

# NEWS

## VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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[www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org)

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### Key to a Great Summer—Volunteer!

You can have a great time this summer and at the same time make a big difference in the community.

There are lots of ways that local residents can lend a hand, as there's no such thing as summer vacation for such critical needs as housing, health care and hunger.

Thousands of people —families, the elderly, veterans, kids and more—rely on non-profit agencies to provide basic needs all year round.

Other non-profits work to improve the quality of life for all, such as those supporting the arts, animal rescue or the environment.

Volunteers can offer their unique skills to help deliver vital services, as non-profit agencies find their resources stretched by declining revenue and increased demand.

To help those who want to volunteer get started, the Volunteer Center of Bergen County offers HandsOn Connect, a powerful database that helps prospective volunteers find volunteer jobs and helps agencies engage volunteers. It can be accessed by visiting [www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org), [search for opportunities](#).

Volunteers can search for opportunities that fit their skills, interests and schedules at dozens of non-profit agencies. They can sign up, and then share their experiences via Facebook, Twitter or any of the social networking tools linked directly to the site. There is a growing need for volunteers using their personal talents or professional competencies to help nonprofit organizations in their internal organization; these volunteers can offer pro bono business oriented consulting services for free, or apply specific skills to be used in the delivery of the agency's services, while developing new talents or leadership skills.

From a baby boomer delivering free logistic consulting services to a Food Bank organization, to the millennial teaching how to use multi media for a better awareness for a fund raising event, to an architect helping to redesign a school library, skills-based

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volunteering is a wonderful way to connect one's life experiences to community service.

[Community gardens throughout our area have needs throughout the summer and early fall in harvesting produce, which in turn is used to supplement pantry staples from our community's many food donation programs.](#)

By calling 201-489-9454, prospective volunteers can speak with a Volunteer Connection Specialist at the Volunteer Center, who can guide them to the right volunteer position, based on their skills. An on-line calendar gives up to the minute information on upcoming volunteer activities all summer long.

There are additional volunteer opportunities to help the local communities still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sandy. Contact the Hurricane Sandy Storm Recovery Center at 201-470-3143.

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County strengthens the community by connecting people through service and developing civic leaders.

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