



NEWS

Business Volunteer Connect, a program of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County

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Volunteer Center of Bergen County Launches New Program We make employee volunteering as easy as BVC!

North Jersey: The Volunteer Center of Bergen County has expanded its menu of services for businesses and corporations with community engagement programs.

The new program, **Business Volunteer Connect**, will be formally launched at an after-hours networking event on Wednesday, November 13 at Chakra, 144 Route 4 East in Paramus. Representatives of companies who have or wish to develop an employee engagement program are invited to attend; there is no charge for the event, sponsored by Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, PA; Spectra Laboratories and Chakra Restaurant, but attendees must pre-register. Contact Ellen Lutvak at 201-489-9454 Ext. 133 or elutvak@bergenvolunteers.org

The Volunteer Center has been providing support to companies with employee volunteer programs since the early 1980s. In 2000, the Northern New Jersey Business Volunteer Council was created to bring the business community together to address pressing issues like hunger, literacy and education through collective efforts. In 13 years, the Business Volunteer Council collected and distributed more than \$1.4 million in resources to low-income children and their families.

The economic realities of the last five years have changed the way that many companies are approaching their community engagement activities. To provide more and better service, the Volunteer Center has launched **Business Volunteer Connect**, which provides consultation to companies on everything connected to employee volunteering and community engagement. Services include customized volunteer projects, guidance and expertise on creating or enhancing an employee volunteer program, assistance with skills-based volunteering, and board service, and participation in several annual volunteer initiatives.

Companies may also elect to join the Business Volunteer Council (BVC), a dues-supported membership organization open to any employer with operations in the tri-state area. It is a vital component of the Volunteer Center's network of services for employee engagement professionals. With a heightened emphasis on providing opportunities for networking, professional development and sharing of best practices, the BVC continues to provide leadership in meeting community needs through employee volunteerism.

Companies interested in finding out how **Business Volunteer Connect** and the BVC can enhance their community engagement program are invited to attend the after-hours networking event on November 13 at Chakra. RSVP by November 4 to Ellen Lutvak at elutvak@bergenvolunteers.org or 201-489-9454 x133.

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