

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

64 Passaic Street Hackensack, NJ 07601 Phone: 201-489-9454 Fax: 201-489-1995
www.bergenvolunteers.org

For immediate release
January 22, 2013

Contact: Tess Tomasi Ext. 114
Maureen McCormick Ext. 126
201-489-9454

What Do Volunteers Want?

Volunteer Center of Bergen County offers Resources for Volunteer Managers

North Jersey: The national volunteer rate is at a five year high, with 64.3 million Americans volunteering for a formal organization in 2011, according to a report by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The 7.9 billion hours Americans spent volunteering has a value of about \$171 billion, an economic resource worth cultivating.

Volunteers add more than free labor to an organization. Volunteers become advocates. They become donors. They become better patrons and help the organization expand its mission. Funders expect organizations to utilize volunteers well.

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County recognizes that it is important for organizations—non-profit, government and corporate—to manage their volunteer ranks to receive the full benefits of this vital resource.

“Today’s volunteers come to us with expectations,” says Janet Sharma, executive director of the Volunteer Center. “They need to know what their role is and how it relates to the organization’s overall goals and mission. They expect training and support. They require affirmation and recognition. They want to know that what they do truly makes a difference.”

The Volunteer Center offers a number of services to help volunteer managers develop, implement and maintain robust volunteer programs.

The Volunteer Center sponsors bi-monthly volunteer manager “Lunch and Learn” roundtables, which provide networking and peer support for problem solving and idea sharing. Participants bring their own lunch to these free sessions and leave with practical tips to improve their programs.

Public and private non-profit organizations can become Volunteer Center Member Agencies. For \$50 per year, they can post unlimited number of volunteer positions on the Volunteer Center's online searchable database and in the printed Guide to Volunteering, as well as up to the minute listings on the Volunteer Center's blog and "hot-jobs" web-board. Members also enjoy discounts on select Non-Profit Trainings. Call 201-489-9454 Ext. 118 for more information on becoming a Volunteer Center Member Agency.

The Volunteer Center has partnered with Bergen Community College's Nonprofit Leadership Institute to present a highly interactive, four week series leading to a Certificate in Volunteer Management. The series will be useful for beginning volunteer managers, as well as for experienced professionals who want to re-energize their programs. The classes will be taught by Volunteer Center staff who are experts in the field. The sessions will be on 4 consecutive Tuesdays from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm beginning February 19, and will be held at the Bergen Community College campus in Paramus. Topics include Understanding Volunteering, Planning Your Program, Launching Your Volunteer Program and Running a Successful Program. The cost is \$300, and includes all materials. To register for this program, call Ria Bloss at Bergen Community College at 201-447-7466.

The Volunteer Center also offers customized on-site Board trainings on a variety of topics, to fit the specific needs of an agency. Contact training@bergenvolunteers.org or call 201-489-9454 for more information on these and other workshops.

The mission of the Volunteer Center is to strengthen the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating model direct-service volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

###