organizations early - several weeks before the holiday season begins - particularly if you are working with a large group.

Volunteer early. Bear in mind, many organizations that are swamped with volunteers during the holidays struggle during the rest of the year to find volunteer support for their projects. Do your holiday volunteering in October, or even earlier. Consider volunteering for a different holiday, like New Year's or Easter. ◊



VIPs at Your Service

Paula Jageman Captures Most Appreciated VIP Waiter Award

Volunteer Frederick held its sixth annual “VIPs at Your Service” fundraising dinner at the Lynfield Event Complex on November 18th.

Thirty “very important people” served as VIP Waiters for this lively event, and helped raise more than \$27,000 to sustain Volunteer Frederick’s programs that inspire, strengthen and support volunteerism throughout the County. The VIP Waiters decorated their table and themselves with a theme and competed among each other to see who could earn the most tips

(donations) from their guests and be awarded Most Appreciated Waiter.

Paula Jageman, serenading her guests as U2’s Bono, won the Most Appreciated Waiter award. Together with auction items that included an iPod fully loaded with every U2 album and signed memorabilia from U2 and Roger Staubach, Ms. Jageman raised a total of \$4,014.



Volunteer Frederick board members Michael Planz and Ike Wilson won the Funniest Table Award with cigar smoking Planz as Show White serving a very nonconformist crew of dwarfs. Harem members Cindy Burdette, Lynette Culbertson, Pat Rosensteel and Janet Wells, winners of the Most Creative Table, treated three tables of guests to “A Night of a Thousand Wishes.” ML Carroll of Canapés, served her guests in an elegant woodlands environment and captured the Most Beautiful Table award.



While Dan Schiffman (Northwestern Mutual Financial Network) continued his Bad to the Bone theme and alternately rode around on his mini-chopper and tricycle, Jodi Stiles was leading her band of the Pirates of the Carribean. Law and order was not far away, however.

Sandy Dalton (Clerk of the District Court) was locking guests up in jail as she affirmed that Justice Rocks! and nearby lawyers Chris Remsburg and Kelly McGill were also policing their guests with their Cops & Robbers theme. Angela Dredden (Mercantile Mortgage, LLC) leveraged tips from her guests with her Monopoly theme while Delegate Patrick Hogan entertained friends and family with a Hawaiian Luau.

Kathy Davis and Barb Walker (McLean, Koehler, Sparks & Hammond) played detective after one of their dinner guests turned up “dead,” while the guests of Katie Bowersox (JB Interiors) and Rob Bowersox (Drees Homes) gambled their money away at their Vegas, Baby! casino. Dusty Rood (Rodgers Consulting) and his guests came decked out for a wild Disco Party while Leslie Schultz and Beverly Stone kept their guests hopping to The 50’s! Samantha Servey (The Corporate Gift Source) reminded her guests that It’s all about the Giving while a crew of eclectically dressed Future Professionals to Go from The Temple Paul Mitchell Partner School served up a wide variety of entertainment including a lovely operatic solo from Madame Butterfly. Members of the Maryland Ensemble Theatre, got into the VIP Waiter act as well. Lorrie Tripp delivered questionable service as (im)Patience Punk; Amy Easton and Matt Baughman, brought out their guests’ “inner children” with their Playtime with Sam and Rosie theme. Meanwhile, the worlds most incompatible couple Lisa Burl, as Joan Crawford, and Michael Johnson, as Saddam Hussein, were at least civil enough to entertain and serve their guests.

Local event sponsors did their part to make the VIP dinner a success. Business sponsors included Canapés, Farmers & Mechanics Bank, Frederick County Bank, Routzahn’s Furniture, The South Mountain Group, Soundsations, GW Solutions, FSK Associates, and Frederick Coffee Company. Numerous businesses sponsored VIP Tables including Bechtel, the Gazette, the Frederick News-Post, McLean Koehler Sparks & Hammond, Sandy Spring Bank, Shockley Honda, Sir Speedy Printing, Superior Specialty Supply, A Touch of Class Limousines, Van Sant Plumbing, and Wolf Furniture.

“Many people helped make this exceptionally fun event a great success,” concluded Orr, “—our Emcee and auctioneers Ed & Bonnie Morris of Morris Auctions; our enthusiastic VIP Waiters and their most generous guests; the staff at Canapés and the Lynfield Event Complex, our volunteers and Volunteer Frederick staff; and the VIP planning committee members Debbie Bauer, Shuan Butcher, Meg Klackner-Grose, Mary McCormack, Jeanne Mahoney, Lisa Orr, Rebecca Pack, Linda Quinn, and Ike Wilson. I can’t thank everyone enough for their creativity, hard work and support.”



Support Volunteer Frederick with Your Next Loan Closing!

Are you refinancing, obtaining a home equity line of credit, or purchasing a home? Cashing out on money for the holidays or another project?

The South Mountain Group, Inc., a local title, escrow, and loan closing service, and a regular supporter of Volunteer Frederick, has offered to donate \$100 during the next six months for each closing designating Volunteer Frederick as the beneficiary.

To do this, tell your lender that you would like to use The South Mountain Group for your title company. Then, contact Ellen Leiby at 301-524-2948 to request that \$100 of your closing costs be donated to Volunteer Frederick.

If you are a realtor or a lender, and you refer your client (and your client agrees!) to The South Mountain Group for title work, the same applies. Make sure you call Ellen and/or note on your title order that the donation should go to Volunteer Frederick.

The South Mountain Group, Inc. conducts closings through out MD, VA, DC and WV, and is a full title, escrow and loan closing service offering 8 day turn around, with rush options, and closings in the clients home. Hours for closings include evenings until 9 pm and weekends. For more information contact:



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RSVP Update Program Growth in 2005

2005 has been the year of greatest growth for Volunteer Frederick's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. The number of registered volunteers has increased from 241 to 489. In fact, in the past two months RSVP has welcomed eight Frederick County organizations to the program. These include Daybreak Adult Day Services, Tranquility Farm, Middletown Valley People Helping People, the Brunswick and Emmitsburg Food Banks, Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA), The Weinberg Center, and the Department of Aging's Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program. Expanding the scope of RSVP to include and recognize senior volunteerism wherever it occurs in the community has made it possible for us to offer potential and registered volunteers many options for civic involvement. Fostering volunteering and other forms of civic engagement is a key also to addressing a wide range of social issues facing Frederick County.

RSVP Volunteers Help Seniors Understand Their Prescription Plan Options

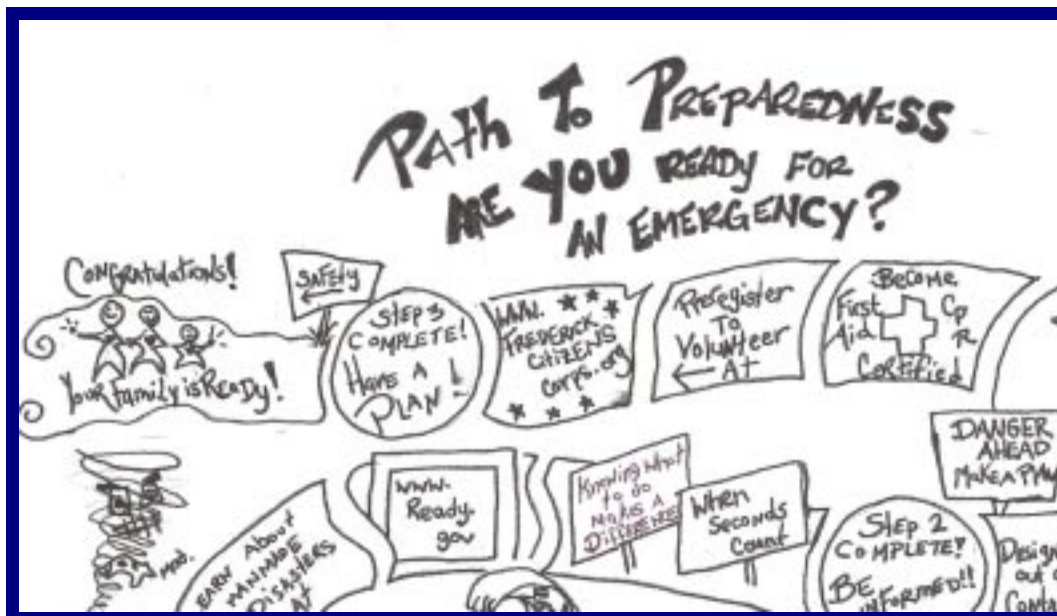
One pressing issue for seniors all over the United States is joining a prescription drug plan. Beginning January 1, 2006 people with Medicare will be able to get help paying for their prescription drugs. Many people using Medicare, the elderly and people with disabilities in particular, need help understanding their options, making a decision that fits their prescription drug needs and joining a plan. Drug plans vary in what prescription drugs are covered, how much people with Medicare will have to pay and what pharmacies they can use. Fourteen RSVP volunteers offered to help.

These volunteers were trained on November 29 and are providing personalized assistance to Frederick County citizens through the Senior Health Insurance Assistance Program and the Frederick County Department of Aging.

RSVP Showcases the Possibilities for Life After Retirement

RSVP has always viewed older adults not as a social cost but as an underused asset. Engaging this largely untapped resource to its fullest advantage will become critically important to our nation. As the 77 million members of the baby boom generation reach retirement age, they will be looking to spend the final third of their lives in ways that are fulfilling, productive and meaningful-for themselves, their families and their communities.

Many older adults who are new to Frederick County or have worked outside of the area for many years, find volunteering a good way to connect to the community, do something real and substantial with their time, and make new friends. Opening the door to opportunities for civic and social connection and offering a new venue for older adults to connect to and pursue interests with like-minded members of the community is the goal of RSVP's "Life Mapping: Chart your Course to a Creative Retirement." This one day event will focus on what Frederick County has to offer in areas of interest such as lifelong learning, community service, employment and entrepreneurship, recreation and leisure and wellness. This event will be offered on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 in collaboration with the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Frederick Community College. Mark your calendars and join us for a "Day of Discovery."



Youth Action Corps Begin Preparedness Mural at FSK Mall

While Christmas shopping at the FSK Mall, you might see Volunteer Frederick's Youth Action Corps in action! In a vacant store front, the youth will be working on a mural outlining the steps towards family preparedness. The final product will be displayed permanently in the mall. As part of the project, the youth will also be collecting donations to help people seeking services through the Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs.

Holiday Volunteering!

The holiday season is the most popular time of the year for volunteering. While many agencies are well staffed with volunteers during the holidays, they struggle to find volunteers during the rest of the year. Let your holiday volunteering be an introduction to a year round volunteer position. Begin volunteering at one of the agencies listed below, and continue throughout the year!



Daybreak Adult Day Services welcomes volunteer musical, dance and theatrical groups. Girl scouts of all ages are welcome, as are Eagle Scouts looking for a project site. Volunteer opportunities include assisting with programs, crafts, bingo, and art instruction. Daybreak will tailor each opportunity to a volunteer's individual gifts and talents. Contact Elaine Kielman at actdept@earthlink.net for more information.



The Frederick Community Action Agency (FCAA) needs volunteers for several emergency food programs. All volunteers must be 14 or older.

- Volunteers are needed to help box and distribute emergency food baskets through the FCAA Foodbank program.

- The FCAA soup kitchen needs volunteers to serve prepared meals from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. New volunteers are asked to serve two to four evenings per month.

- Volunteers are also needed to help sort donated food items and to assist with food pick-ups at local grocery stores and bakeries. Volunteers can use FCAA cargo vans for food pick-ups.



The **Mental Health Association of Frederick County (MHA)** is seeking to collect gifts for "Operation Santa Claus." This program provides gifts for nearly 200 patients (half are children), who are inpatients at psychiatric treatment facilities and may not otherwise be remembered during the holidays. All gifts should be new and unused; deliver unwrapped gifts to MHA's office at 263 W. Patrick Street, M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. by December 18, 2005. For safe handling, they request that no glass containers or sharp objects be contributed. Please contact them for more information, or a gift wish list. Contact Cindy Burdette at 301-698-4974 or cburdette@fcmha.org.



The **Religious Coalition for Emergency Human Needs** is seeking volunteers to serve in a variety of positions.

- Individuals or groups can organize a food or hygiene (e.g. shampoo, toothpaste) drive, or a HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE. Volunteers can also help by packaging donated gifts.

- In addition, office and client services volunteers are needed. For more information, contact the Religious Coalition at 301-631-2675 or funeperson@yahoo.com for more information.



The **Salvation Army** needs volunteers to help with holiday projects.

- Individuals or groups can serve as bell ringers at the Salvation Army's collection kettles. Hours are very flexible: small groups of volunteers can man the kettles together, or divide up a shift.

- Volunteers are needed at the Salvation Army's "Angel Tree" at the FSK Mall. Only one or two volunteers staff the tree at one time, hours are flexible

- On December 19 and 20 volunteer "shopping assistants" will aid clients/friends of SA to identify appropriate gifts and to ensure that there is a fair distribution of items among families. Hours would be after 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. A half hour orientation will be held before doors open at 9:00 a.m. Contact Major Paul Egan at 301-662-2311 or paul_egan@uss.salvationarmy.org.



The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve **TOYS FOR TOTS** Program collects new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year and distributes those toys at Christmas to needy children. They need volunteers to answer phone calls and help drop off items at different locations. Gifts will be collected at a warehouse, where volunteers can help sort, count, and bag toys. If you are interested in assisting with this program, please contact SSgt. Brian Feil at 301-619-7155 or FeilBD@mfr.usmc.mi.

With Thanks!

Volunteer Frederick would like to express our appreciation to the following foundations and organizations for their recent support:

The Joseph D. Baker Foundation

**The Community Foundation of
Frederick County, The Sharon I.
Hooper Fund for Children**

**The Corporation for National and
Community Service**

Youth Service America

**The State Farm Companies
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The following event sponsors helped make our 2006 Vips at Your Service Dinner a great success!



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