



Service-Learning in Composition

Edition for academic year 2007-2008

This handbook was created by the Public & Professional Writing Program.

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GETTING STARTED

Benefits of Service Learning

If you choose to engage in service-learning, you can expect to benefit in a number of ways:

1. You get a credit toward your degree.
2. You get experience with a local organization or agency that could lead to an internship, or job.
3. You can list your service-learning experience on your resume.
4. You get the satisfaction of contributing your time to a worthy cause and of being part of a community that is engaged in public service here in Pittsburgh.
5. You get to learn more about the nonprofit sector, which is an excellent way to test the waters if you are interested in working in the field.

Identifying a Site

You will select your own site to serve for this project; it's ok if you want to choose a site where you already have a relationship.

You might walk dogs at an animal shelter, help an organization plan and carry out a fundraising event, work on a newsletter or help re-package food for a food bank, for example. There are many possibilities.

This booklet is organized by different areas for potential volunteer activity: global issues, for example, or social and family issues. If you have no idea where you would like to work, you might think through the different areas by studying the table of contents. In many of the categories, we offer descriptions and contact information for organizations that are willing to take service learning students. We do not endorse particular organizations, approaches, or political affiliations.

When you have figured out the type of organizations where you would like to volunteer, you can also check the Volunteer Solutions website, a searchable database of volunteer opportunities, for possible sites for your

work: <http://www.volunteersolutions.org/>. This website lists dozens of opportunities just in the 15213 zip code.

Contacting Potential Sites

Most sites will have a volunteer coordinator for you to talk to. Explain that you want to do a service-learning project in which you would give the site 30 hours of your time this term. Tell the person you are talking to that you are on a very tight timeline to get registered for college credit.

You may need to do some training in order to work at the site—that's ok as long as the training will be offered soon (obviously, if the next training opportunity is in three months, you won't have any time to actually work this term, so you'll need to choose another place). Someone at the site needs to sign your learning agreement before the end of week 3 of the term. In our experience, students who don't get specific arrangements in place early in the term have trouble completing the course requirements.

If you are enrolled in Freshman Seminar: Service Learning, please give your completed learning agreement to Mark Kramer. If you are enrolled in Service Learning via the PPW program, give your agreement to Jean Grace.

An Ongoing Project

This booklet is a work in progress that we expect to revise each year. The organizations profiled in this edition were chosen by students from past terms who identified sites that engaged their interests. Later editions of this document will reflect volunteer experiences from this academic year, so please let us know if you have ideas and insights that we can draw as we revise.

We plan to broaden the organizations we profile in future editions as we learn more about different sites and different kinds of volunteer experiences.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVES ON SERVICE LEARNING



“This is by far the most valuable credit I have earned as a college student.” Scott Nalick

“Volunteering in the Protection From Abuse office allowed me to see first hand how victims of violence are treated and protected by our justice system.” Maura Spillane

“I had the opportunity to work directly with local unions toward better working conditions. I would attend protests and help to organize events to improve the lives of union members who had been treated unfairly by their employers.” Adam Nelson

“Now that I have a better understanding of what home ownership can mean for a community, I have strengthened my resolve to increase people’s access to home ownership opportunities both now and in the future.” Michelle Scott

“Many non-profit organizations operate on very tight budgets with overworked employees. Volunteer effort, therefore, is vital to their livelihood.” Krystal Macintyre

“It was an enlightening experience to watch advocates work with victims. This was my first opportunity to see how the court provides direct services to people in need.” Maura Spillane

“After volunteering at Lifeswork, I started to feel connected and part of the family.” Deonna Betts-Martin

“The soup kitchen made me realize that a college student’s daily problems do not compare to those of people who walk the streets without a warm place to rest.” Scott Nalick

“I am thankful for being given the opportunity to learn about and better support a worthy cause.” Michelle Scott

“You can use this experience to find out what you want to do, to answer the ‘now what’ question.” Jennifer Brown

“I chose that site because they had a ‘Healing of the Arts’



program and I have a design background...I'm going to continue volunteering at the Cancer Center. For my WPC class, I'm putting together a take home booklet for patients on Healing of the Arts." Elizabeth Doran

"The hustle-bustle college lifestyle often leaves you wrapped up 'in your own little world' and causes you to lose sight of the bigger picture. Interacting with others who share your interest in service, but who are very diverse in their academic and life goals, helps keep you grounded." Brittany Colatrella

"...it has been one of my favorite forms of stress relief this semester." Molly Panning

"I got a lot out of the site I volunteered at, which was Magee Women's Hospital. I learned how to communicate and interact with people better. This was very helpful because I am a very shy person." Shaquiea Sykes

"I am leaving this class with a feeling of accomplishment and gratitude....Volunteering can not only help you earn one credit and look awesome on your resume, but will make you feel like you do make a difference!" Christina Levkus

"The shelter has given me a place where I can get away from the hassles and hectic lifestyle of college for a few hours. More importantly, the entire atmosphere has allowed me to see just how much influence one person can have in what he or she participates in." Jennifer Brown



"This is an introduction to the world of interning.... Having to balance writing along with the required 30 hours of volunteering you do this term is a great way to ease yourself into an intern experience." Stacey Leonard

"I realized that this is an organization that I want to keep in touch with and continue to work with in the future. . . .I am taking from this experience a new outlook on life. It is easy to sit in a class and hear the statistics of low assessment test scores, but it is different when you actually work with a child in sixth grade who can barely do simple arithmetic." Natalie Neidrick



CHILDREN

Early Childhood Education

The America Reads Challenge @ Pitt

924 William Pitt Union

Phone: 412-648-7211

Fax: 412-648-1492

Website: <http://www.svo.pitt.edu/svo/americanreads.html>

Email: amreads@pitt.edu

Contact: Cathleen Connor-Weiss, Supervisor

The mission of America Reads Challenge is to work with students in kindergarten to third grade in low-income communities to improve their reading ability to enable them to read well and independently by the end of third grade. Currently, the America Reads Challenge at Pitt has sites located in Hazelwood and Homewood. Transportation is provided to all of their sites.

The America Reads Challenge hires both federal work study students as well as volunteers to become reading tutors. Tutors are paired one-to-one or in small groups with children, and work 10 hours a week (\$7.25/hour for work study students). This time is spent tutoring the children, meeting with team members, creating lesson plans and taking part in community service projects with team members.

Carnegie Learning, Inc

Frick Building

20th Floor

437 Grant Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-690-6284

Fax: 412-690-2444

Website: <http://www.carnegielearning.com/>

Carnegie Learning is a leading provider of comprehensive mathematics curricula for middle school and high school students.

Extra Mile Education Foundation

111 Boulevard of the Allies

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-456-3103

Fax: 412-456-3186

Website : www.extramilefdn.org

Email: xtramile@sgi.net

Extra Mile Education Foundation supports the education of urban children in select Pittsburgh parochial elementary schools through operational support (Holy Rosary in Homewood, St. Agnes in Oakland, St. Benedict the Moor in the Hill District and St. James in Wilkinsburg) and through student scholarship support (Good Shepherd in Braddock). The schools – identified by the Diocese of Pittsburgh – are in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, and students are primarily African American and non-Catholic. Extra Mile is dedicated to sustaining these schools for their communities on an ongoing basis as a needed supplement to the financial commitments of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the schools and the parents and families of the children.

ExtraOrdinary Tutoring, a program of East End Cooperative Ministry

116 S. Highland Avenue (housed at the East Liberty Presbyterian Church)

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Phone: 412-361-0450

Website: <http://www.eecm.org/volopp.htm>

Email: tutoring@bradyoder.com

Contact: Heather Kropf or Brad Yoder

Each volunteer at EECM's afterschool tutoring program is matched with a specific school-age young person (ages 4-18). They agree to meet with that person once a week, for one hour, to work 1:1 on homework, basic reading/math skills and sometimes more advanced skills.

The volunteer would primarily be responsible for mostly homework help and reading/math practice. The needs of the students vary widely, from kids who are very far behind, to those who actually excel in school. They believe that all students can benefit from some extra "quality attention" from a volunteer. They try hard to match volunteers carefully with students, based on schedules, and how a volunteer's skills and experiences match up with a student's needs.

Projects can range from homework to science reports and essays. It's just one hour/week, so it tends to be smaller projects.

Building some kind of relationship is foundational to success of the program. But, the experience of each volunteer varies. There's plenty of room for creativity, but a commitment to giving "quality attention" for that weekly hour is by far the most important prerequisite.

Homeless Children's Education Fund

2100 Smallman Street, 2nd Floor

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-562-0154

Fax: 412-562-1109

Website: <http://www.homelessfund.org/>

Email: jvickers@homelessfund.org

Contact: Jennifer Banks Vickers

The Homeless Childrens Education Fund has a wide variety of volunteer options including tutoring and administrative/office work. Please call to set up an appointment. All applicants are screened and require clearances to work with children in our partner homeless shelters.

Jumpstart Pittsburgh at the University of Pittsburgh

917 William Pitt Union

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Phone: 412-648-5867

Fax: 412-648-2157

Website: www.jstart.org/pitt

Email: amannari@pitt.edu, jump@pitt.edu

Contact: Angela Mannarino, Program Director

Jumpstart, a national preschool enrichment and literacy program, trains and supports college students to serve as part-time AmeriCorps members. Jumpstart Corps members work one-to-one with young children to build skills crucial to school success. During the 2004-2005 school year and summer, Jumpstart Pittsburgh engaged

115 University of Pittsburgh students in service to 226 children in 9 preschool classrooms.

Jumpstart Corps members inspire young children to learn, serve their local community and work on a team of their peers. All Corps members receive training to help them implement the program, promote school success in the children they serve, and build family involvement.

Jumpstart coordinates service days, family events and volunteer activities that direct resources back to the community and build local support for early education.

Childhood Mentoring

Breachmenders School to Career Program

200 Robinson Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 412-683-2140

Website: www.pghpresbytery.org

Email: kstallworth1@hotmail.com

Contact: Karla Stallworth, Youth Program Director

The mission of the School-to-Career Program of Breachmenders Ministries is to prepare young people living in the neighborhoods of West Oakland and Oak Hill to become competent, confident, contributing citizens in our society in a center for collaboration among the family, the school and the community. Under their guidance, young people are challenged to develop study skills, life skills and goal setting skills and develop plans for their futures.

They serve 40-60 elementary and middle-school students in the after school tutoring, literacy and homework completion program from September through June.

They serve 45 students in the career exploration and mentored work experience program. They provide supportive services related to academic and career development including computer assessment, interviews, career exploration, goal setting, resume preparation, job readiness workshops and year-round mentored work experience.

CASA of Allegheny County

564 Forbes Avenue, Suite 902

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-594-3606

Website: www.pgh-casa.org

Email: mgay@pgh-casa.org

Contact: Monica Gay, Development Director

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Allegheny County helps children who are bounced around within the County Court system. Their mission is “to ensure that every child has a safe, supportive and permanent home by providing volunteer advocacy for the best interests of abused and neglected children within the child welfare system.”

The volunteer advocates are assigned to one child; they investigate their cases, get to know them and make recommendations to the court based on their situations. They usually work with the same child for months or even years. CASA does offer volunteer opportunities for students of others who would like to get involved.

Students typically help with clerical duties such as filing and mailing out materials.

The first step to becoming a CASA Volunteer is to attend one of their orientations. An orientation is an opportunity to learn about why abused and neglected children need CASAs, the role of a CASA volunteer, and how to apply to be a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Visit the website for the Informational Program Sessions schedule.

Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Pennsylvania and Southern West Virginia

707 Grant Street, 37th Floor

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 800-676-WISH

Fax: 412-471-9705

Website: www.wishgreaterpa.org

Email: dnichols@wishworld.org

Contact: Deb Nichols, Manager of Program Services

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Greater Pennsylvania and Southern West Virginia was founded in May 1983 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Today the chapter has granted more than 9,000 wishes, and they are the first chapter in the world to fulfill more than 700 wishes in one year.

Volunteers help grant wishes in many ways and are matched to positions based on ability, interest, and position availability. Please consider your skills, goals and motivation for volunteering when deciding which of these positions best suits your interests.

Wish Volunteers – Volunteers are an integral part of fulfilling wishes. As a member of a wish team, you will meet with the family, determine the wish and act as a liaison between the Foundation staff and the wish family during the wish process.

Event and Fund Raiser Volunteers – Volunteers also help at special events such as golf tournaments, haunted houses and dances. Volunteers help implement fund raising programs by introducing “Wishmakers® At Work” and “Kids For Wish Kids®” programs to people in their local communities.

Office Volunteers – Volunteers help in the different Make-A-Wish offices (Pittsburgh, Altoona, Erie, Pottsville, Punxsutawney, Wilkes-Barre, and York, PA and Charleston, WV) with mailings, phone calls, filing and other office support.

Airport Greeters – Volunteers assist in seeing wish families off at the airport at the start of their wish trips.

Shadyside Boys and Girls Club

6 Brownell Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Phone: 412-681-8575

Fax: 412-681-4885

Website: www.bgcwpa.org

Email: t_yandora@bgcwpa.org

Contact: Thomas Yandora, Executive Director

Since 1931, The Boys and Girls Clubs of Western PA has worked to provide every child with the essential tools needed for a successful and bright future. The agency focuses on boys and girls ages 6-18, primarily those who live in urban communities. The children learn about health, social, educational, vocational and character

development. The Boys and Girls Club programs focus on self-esteem, values and skills.

Volunteers may help with tutoring children, computer training, sports education or mentoring. Boys and Girls Club feels that these programs help youths to “gain confidence by developing a sense of usefulness and belonging.”

Some of the volunteer opportunities are as follows:

Project Learn – This integrated after-school and summer technology learning enhancement experience consists of Homework Help and Tutoring as well as High-Yield Learning and Leisure Activities using traditional teaching and learning methodology. Volunteers are needed for tutoring and helping members with homework.

Character Counts – This program helps members to build character and values in six key areas: trustworthiness, respect for others, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Adult volunteers are needed to mentor members and provide a good role model for right and wrong.

Keystone Club – This program teaches teens the importance of community service and caring for others. Volunteers are needed to attend meetings and work with teen members.

Mentoring Program – The purpose of the mentoring program is to have successful adults serve as positive role models for our youth members in a one on one setting. They ask that an adult mentor spend at least one hour a week for a minimum of 13 weeks meeting with the youth at the Club. Time can be spent talking, doing homework, playing games or participating in other Club programs.

Coaching Club Members – The Clubs sponsor inter-Club leagues in basketball, baseball, softball and football. Volunteers are needed to assist with these programs.

Urban Youth Writers Project

Email: MichelleBurtonBrown@yahoo.com

Contact: Michelle Brown

Urban Youth Writers Project is a mentorship program that is designed to provide training, guidance and technical support to high school students who have an interest in journalism, professional writing and communications. Through partnerships with already established newspapers, the students have an opportunity to have their articles placed in local monthly publications.

Their primary mission is to foster an environment where students can explore the world of journalism while developing interviewing, writing and proofreading skills. Students will cover a range of topics such as community development, technology, politics, business, fitness, education and culture.

CIVIC AND COMMUNITY CONCERS

Art and Music

Gateway to the Arts

1400 S. Braddock Avenue, Suite E

Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1264

Phone: 412-342-4444

Fax: 412-342-4448
Website: www.gatewaytothearts.org
Email: lisah@gatewaytothearts.org
Contact: Lisa Hoistma, Exec. Director

Gateway to the Arts transforms the lives and education of children through active participation in the arts and inspires students and educators to become lifelong learners and participants in the arts by making the arts integral to education.

Jazz Workshop, Inc.

Phone: 412-242-4399
Website: <http://www.jazzworkshopinc.org/>
Email: info@jazzworkshoping.org
Contact: Harold Young

Through the years, the Jazz Workshop has grown in student population and diversity. Still housed at the Pittsburgh's Carnegie Library, the young and not so young enjoy the personal satisfaction of learning a new skill and mastering an art form with a proud history.

Nego Gato, Inc

1420-22 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-201-4546
Fax: 412-201-4547
Website: <http://www.negogato.org/>
Email: bridgecapgroup@aol.com
Contact: Vivian Revis

The mission of Nego Gato, Inc is, "to empower and enrich the world community through performance, education and employment in the African-Brazilian arts of music, dance and Capoeira."

Pittsburgh Filmmakers

477 Melwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: 412-681-5449x207
Website: <http://www.pghfilmmakers.org/>
Email: aswensen@pghfilmmakers.org
Contact: Andrew Swensen

Pittsburgh Filmmakers (est. 1971) is a nonprofit corporation designed to encourage the creation and understanding of media for noncommercial artistic and literary purposes. To this end, Filmmakers offers a curriculum of courses in film, video and photography to university and independent students in the Pittsburgh region. Filmmakers also exhibits the work of prominent photographers and filmmakers in its two galleries, Melwood Screening Room, Regent Square Theater and Harris Theater. A key component of Filmmakers' mission is to provide equipment access and funding for independent media artists.

Curatorial Intern/Volunteer Needed: Duties include gallery layout, wall and art preparation (framing, mounting, etc.), art installation as well as signage and label fabrication. The volunteer will work closely with the curator in assisting with exhibition layout and implementation but he or she MUST have the ability to work independently on small-scale curatorial tasks. Prior gallery installation experience is required. To pursue this opportunity

contact George Davis at 412-681-5449 x211 or geo@pghfilmmakers.org.

Pittsburgh Glass Center

5472 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Phone: 412-365-2145

Fax: 412-365-2140

Website: www.pittsburghglasscenter.org

Email: jmccall@pittsburghglasscenter.org

Contact: Janet McCall, Program Manager

Pittsburgh Glass Center, the first open and comprehensive glass art studio and gallery in Southwestern PA, is dedicated to teaching, creating and promoting glass art.

They often have volunteer opportunities on Friday evenings, involving a few people sitting at a table to greet people, take membership registrations and distribute literature and catalogs.

Pittsburgh Glass Center is also looking for energetic students with leadership abilities to lead tours of the facility. The hours for these vary, but tend to be at 10-11:30am. Training will be provided. They also have a few fundraising events throughout the year where many helping hands are required.

Sports and Recreation

Venture Outdoors

304 Forbes Avenue, 2nd Floor

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-255-0564x23

Fax: 412-255-0635

Email: listed below

Website: www.VentureOutdoors.org

Contacts:

Sean Brady, Assistant Executive Director (sbrady@ventureoutdoors.org)

Rebecca Malena, Outreach and Marketing Activities Coordinator (rmalena@ventureoutdoors.org)

Venture Outdoors is a local non-profit organization seeking to transform the Pittsburgh region into a place where the outdoors takes a central role in our culture, identity and lifestyle.

Volunteers for Venture Outdoors outreach are asked to receive notifications directly about various tabling opportunities. If they are able to attend a particular event, they are asked to get back in touch. Everything they need is prepared, usually mostly-consolidated into a duffle bag. They stop in their office (downtown, corner of Forbes and Wood), pick up the materials and any other information they might need, and are asked to go to the event, set up the table, and staff it. At the table, they chat with visitors about Venture Outdoors (fill them in with some interesting facts, tell them about a program they might find interesting, etc.), pass out collateral (some brochures and a schedule of programs) and encourage visitors to sign the mailing list.

Sometimes they do a raffle in association with mailing list sign-ups. Also, if there is any kind of interactive activity, volunteers are asked to manage that as well. In any case, all that the volunteers would need to know/need on-hand would be provided to them, including information about Venture Outdoors.

A lot of opportunities arise that ask specifically for interactive activities, and those are sometimes hard to come up with. They can always use some fresh ideas for how to engage our visitors interactively.

Transportation

Save Our Transit

5125 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Phone: 412-361-3022

Fax: 412-361-0540

Website: <http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/saveourtransit/index.asp>

Email: sdonahue412@hotmail.com

Contact: Steve Donahue

Save Our Transit is a grassroots organization whose mission is to lobby for adequate funding for public transportation.

Volunteer Centers/Community Foundations

Thomas Merton Center

5125 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Phone: 412-361-3022

Fax: 412-361-0540

Website: www.thomasmertoncenter.org

Email: edith@thomasmertoncenter.org

Contact: Edith Wilson, Administrative/Volunteer Director

The Thomas Merton Center (TMC) is Pittsburgh's center for peace and social justice since 1972. The TMC acts as a resource and organizing center for twenty five different projects. Over the past few years, racial and economic justice, global justice and anti-war issues have become the key organizing focus of the Center. In addition to its organizing campaigns, the Thomas Merton Center has become a resource for dozens of social justice and peace groups in the region.

Possible duties may include calling their members for action alerts and events, helping with bulk mailings and database entry and helping with distribution of The NewPeople, their monthly peace and social justice newspaper.

Volunteers are also needed for editing, writing, reporting, selling ads and/or taking photos for the monthly peace and social justice newspaper. Strong volunteers are needed to help lift, move and pick-up donations and to sort through items for the Thrift Shop.

Local Economy

Farmers Market Friends

PO Box 321

Homestead, PA 15120

Phone: 412-576-9355

Website: www.farmersmarketfriends.org

Email: darcavinee@farmersmarketfriends.org

Contact: DeeAnna Cavinee, Founder and Organizer

Farmers Market Friends aims to generate enthusiastic, informed public involvement and investment in building dynamic, innovative sustainable community farmers markets.

The Friends see community farmers markets as public institutions. They provide communities with many social, environmental, development benefits and opportunities. They are much more than exciting places to buy the freshest fruits and vegetables available.

They

- Support farms as buffers to urban sprawl, a widespread, daunting problem in Southwestern Pennsylvania
- Act as neighborhood magnets, offering unique opportunities for community revitalization
- Sustain small farms, an endangered species in today's global system
- Preserve our region's rural communities and towns
- Provide food entrepreneurs low-cost, easy entry points for building a business and offering new products
- Provide foods that have been grown and raised using methods that are friendlier to the environment
- To continue to provide these essential benefits, communities involve themselves in the future of the markets.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Criminal Justice Reform

Enough is Enough!

Phone: 412-441-8400

Email: BillyNommo@verizon.net

Contact: Billy Jackson

Enough is Enough! Is an educational video project that delves into issues of police brutality, law enforcement and criminal justice.

The goals of the Enough is Enough! Project are to:

- Document controversial events and their aftermath objectively so that viewers can use the information to frame their own discussions and make their own judgments.
- Provide an overview of the criminal justice system, its relationship to individuals and communities, and the process of changing laws and procedures to bring about social change; in particular, to give youth audiences a context for understanding the mechanics of the legal system.
- Use media arts as constructive tools in the ongoing struggle to resolve the conflicts between law enforcement officers and the citizens they are pledged to protect, especially in minority and marginal communities across the country. For example, the bargaining of police contracts by public officials can become an election issue. If the citizens are informed, they won't elect politicians who will continue to bargain police contracts with undue "protections" against prosecution for misconduct.

Race Relations

African American Chamber of Commerce

425 Sixth Avenue
Suite 1330
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-392-0610
Fax: 412-392-0612
Website: www.aaccwp.com
Email: information@aaccwp.com

The mission of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania is to continuously improve business and professional opportunities for African American Business owners and professionals. Guided by the core values of equity in opportunity, economic advancement, self-sufficiency and entrepreneurial excellence, they seek to advance economic parity for the African American Business community by insuring full participation in the public and private sectors throughout the region.

Civil Liberties

Pittsburgh Bill of Rights Defense Campaign

5125 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Phone: 412-361-3022
Fax: 412-361-0540
Website: <http://www.pbordc.org/cgi-bin/pbordc.cgi>
Email: deangerber1@verizon.net
Contact: Dean Gerber

The goal of the Pittsburgh Bill of Rights Campaign is to educate the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania to the current realities and the potentially damaging effects of the USA PATRIOT Act and other federal legislation that intrudes upon on our civil liberties.

Their objectives are (1) To encourage the Pittsburgh City Council to pass a resolution affirming its strong support for fundamental rights and opposing the federal measures that infringe on civil liberties. (2) To encourage the Pennsylvania Legislature to pass a similar resolution. (3) To encourage the United States Congress to repeal the USA PATRIOT Act.

Pittsburgh Campaign for Democracy Now!

5125 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Phone: 412-422-5377
Website: www.pcdn.org
Email: sleator@cs.cmu.edu
Contact: Danny Sleator, President

Pittsburgh Campaign for Democracy NOW! has achieved their primary goal to get the radio news program Democracy Now! on the air in Pittsburgh. Now, they are working on getting it heard.

WRCT (88.3FM) is CMU's radio station. They're now committed to putting Democracy Now onto WRCT every weekday at 8am. They've been active since January 5, 2004. There are a handful of volunteers who are putting the show on the air. But we need more help to really make this solid -- to be able to deal with people going on vacations, illness, etc. So they are trying to get more volunteers to commit to doing the show at least twice per month. To do this, you have to go through a brief training procedure in the studio. If you can operate, for example, a VCR, you should be able to master this in an hour or two.

Save our Civil Liberties

Email: info@saveourcivilliberties.org

Save our Civil Liberties was formed in the aftermath of the Miami Ministerial to increase cooperation among the many groups and individuals working to save and expand human rights and civil liberties. It is a large and diverse collaboration initiated by global justice, labor, environmental, community and other organizations working at the local, state and national level.

Gay and Lesbian Rights

RESYST

c/o Thomas Merton Center

5125 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Phone: 412-361-3022

Website: www.ThomasMertonCenter.org/RESYST

Email: ResystPittsburgh@yahoo.com

Their mission is to work toward an acceptance of the multitude of homosexual identities. They intend to strengthen the gay and lesbian liberation movement and inspire the abolition of heterosexism and homophobia in progressive groups through education, outreach and direct action. They also aim to foster a radical gay community.

Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Pittsburgh

5808 Forward Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Phone: 412-422-0114

Fax: 412-422-1633

Website: www.glccpgh.org

Email: volunteer@glccpgh.org

The Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Pittsburgh (GLCC) provides the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) individuals, their families and supporters in Western Pennsylvania with resources and opportunities to promote visibility, understanding and equality within the GLBT communities and the community-at-large. The GLCC works toward these goals through education, social support, networking and advocacy.

As a volunteer you make a large impact on the GLBT community. They are looking for motivated, energetic individuals who are ready to make a difference.

They are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

Artist / Animation / Cartoonist – People with experience with animation and/or cartoon design for their new web site.

C.R.I.S. Community Resource & Information Services – Volunteers are needed on the phones and help desk.

OUTrageous Bingo – Volunteers are needed for a variety of roles at this OUTrageously fun monthly event.

Library – No experience is necessary but is helpful.

PrideFest – There are lots of challenging and fun positions available.

Activist Organizations

Food Not Bombs

5125 Penn Avenue

Phone: 412-361-3022

Fax: 412-361-0540

Website: <http://fnb-pgh.2ya.com/>

Email: pittsburgh_fnb@yahoo.com

Contact: Peppy

Food Not Bombs offers a very alternative and informal service opportunity. The grassroots movement “works to end hunger and has supported actions to stop the globalization of the economy, restrictions to the movements of people, end exploitation and the destruction of the earth.” They encourage food recycling, non-violence and consensus decision making.

They are interested in volunteers to help pick up food, prepare and cook vegan meals, and serve meals at Market Square downtown or Martin Luther King Jr. School on the North Side. They are also looking for anyone with graphic design skills to help make t-shirts, flyers, and banners. Additionally, personable volunteers are needed to go to local grocery stores and ask for donations. According to Brian of FNB, “We serve twice a week, are non-hierarchical, fun loving and energetic. Many people from different walks of life serve and there is always something to do.”

EDUCATION

Cultural Education

August Wilson Center for African American Culture

Regional Enterprise Tower

425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 1750

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-258-2700

Fax: 412-258-2701

Website: <http://www.augustwilsoncenter.org/>

Email: info@augustwilsoncenter.org

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture (formerly known as the African American Cultural Center of Greater Pittsburgh) is a not-for-profit organization that presents performing, visual and education programs that celebrate the contributions of African Americans within the region and the impact of cultural expression from Africa to the African Diaspora.

The AWC's presentations include dance, music, art, theater and other cultural, educational and artistic events.

ENVIRONMENT

Domestic Animal Welfare

Animal Rescue League of Western Pennsylvania

6620 Hamilton Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Phone: 412-661-6452 x231

Fax: 412-661-8726

Website: <http://www.animalrescue.org/>

Email: cwhaley@animalrescue.org

Contact: Carol Whaley, Volunteer and Foster Care Coordinator

Volunteer opportunities include:

Cat Caregivers – You will attend 2 trainings: General Orientation and 2 hours of “practice” with a Mentor Volunteer. There will also be opportunities to further advance your skills and knowledge in working with animals here at the League, but that will be at your own discretion.

Canine Services – Created in 2000, “Open Paw” helps people and animals build successful relationships with each other and the community at large. With a mission to “decrease the suffering, surrender, abandonment and euthanasia of unwanted cats and dogs,” Open Paw developed a training and education program for shelter staff, volunteers and adopters.

Land Preservation

Friends of the Riverfront, Inc.

33 Terminal Way

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-488-0212

Fax: 412-488-7716

Mobile: 412.559.0806

Website: www.friendsoftheriverfront.org

Email: friends@friendsoftheriverfront.org

Contact: Thomas E. Baxter IV, Executive Director

For over ten years, Friends of the Riverfront (FOR) has worked to protect and restore our rivers and riverfronts.

Their mission is to “increase awareness and engagement with the Pittsburgh region’s rivers and riverfronts through activities, stewardship and expansion of water and land trails.” They also focus on environmental renewal through the restoration of former industrial wastelands. Their transformation into riverfront trails allows residents to now use these areas for hiking, biking and skating.

Student volunteers may assist with program delivery, community outreach, and various administrative duties. They would work directly under Thomas Baxter. FOR also hosts several fundraising events that may be of interest to students.

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

2000 Technology Drive, Suite 300

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-682-7275

Fax: 412-622-0160

Website: <http://www.pittsburghparks.org/>

Email: info@pittsburghparks.org

Contact: Gundrun Wells

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh, is working to restore, renew, revitalize, and preserve the four great parks of Pittsburgh - Frick, Highland, Riverview, and Schenley. Restoration efforts will be conducted with environmental sensitivity and respect for the parks’ historic landscape design and the recreational needs of modern users.

Urban EcoStewards (volunteers) give back to their communities by adopting a specific section of park land that they agree to maintain. Stewards receive training from PPC staff and other program partners and visit their site throughout the year to remove invasive species, plant native flora, slow erosion and clean up trash. Park working groups are designed to enable park volunteers to share information and resources, work together, troubleshoot and design strategic plans. They allow group members to coordinate the activities of organizations (such as city or community groups, corporations and clubs) that are doing things in the parks.

If there is an issue that you are passionate about relating to park management (such as bikes, dogs, invasive plants, water quality, or restoration activities) maybe you would like to be involved in one of the park working groups.

The Frick Park working group is currently working to coordinate work projects between partner organizations in Frick Park in order to maximize volunteer opportunities in the restoration of Nine Mile Run, Clayton Hill and other project areas in Frick where invasive species or erosion are issues. For more information, contact Jake Milofsky at the PPC at 412-682-7275.

The Highland Park working group is now focusing on seasonal pools development and the Washington Blvd. bike trail. And the Highland Park working group has over a dozen Urban EcoStewards working to maintain the park. For more information about the Highland Park working group, contact Gudrun Wells at the PPC at 412-682-7275.

A Research and Monitoring Group exists in Schenley Park with representatives from Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, Chatham College, and Carlow University.

A Riverview Park working group is set to begin in 2007. The PPC is working closely with the Department of Public Works and the Urban EcoStewards to further restoration activities at the Chapel Shelter and Snyder’s Point to prepare for the group’s formation.

Water Safety/Air Quality

Group Against Smog and Pollution

Wightman School Community Building

5604 Solway Street, #204

Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Phone: 412-325-7382

Fax: 412-325-7390

Website: <http://www.gasp-pgh.org/>

Email: gasp@gasp-pgh.org

Contact: Michael Parker, Policy and Outreach Coordinator

The Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) was founded in 1969 by a group of 43 volunteers concerned about air quality issues in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Over the years, GASP has maintained a continuous program to educate the public on questions of pollution and its remediation. It has long published its quarterly newsletter, Hotline. It has participated in public meetings and organized its own, provided a Speakers Bureau, given statements to the media, written letters to the press, and conducted training sessions in local secondary schools with an educational air quality monitor.

Volunteers can expect to offer three to five hours per week. GASP has multiple active campaigns on issues including diesel emissions, fine particulate pollution, mercury, hybrid vehicle education, and coal-fired power plants.

Horticulture

Botanic Gardens of Western Pennsylvania

PSI Building

850 Poplar Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Phone: 412-444-4464

Website: <http://www.botanicgardenwpa.org/>

Contact: Linda Romito, Volunteer Coordinator

The Botanic Gardens has many volunteer opportunities available:

Botanic Garden Presentations – They receive several requests every year from garden clubs and civic organizations for programming at their meetings. At the moment they don't have enough speakers to fulfill all of the requests they have. If you feel comfortable speaking before groups and would like to help spread the word about the Botanic Gardens of Western PA, give them a call. They will train you and provide all of the materials you need. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet lots of new people, promote the Botanic Gardens as well as have fun!

They have several committees:

Plant Sale – Join this group of plant lovers to help organize and execute this outstanding plant sale, which occurs in May. Volunteers are needed to work on the committee and also to work the day before the sale, setting

up and the day of the sale, interacting with customers and selling.

The Open Gardens Day Tour – Work on this committee, organizing the “Premiere Garden Tour of Pittsburgh.” Volunteers are needed to help find the gardens, act as liaison with the garden owners, or work in the gardens the day of the tour. They have a need for volunteers willing to take on any number of tasks to keep this tour the talk of the town.

“The Party In The Garden!” – Committee Members are needed to help organize this high-end event held in one spectacular garden in the area. Many components are necessary to make this special night come together—you probably have the skills we need to make this event another success!

Work with the staff in the office – There’s always something that needs to be done in the office—from data entry to stuffing envelopes.

GLOBAL ISSUES

Global Aid

Global Links

4809 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Phone: 412-361-3424 ext. 205

Fax: 412-361-4950

Web: www.globallinks.org

E-mail: glvolunteer@globallinks.org

Contact: Jennifer Novelli, Volunteer Program Coordinator

Most volunteers help by sorting and packing surplus medical supplies for shipment to healthcare institutions in developing countries. Information about the volunteer program, including requirements for all volunteers and directions to our sorting center on Penn Avenue can be found at

http://www.globallinks.org/where_we_work/pittsburgh/

<http://www.globallinks.org/contact/directions/>

All new individual volunteers must turn in a volunteer application and waiver before coming in for the first time. For those who would like to schedule a group of 4-10 people to volunteer, please call 412-361-3424 ext. 205. It is not necessary for group leaders to fill out an application, only individual volunteers. Volunteer application and waivers are available online.

Once these forms have been received, a volunteer coordinator will contact you to let you know if space is available and to schedule a time for you to come in. Volunteers typically work a two hour shift. Daytime hours are available on Tuesdays-Fridays and they ask our volunteers to make a commitment to volunteering every week, every other week, once a month, every other month, etc. (Some limited evening or Saturday shifts may be available through “Form a Group” sessions. Ask the volunteer coordinator for upcoming dates.)

Volunteers are asked to wear long pants and closed toe shoes (no sandals or flip flops) when working. Wear clothing that you don’t mind getting dusty.

Haiti Solidarity Committee

c/o Thomas Merton Center
5125 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Phone: 412-361-3022
Fax: 412-361-0540
Website: <http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/hsc/>
Email: jrothermel@pittsburghfoodbank.org
Contact: Joyce Rothermel

The Haiti Solidarity Committee educates and agitates for justice in Haiti, supports local Haitians and ships medical supplies and other necessities to Haiti. They aim to create a broader awareness of Haiti and the Haitian people in the Pittsburgh region as well as serve as a channel for people in the area to get involved with supporting Haiti.

The Haiti Solidarity Committee is continually looking for volunteers to help with their projects. Volunteers can aid in coordinating speaking engagements as well as performing outreach with our various projects.

Fair Trade

Ten Thousand Villages

5824 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh PA 15217
Phone: 412-421-2160
Fax: 412-421-2360
Website: <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/>
Email: volunteercoord@verizon.net
Contact: Jennifer Legler

Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit fair trade store located in Squirrel Hill staffed by volunteers. Their volunteers staff the sales floor, unpack, help run and plan various events throughout the year and promote their mission to customers. They ask that volunteers commit to a minimum of two 4 hour shifts a month for 1 year. Volunteers do receive 10% off their purchases. Ten Thousand Villages is a fun and relaxing atmosphere and they are always looking for new volunteers; please feel free to contact them with any questions.

Human Rights

The Africa Project

5125 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Phone: 412-657-8513 and 412-361-3022
Fax: 412-361-0540
Website: <http://www.africaproject.net>
Email: info@africaproject.net

Contact: Peter Okema Otika, Project Director

The Africa Project is non-profit organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with a mission to promote empowerment and self-reliance among African refugees, immigrants and the economically disadvantaged through the promotion of socioeconomic development, education and cultural diversity.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Events organizers and helpers
- Fundraising help
- African immigrant project to help local refugees resettle in the communities
- Graphic design and multi-media help
- Books for African schools operation
- African child sponsorship project
- African cultural and educational outreach program

Volunteers must commit themselves until the completion of the project that they sign up in order to be recognized and awarded a volunteer certificate.

World Conflicts

Anti-War Committee

5125 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Phone: 412-422-7435

Fax: 412-361-0540

Website: <http://www.pittsburghendthewar.org/mamb/index.php>

Email: pshell@cs.cmu.edu and info@Pittsburghendthewar.org

Contact: Pete Shell

The Anti-War Committee organizes interfaith vigils, rallies, teach-ins, a speakers bureau, legislative action, media outreach and other activities to promote peaceful solutions to world conflicts. The AWC meets weekly on Sunday at 4pm at the Thomas Merton Center.

Code Pink

Phone: 412-389-3216

Website: <http://www.codepink4peace.org/index.php>

Email: codepinkpgh@aol.com

Contact: Francine Porter

Code Pink is a women-initiated grassroots peace and social justice movement working to end the war in Iraq, stop new wars, and redirect our resources into healthcare, education, and other life-affirming activities. The organization calls for policies based on compassion, kindness and a commitment to international law. With an emphasis on joy and humor, Code Pink women and men seek to activate, amplify and inspire a community of peacemakers through creative campaigns and a commitment to non-violence.

MEDICAL ISSUES

AIDS

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force

905 West Street, Fourth Floor

Pittsburgh, PA 15221

Phone: 412-242-2500x132

Fax: 412-242-2440

Website: www.patf.org

Email: info@patf.org

Contact: Kenia Ashby, Development Coordinator

The Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force is dedicated to saving, sustaining, and empowering the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS and preventing the spread of infections.

Volunteer opportunities include:

Food Pantry – (On-site) Assist clients in using PATF’s supplemental food pantry; bag groceries, stock shelves. Time commitment: 6 hours/month. (Off-site) Deliver groceries from the food pantry to clients’ homes; pick up donated foods. Time commitment: flexible (daytime only).

Information Table Staffing – Distribute information about HIV/AIDS and PATF at events.

Training: AIDS education or HIV prevention recommended. Time commitment: varies based on number of events.

Office Assistant – Assist staff with copying, faxing, filing, research, typing, and making reminder calls.

Required skills: office experience helpful but not necessary. Time commitment: 3 hours/week, daytime only.

Please note: all prospective volunteers must complete an in-person interview and orientation.

Cancer

UPMC Cancer Institute

Volunteer & Community Services

Hillman Cancer Center

William M. Cooper Pavilion,

Ground Floor, AG40.3

5115 Centre Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15232-1305

Phone: 412-623-6076

Fax: 412-623-4646

Website: <http://www.upmccancercenters.com/>

E-mail: huntleyl@upmc.edu

Contact: Lisa Huntley, Director, Volunteer & Community Services

Volunteer & Community Services places volunteers in positions of service within UPMC Cancer Centers and the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute (UPCI). Their mission is to improve the quality of life for patients and their families during their visit or stay at UPMC Cancer Centers and to enhance the ongoing efforts of UPMC Cancer Centers and UPCI scientists, medical staff, and employees. Volunteer opportunities are created wherever there is a need, and volunteers are provided the opportunity to learn and experience personal growth while working to reduce the burden of cancer.

The types of volunteers are as follows:

Administrative Support – Volunteers play an important role by doing computer work such as data entry and performing clerical duties such as labeling, copying and filing. Several departments are in need of volunteers in this area. Times available are Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5pm. Current projects include data entry, filing, copying and writing articles for the Volunteer View, a newsletter of the Volunteer & Community Services program.

Healing Power of the Arts – If you're an artist (whether a musician or a painter), you can use your special talent to foster hope and understanding. Healing Power of the Arts offers patients and their families the opportunity to discover the artist hidden inside each of us. Volunteers play music, create arts and crafts, and read poetry. These activities offer so much more than a much-needed diversion to patients and families; they also provide the means for self-expression and discovery during a challenging time. Healing Power of the Arts helps patients and families as they grieve, recuperate and celebrate life. These opportunities are available to individuals and small groups.

Patient and Family Support – Nurses, physicians and oncology social workers at UPMC Cancer Centers treat the person – not just the disease. In this same spirit, volunteers help improve the quality of life for patients and their families by helping nurses with their duties and visiting with patients and their families. You'll have ample opportunity to do so in the following settings: inpatient units, outpatient clinics, palliative care services and the registration and information desks. As a volunteer in the area of Patient and Family Support, you can volunteer during weekday, evening or weekend hours. Currently, the UPMC Cancer Centers network sites in New Castle and Beaver are also looking for volunteers to interact with patients, families and visitors.

Special Events – Volunteer & Community Services is an active partner with organizations such as the American Cancer Society and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Volunteers assist with coordinating annual fund-raising activities such as Daffodil Days and Race for the Cure. Volunteers may also help with other special events such as hosting parties for patients and their families on our inpatient units or assisting the development office with their fundraising events. Opportunities in this program are available to individuals, groups and organizations.

Reproductive Health

Magee Women's Hospital

300 Halket Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 412-641-4185

Website: magee.upmc.com

Email: rlebovitz@mail.magee.edu

Contact: Robin Lebovitz

Nearly 10,000 babies are born at Magee-Womens Hospital each year, accounting for 45 percent of all births to

women who live in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Magee is also the regional referral center for high-risk maternal care, and the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit is the largest in Pennsylvania, treating more than 1,000 seriously or critically ill newborns annually.

The Volunteer Aide Corp is made up of members from the Pittsburgh community who regularly give their time to Magee-Womens Hospital and its patients. Among the areas in which members volunteer are:

- Labor and Delivery
- Education
- Admitting
- Breast Care Center
- Patient Accounts
- The Children's Center of Pittsburgh

The Volunteer Aide Corp also provides a diversional activities cart to patients. Free parking and meal tickets are provided to volunteers on the day that they volunteer.

All volunteers must have an interview, attend orientation, and receive a health screening before beginning their volunteer assignment.

Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania

933 Liberty Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-434-8957x126

Website: <http://www.ppwp.org/>

Email: volunteer@ppwp.org

Contact: Erika Fricke, Volunteer Coordinator

Planned Parenthood believes that it is each person's natural right to manage their own fertility. They continue to encourage reproductive self-determination among women of all ages, races and ethnicities. Their mission is to "provide comprehensive reproductive and complimentary health care to those in need of these services; to disseminate information about human sexuality and the need for family planning and responsible parenthood; and to advocate public policies which guarantee these rights and ensure access to such services."

As a nonprofit organization, Planned Parenthood relies heavily on the efforts of the individuals who make time to help out in the office. Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in all areas of our organization including clerical/administrative, advocacy, medical services, and outreach/education (much more detail is available online).

Planned Parenthood will gladly welcome any PPW student who is interested in volunteering. Volunteers might review local media sources for stories related to reproductive rights, or sexuality education. They might also be asked to write a sample letter to the editor, which would be sent to local supporters. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gain volunteer experience while sharpening their writing skills.

All potential volunteers must interview with the Volunteer Coordinator prior to beginning volunteer activities.

Local Health Services

The Central Blood Bank of Pittsburgh

875 Greentree Road

Parkway Center 5

Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Phone: 412-209-7220
Website: <http://www.centralbloodbank.org/>
Email: volunteer@itxm.org
Contact: Janet O'Brien, Administrative Services Coordinator

Central Blood Bank (CBB), a non-profit organization founded in 1951 by a group of doctors in Pittsburgh PA, started as a 14-person operation, collecting 5,000 units of blood and serving seven hospitals. Today, CBB employs over 330 staff members collecting and testing units of over 170,000 donations annually and distributing more than 400,000 blood products a year to over 40 hospitals in Western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia.

CBB recruits donors and collects blood to manufacture into components (e.g. whole blood, platelets, plasma and other special products) for hospitals and healthcare customers. CBB works with transfusion medicine experts and hospitals to establish and provide new blood therapies.

The types of volunteers are as follows:

Donor Appreciation Representative – Central Blood Bank has 23 community donor centers and over 200 community mobile blood drives each month that collect blood from volunteer donors for area patients. Because of the large number of daily collection events, this volunteer opportunity is where their largest need exists.

After a donor completes the donation process, a Donor Appreciation Representative serves refreshments to the blood donor, educates donors on the need for blood and is available to answer questions. Most importantly, Donor Appreciation Representatives thank the donor for giving the gift of life. This is their last opportunity to ensure a positive experience for the donor, which makes this volunteer opportunity extremely important.

Office Assistant – For those who prefer to volunteer in an office environment, their administrative office would appreciate your service. There is always filing, mailing, data entry projects, typing and phone work that can be done by interested volunteers who feel more comfortable in the office.

Donor Relation Specialists – These specialists are individuals with a friendly voice, who are interested in working in our corporate office. They are looking for volunteers to call and thank donors for giving the gift of life by donating blood. The calls will be placed to individuals who have recently visited a community donor center or mobile blood drive. This thank-you call is a small way of letting donors know how important they are to the Central Blood Bank and our community.

Hill House Association

1835 Centre Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-392-4400
Fax: 412-392-4462
Website: www.hillhouse.org

Over the past four decades, it is estimated that the Hill House has provided care and support for more than 500,000 children, adults and seniors living in urban environments. In 2004, more than 70,000 individuals participated in Hill House programs and outreach.

The Hill House serves clients through five strategic program areas: early learning and child development, youth services, family and workforce development, senior services, and neighborhood services. In addition, the

agency offers complementary health and human services to its clients through 10 tenant agencies that reside on the Hill House campus.

While the numbers of people reached by the Hill House can be counted, there is no way to ascertain the total impact that these services have had on any one individual life.

Because of the Hill House, there are young people participating in science, arts and recreation when they otherwise would not have been; there are high school graduates choosing a career path instead of the street; young, previously absent fathers are playing an active role in their children's lives; single moms can afford safe, high-quality childcare; and seniors have warm winters and full cupboards.

SOCIAL AND FAMILY SERVICES

Housing/Homelessness

Bethlehem Haven

Fifth Avenue Commons

905 Watson Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-391-1348x134

Fax: 412-391-2133

Website: www.bethlehemhaven.org

Email: cdutko@bethlehemhaven.org

Contact: Cathy Dutko, Director of Operations

Bethlehem Haven is a non-profit organization providing a number of services including emergency shelter, transitional housing, medical, dental, obstetrics and mental health services, as well as employment services to women in the Pittsburgh area. The Haven also provides some medical, mental health and employment services to non-residents, including homeless men.

Over the past 25 years, Bethlehem Haven has provided shelter to thousands of homeless women for over 9,000 consecutive nights.

Annually, there are some 600 volunteers on-site, providing around 5,000 hours of service. Volunteers make our work possible and bring hope to the Haven's residents and staff.

These are the latest volunteer needs at the Haven:

- Prepare/serve meals
- Donate or consign clothes at Ambiance
- Monitor the computer lab
- Instruct a computer class
- Assist with data entry and general office work
- Assist in organizing/running a job fair
- Volunteer for It's About Time
- Help with a car wash (a great way for students to help!)
- Research grants
- Coordinate a "Dress for Success" segment of Project Employ

Family House

233 McKee Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 412-647-5893

Website: www.familyhouse.org

Email: sjohnson@familyhouse.org

Contact: Sally Johnson, Director of Volunteers and Community Resources

In 1983, Family House opened its doors to patients and their families, providing them with comfortable, affordable surroundings while they underwent specialized hospital treatment at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), the Western Pennsylvania Hospital and other hospitals in the Pittsburgh area.

Family House, a non-profit corporation operated by a voluntary board of directors, provides a special “home away from home” for patients and/or families who must travel to Pittsburgh for treatment of serious or life-threatening illnesses. Thanks to the generosity and support of the Pittsburgh community, Family House is able to provide a comfortable haven to help our guests through stressful times.

Volunteers can offer their time in a variety of ways:

House Volunteers – Work in four-hour shifts at each house doing a variety of tasks from answering the phone, checking in new guests, delivering clean linens and offering a warm welcome to those travelers who arrive in a strange city with so much on their minds.

Group Volunteers – Can be as few as a family of three to a sorority of ten who come to the houses on an occasional basis to facilitate an activity for our families. Baking cookies, singing carols, cooking a spaghetti dinner, delivering gifts at the holidays – the possibilities are limited only by the imagination when it comes to our Group Volunteers.

Event Volunteers – Are people who help with their various fundraising events throughout the year. Polo, car show gala and our spring fundraiser – regardless of the event, there are lots of things for volunteers to do including serving on a committee, selling tickets, tending horses, setting up and tearing down.

Special Activity Volunteers – Come to help with occasional activities such as decorating the houses for the holidays, raking leaves, painting the houses and extraneous clerical tasks.

Volunteer Fund Raisers – Are planned by individuals or groups for the purpose of collecting funds or items for Family House. Benefit bridge tournaments, collections of items for the houses/guests and charity golf outings are just a few of the many possible fund-raising events you might consider.

Neighborhood Housing Services

710 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1000

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-281-9773

Fax: 412-281-9987

Website: www.nhspa.org

Email: ckelley@nhswpa.org

Contact: Colin Kelley, Executive Director

The mission of Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc is to “promote strong and vital neighborhoods and enhance lives by increasing opportunities for, eliminating barriers to, and preserving homeownership.” NHS aims to revitalize Pittsburgh neighborhoods by maintaining its core values. These values include community collaboration with businesses, nonprofits and government; a commitment to helping low and moderate income residents; accountability of the organization; and dedication and integrity in all services they provide.

NHS programs are designed to help home buyers throughout the entire purchasing process. The programs include classes and counseling to prepare the home buyers for the financial leap they are about to make. Their programs do not end with the home purchase; NHS programs also help homeowners to maintain their homes. Students who volunteer with NHS can expect to provide a variety of services. Past students have worked with the executive director assisting with resource development, researched appropriate grant opportunities, and learned about writing grants to support the program and services of the organization. Students also meet with the executive director weekly to review accomplishments, questions, and concerns.

Hunger

East End Cooperative Ministry

250 N. Highland Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Phone: 412-361-5549x403

Website: www.eecm.org

Email: emilyh@eecm.org

Contact: Emily Huck, Volunteer Coordinator

EECM is an interfaith ministry dedicated to helping at-risk children and youth, the hungry, the homeless, and others in need throughout Pittsburgh’s East End. For many of the individuals it serves, EECM provides the necessities of life: a hot meal, a safe place to sleep, food for the family. For others, it is a place to regain strength after a hospital stay, a support system to work toward recovery, or one-on-one help to change life for the better. For young people, EECM is educational programs, drug and alcohol prevention programs, violence prevention programs, Summer Day Camp, and a concerted effort to show our children a better future.

East End Cooperative Ministry offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in the areas of Hunger Services, Housing Services, and Children & Youth Services, as well as General Opportunities, Special Events, and Group Volunteer Opportunities.

Examples of volunteer opportunities include:

- Preparing and delivering Meals on Wheels to elderly or homebound individuals who are unable to prepare meals for themselves.
- Preparing and serving hot meals to people who would go hungry if not for the Soup Kitchen or Men’s Emergency Shelter.
- Interviewing individuals and families and assisting them in receiving emergency groceries.
- Providing a friendly, comfortable environment for the homeless and other community members who visit the Drop-In Center.

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

1 N Linden Street

Duquesne, PA 15110

Phone: 412-460-FOODx211

Fax: 412-460-0418

Website: www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

Email: wlachendro@gpcfb.org

Contact: Wendy Lachendro, Event Volunteer Coordinator

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a non-profit organization that collects and distributes food through a 350+ member network in 11 counties in southwestern Pennsylvania. Through food solicitation, fund raising, special events and community partnerships, the Food Bank gathers food at their 94,000 square foot warehouse in Duquesne, PA. Through outlets such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, after school programs, senior high rises, MH-MR drop-in centers, neighborhood food assistance agencies, emergency or disaster-related feeding sites, regional food banks, Meals on Wheels, community centers and special programs, the Food Bank currently distributes around 18 million pounds of food per year. Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a member of America's Second Harvest, the Nation's Food Bank Network.

Volunteers are needed to help with repack, clerical work, gleaning, special events, food drives, Produce to People and more. You can choose the activity, the length of time and the location. No matter what your talent, or limitation, they could use your help!

Jubilee Soup Kitchen

2005 Wyandotte Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-261-5417

Website: <http://jubileesoupkitchen.org>

Contact: Sister Liguori

The mission of the Jubilee Association is to provide a comprehensive program of social services, based in the teachings and values of its founders' Judeo-Christian heritage, addressing the needs of the homeless, disadvantaged and marginalized people of the Pittsburgh area. They provide assistance to anyone in need, regardless of sex, age, race, color, religion, national origin, handicap, or other characteristics.

Volunteers are mostly needed to help in the Jubilee Soup Kitchen with:

- Preparing food
- Serving the noonday hot meal
- Cleaning up and washing dishes

Additional volunteers are needed for non-kitchen work in other programs of the larger Jubilee Association with:

- Sorting and organizing canned goods at the Food Pantry
- Helping with childcare in the John Heinz Family Center
- Helping with tutoring in the Education Center

Disabled Services

Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh

1800 West Street
Homestead, PA 15120
Phone: 412-368-4400
Fax: 412-368-4090
Website: www.pghvis.org
Contact: Nancy Shappis

Pittsburgh Vision Services resulted from the grouping of the Pittsburgh Blind Association of Oakland and the Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind in Bridgeville. Now located in Homestead (volunteers would need their own transportation there), this organization helps to rehabilitate and prepare for the workplace those who are blind or suffer from vision impairment. They also provide support and counseling for those coping with this new impairment. Their mission is to: "...reduce the limitations that may result from the lack of vision." They "believe in independence through rehabilitation."

Only serious volunteers need apply. Nancy Shappis asks that they provide their own transportation and participate for a minimum of five weeks.

The supervisor of volunteers screens, interviews, trains and places the volunteer and the volunteer accepts the assignment and reports back to the supervisor of volunteers.

A volunteer working with a direct service program should have a commitment to helping people with disabilities and have discretion with confidential materials. Good reading ability is essential for most assignments.

To become a volunteer, you will be asked to: (1) Interview with the volunteer administrator at our Homestead facility. This is where the volunteer opportunities will be explored and volunteer interests and opportunities are discussed. (2) Complete an orientation and training program, before working with consumers. (3) Have regular communications with the volunteer staff.

The following are their volunteer opportunities:

Audio Taping Volunteer – These volunteers do not work with consumers. They make audiotapes of manuals or research materials for the Access Technology Center. This is usually done for 2 hour intervals.

Communication Volunteer – These volunteers are on call to assist consumers with specialized projects such as library research and taping of various materials. Eight hours of training are required.

Direct Service Volunteer – In conjunction with the volunteer department, volunteers may be asked to assist consumers with clerical tasks: balancing checkbooks, check writing for monthly bills, reading class assignments or answering mail. This is usually done in the consumer's home.

Events Volunteer – Fund raising volunteers are called upon to help raise money for Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh through a variety of activities. Their activities are coordinated by the Development Office.

Friendly Visiting – Persons who are elderly, lonely, or isolated often request friendly visitation in person or by phone. The human contact provided is a welcome break and a chance for good conversation. It may lead to a friendship with another person. Visits should be regular and scheduled in advance.

Household Arts Volunteer – Volunteers observe and are trained to reinforce classroom instruction in cooking, housekeeping, sewing and other basic home-making skills. Ten hours of training are required.

Leisure Time Volunteer – Several hours each week volunteers provide activity reinforcement to consumers on a one-to-one basis or in small groups. These activities include board games, indoor gardening, handicrafts, and bowling. Volunteers also take consumers on excursions to local points of interest and occasionally to athletic or artistic events. Some of these events are in the evening or on weekends. Ten hours of training are required.

Motor Corp Volunteer – Volunteers provide transportation for consumers to destinations: doctor's office visits, the airport, train or bus station. Two hours of training are required. During the performance of driving duties, volunteers are covered by Blind and Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh's general liability policy as a secondary coverage. Volunteer drivers must be at least 21 years of age and have ample liability and medical insurance coverage.

Teenage Volunteer – Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. After receiving sighted guide training and under adult supervision, they escort young consumers to cultural or entertainment events. They may also tape manuals as a service project for local schools. Participation by teenagers is principally during the summer for the CCAP program.

Reading Volunteer – Volunteers read correspondence, exams, newspapers and miscellaneous material to clients. Employed persons may request readers to help keep them up to date on current material in their field. Readers generally meet with consumers once a week for an hour at their home, dormitory, a library or at one of our facilities.

Shopping Volunteer – Consumers of all ages may request volunteers to accompany them shopping, either for groceries or personal items. A volunteer shopper helps locate items, describes selection, indicates prices and points out new products which may be of interest.

Preschool Vision Screening Volunteers – These trained volunteers visit daycares and preschools throughout Allegheny County, to check the eyes of sighted children before they begin kindergarten. Recruitment is generally handled by local project chairmen. Training and program coordination are managed by the Coordinator of Preschool Vision Screening.

Easter Seals Western Pennsylvania

2525 Railroad Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-281-7244x229

Fax: 412-281-9333

Website: www.westernpa.easterseals.com

Email: mwahl@westernpa.easterseals.co

Contact: Michelle R. Wahl, Development Specialist

Walk With Me 2008 Volunteers – Walk With Me 2008, their sixth annual Walk With Me event, will be held on July 13, 2008 at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Volunteers are needed to help set up, clean up and help out along the walk route. They are also looking for volunteers to set up teams to participate in the walk. Volunteers are also needed to help distribute brochures and flyers prior to the event.

Car Wash Volunteers – Volunteers are needed to set up car washes to benefit Easter Seals during the late spring, summer and early fall months. Past locations have included Sam’s Club and King’s Restaurants. They coordinate the location and provide supplies and you run the car wash.

Easter Seals School Program Volunteers – Easter Seals School Program provides the child who has a disability with a community-based education program that emphasizes education and intense therapy. Children range in age from 2 to 8 years old and have a diagnosis of cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, neurological impairment and/or autism/pervasive developmental disorder. As a school volunteer you will assist the teacher and staff in the daily activities of the classroom. Specifically, this could include working with individual children or small groups in learning development activities; lunch and toileting times; art and music activities; play time; sharing specific interest or skills that you and the teacher believe would enrich the children’s experience. Volunteers must have an interest in and enjoyment of young children, the patience and understanding to work with children with a variety of physical and developmental disabilities and prior experience can be useful but is not necessary.

Easter Seals Adult Day Service Volunteers – Adult Day Services are offered to seniors with memory impairments and younger adults with disabilities. This program offers speech, occupational and physical therapy, recreation activities, community programming, community outings and care for adults with disabilities in a home like setting. Volunteers assist with field trips, recreational activities and meals/snacks. Volunteers should enjoy spending time with seniors and younger adults with disabilities.

Multiple Sclerosis Service Society

875 Greentree Road
2 Parkway Center, Suite 125
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
Phone: 412-539-1090
Fax: 412-539-1087
Website: <http://www.mspittsburgh.org/>
Email: msss@mspittsburgh.org
Contact: Susan J. Navish, Executive Director

The mission of the Multiple Sclerosis Service Society (MSSS) is to provide assistance to those diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis through a variety of services. It is their goal to help the general public and families of victims to better understand Multiple Sclerosis and the problems associated with the disease.

Radio Information Service (RIS)

2100 Wharton Street, Ste. 140
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone: 412-488-3944
Website: www.readingservice.org
Email: toneill@readingservice.org
Contact: Tracy O’Neill, Office Manager / Volunteer Coordinator

RIS is Pittsburgh’s only radio reading service for people who are visually impaired, blind or unable to read or hold print material for any other reason. Basically, they read print materials over the air, and their listeners have special radios to hear our broadcasting. They need volunteers to help us fulfill this mission.

Volunteer work is mostly clerical (data entry, filing, stuffing envelopes, etc.), and may be some light cleaning or running errands within walking distance.

The UCLID Center at the University of Pittsburgh and Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh

3414 Fifth Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 412-692-7936

Fax: 412-692-8729

Website: <http://www.uclid.org:8080/index.html>

Email: oschkl@chp.edu

Contact: Katherine Osche

The University, Community, Leaders, and Individuals with Disabilities (UCLID) Center is an interdisciplinary leadership training program in developmental disabilities affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh. The team includes faculty from the University, representatives from community agencies, which provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities, civic leaders, parents of children with disabilities and self-advocates.

Various volunteer opportunities are available.

Poverty Services

The East End Community Thrift Shop

5123 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Phone: 412-361-6010, 412-657-1970

Website: <http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/thrifty/>

Email: okshawnaham@aol.com

Contact: Shirley Gleditsch, Shawna Hammond

The East End Community Thrift (Thrifty) is an all volunteer-run thrift shop which provides quality, low cost used clothing and household goods to the surrounding community. Since its inception in 1993, Thrifty has worked with area homeless programs to offer their residents vouchers to shop free for items they need for themselves and their families.

Thrifty is a community service site for many organizations, like Renewal. They are also one of Pittsburgh Cares' monthly volunteer sites. Senior citizens from The National Urban League (formerly AARP) are an integral part of Thrifty. They are always looking for volunteers.

Roots of Promise

5125 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Phone: 724-327-2767

Website: http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/roots_of_promise.htm

Email: stand4pgh@adelphia.net

Contact: Wanda Guthrie

Roots of Promise aims to promote the well being of children and families, especially those families living in poverty and the accompanying emotional and political challenges. It is affiliated with the local chapter of Stand

for Children, a national organization whose goal is to select and work on local, state and national legislation affecting children in Western Pennsylvania.

Prisoner Services

Book 'Em: Pittsburgh's Books-to-Prisoners Program

5125 Penn Avenue (basement of Thomas Merton Center)

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Phone: 412-361-3022 and leave a message

Website: <http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/bookem/index.htm>

Email: bookem@keromail.com

Contacts: Kate, Rachel, Etta, Juan, Diane, or Say.

Book 'Em is a 100% volunteer, non-profit organization that sends free educational books and quality reading material to prisoners and prison libraries across the country.

Each month Book 'Em sends approximately 200 packages of books to indigent prisoners, free of charge. We have had many educators struggling to do their work within the walls request educational materials from our program, and we provide them assistance as best we can.

The vast majority of our packages are sent directly to self-educating prisoners who write to them with their requests. Once they tell the volunteers what subject areas they are interested in, they send them books that are related to that subject.

Book 'Em also publishes and distributes many different pamphlets for the benefit and education of prisoners, including resource guides for prisoners and prison advocates.

Since 2000, we have sent over 6000 packages of books, helping over 4000 individual prisoners.

They meet to volunteer every Sunday from 3:00 to 8:00 pm at the Thomas Merton Center, 5125 Penn Avenue. We read the letters and select reading material to be sent to the prisoners. Then they pack the books up in paper and tape them up. Your help will be greatly appreciated. You don't have to stay all day-- you can drop in for as little or as much time as you want. During the work sessions you can also sort new donations, organize the library, write postcards, enter prisoner names into the database or help us with other tasks.

If you have time during the week, you can also help them accomplish other tasks, such as coordinating fundraisers, tabling at events, selling books, hosting book drives, recruiting more volunteers, promoting our projects and more.

Fight for Lifers

5125 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Phone: 412-361-3022 and leave a message

Website: http://www.thomasmertoncenter.org/the_new_people/Sept2004/fight_for_lifers.htm

Fight for Lifers is the only organization in the western part of Pennsylvania which attempts to deal with the issue of life sentences. There are nearly 4000 inmates serving life sentences in this state. Life sentences are imposed for first or second-degree murders. Hundreds of individuals who did not commit a murder, but participated, such as a lookout, may receive a life sentence. Scores of battered women may have lashed out after years of abuse and are serving life sentences. Persons suffering from post-traumatic stress from military

service are serving life sentences. Many juveniles have received life sentences.

A life sentence in Pennsylvania means exactly that: life without parole. Pennsylvania is only one of three states that has life with no opportunity for parole. Other states overwhelmingly recognize the likelihood that offenders can mature over the years and can become productive citizens.

Their organization, which has been meeting for about a year, feels that there needs to be some recourse for inmates who have served 25, 30, 40 years or more and are over 50 years of age. Currently there is a senate resolution and an appointed committee to study the issue of geriatric inmates in this state.

Presently their group has 15-20 regular members and over 300 on their mailing list to discuss ways to bring about positive change. In addition to advocating for inmates, they provide emotional support to their members, including mothers, wives, fathers, brothers, sisters, and friends of lifers.

The group meets monthly.

YOUR COLLEGE CAMPUS

Community Outreach Programs

Oakland Planning and Development Corporation (OPDC)

235 Atwood Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Phone: 412-621-7863x12

Fax: 412-621-5920

Website: <http://www.oaklandplanning.org/>

Email: lludwig@opdc.org

Contact Person: Laura Ludwig, Real Estate Program Manager

If you are interested in the revitalization of the neighborhoods around PITT's campus, you might like to volunteer at the Oakland Planning and Development Corporation. OPDC hosts neighborhood activities that encourage real estate development, commercial revitalization, and home ownership. OPDC believes that through community involvement, Oakland can be restored as a viable residential community.

Potential activities for volunteers include general administrative duties like record keeping, data entry, filing, "Keep It Clean Oakland!" project preparation and management, internet research and providing assistance in two of OPDC's programmatic areas - real estate development and community organizing. Volunteers are open to work on various projects and initiatives and OPDC is willing to work with individuals to help cater assignments to best fit the volunteers' needs and interests.

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Civil Rights
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Save Our Transit
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