

New Look, Same Mission

10 Years of Caring

As we start our tenth year of matching volunteers with the nearly 500 nonprofit agencies and organizations in the community, I want to express how proud I am of the Volunteer Center's decade of progress and the dedication, performance and competence of our Board and staff in carrying out our mission.

Racine County has a strong tradition of volunteerism that will continue into the next decade. While our volunteer base annually exceeds 25,000, we see much potential for growth, ranging from our youth to those who work in our community's businesses to our retirees. We appreciate the time and skills of each volunteer and his or her willingness to share them with our community.

One of the ways we are marking our tenth anniversary is by introducing the new logo you see above. It will be a vital part of our identity as we continue to be a **leader** in our community, a **catalyst** in the development of community responses to community needs, a **connector** between people and community resources, and an **advocate** and support for programs that promote the value of volunteerism.

Marilynn Pelky Executive Director

**Give a Day of Volunteer Service in 2010, Get a Day of Disney
Theme Park Fun - Free - see page 2 for more information..**

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Volunteer Center of Racine
County

6216 Washington Ave.Ste. G
Racine, WI 53406
(262) 886-9612

www.volunteercenterofracine.org



Megan Polzin, her daughters Marissa and Adelle (hidden) and son Austin (in infant carrier) drop off food for the Racine County Food Bank at the Volunteer Center.

Winter Driving Safety

Make your winter travels safer by having a blanket and creating a coffee-can survival kit. Here's what you'll need:



- A 2 or 3-pound metal coffee can (punch three holes in the top, equal distance apart)
- 60-inch length of twine or heavy string cut in three equal pieces (used to suspend can)
- 3 large safety pins (tie string to safety pins and pin to car roof interior to suspend can over candle)
- 1 candle with 2: diameter (place on lid under suspended can for melting snow)
- 1 pocket knife, reasonably sharp (or substitute scissors)
- 3 pieces of bring cloth 2" x 36: (tie to antenna or door handle)
- Several packets of soup, hot chocolate, tea, bouillon cubes, etc.(mixed into melted snow to provide warmth and nutrition)
- Plastic spoon
- 1 small package of peanuts (provides protein) and fruit-flavored candy (orange slices, jelly beans, etc. – avoid chocolate as it can have a diuretic effect)
- 1 pair of socks and 1 pair of gloves or glove liners
- 2 packages of book matches
- 1 sun shield blanket or 2 large green or black plastic leaf bags (to reflect body heat)
- 1 pen lights and batteries (keep separate)
- 2 quarters and 2 dimes for telephone calls

When complete, place stocking cap over kit and place in the passenger compartment of your car. If using a 2-pound can, add band-aids, aspirin, small radio, etc. Other items you may want to keep in the vehicle are a large plastic garbage bag, pencil and paper, and plastic whistle.

A Day at Disney - Free

Love going to the Disney parks but don't love the prices? Well, here's your chance to get a day at a Disney Theme Park – free!

The Volunteer Center of Racine County (VCRC) has partnered with the HandsOn Network in the Give A Day Get a Day Disney Program. We are currently working with Racine County organizations and nonprofits to list their qualifying volunteer opportunities.

To qualify for the free day, you must pre-register and sign up for eligible volunteer opportunities at www.disneyparks.com. Ticket quantities are limited; you must be a least six-years-old to qualify.

For details, go to www.disneyparks.com in the United States and Puerto Rico; in Canada, see www.disneyparks.ca.

Santa Breakfast a Success

The jingle bells were ringing, and a hearty “Ho-Ho-Ho” could be heard throughout the hall. “All of these children are wonderful! Ah, such good boys and girls ... not a naughty, coal deserving kid in the bunch!” exclaimed Jolly Old St. Nick as he chuckled and welcomed children to a family breakfast at Greg’s Catering in Franksville on Saturday, December 12.

Over 150 attended Santa’s Breakfast, coordinated and hosted by RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) members and the Volunteer Center of Racine County. The morning featured an all-you-could-eat buffet, Santa’s Workshop crafts, a silent auction, and time for each child to whisper his or her Christmas wishes in Santa’s ear. Twenty-six SafeAssured ID kits were created for children; the cost of the kits was underwritten by Midwest Paralegal, Inc.

Breakfast with Santa was a fundraiser for the Volunteer Center, raising about \$400.00.

Socks Donated

Toasty toes abound thanks to generous sock donations this past October! 442 pairs of hosiery for men, women, and children were dropped off at the Volunteer Center of Racine County during the Make a Difference Day “Flocks of Socks” event for 2009. Special recognition goes to the Case High School Health Youth Apprenticeship program members who as a group rounded up over \$100 worth of sock donations. The flocks of socks were distributed to HALO and the Women’s Resource Center

Scouts Train for Emergencies

For the past 13 years, Racine and Kenosha county scouts have given up their teacher convention break to learn about Safety and Emergency preparedness.



Originally, geared towards helping Boy Scouts earn their Emergency Preparedness and Safety merit badges, the workshop invited Girl Scouts to participate in 2002. In 2006, after partnering with the Center for School Youth and Citizen Preparedness, the workshop became a two-day Responding to Emergencies and Disasters with Youth (READY) course.

Much like the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training for adults, the course teaches basic disaster response skills

like fire safety, light search and rescue, First Aid, CPR and AED. Two years ago, our local CERT instructors took over, and a youth CERT course was offered.

Fifty nine scouts and leaders attended the training in October 2009. Participants received a duffle bag, helmet, goggles and gloves and were encouraged to add items to their emergency kit. The scouts also completed a number of requirements on various emergency-related merit badges and awards.

While there was no cost to attend this training, scouts were asked to bring a nonperishable food items; 105 lbs of food was donated to the Racine County Food Bank.

Thank You, Donors

Following is a list of individuals, organizations, and businesses that made cash donations to the Volunteer Center in 2009. If there is an omission, please let us know so that you can be included in the next newsletter.

- Anonymous
- Phillip & Catherine Bayuk
- Beech Pointe
- Bruch Funeral Home
- Carl & Andrea Bumpurs
- Cal Care, Inc.
- Canterbury, LLC
- Lori Castor
- Roger & S.R. Chernik
- Marjorie L. Christiansen Foundation
- Church World Services
- CNH
- Corporate System
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- Michelle L. Hein
- Jerold & Joyce Hersberger
- Tom Holbus
- Donald & Barbara Horack
- Hospice Alliance
- Hugh James Hutchison

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YES, I want to support the Volunteer Center of Racine County in its promotion of volunteerism! Here is my donation of \$ _____.

Please complete this form, and send it - along with your check made out to Volunteer Center of Racine County - to 6216 Washington Ave., Ste. G, Racine, WI 53406.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

My/Our gift is in **Honor / Memory of** (please circle which one applies - an acknowledgement will be sent to the person listed below as well as to the donor)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

I/We wish to remain anonymous - The names of donors and/or people in whose honor or memory a gift has been made will be listed in future newsletters. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Seminar feedback was positive with one mother writing, "I wanted to thank you for putting on this program. My boys were a little upset with me when I told them that I signed them up for this when they were looking forward to two days off! How could I do that to them? However, in the end, they were very excited with the program and couldn't wait to attend the second day."

While we may never know how many of the youth who learn emergency preparedness skills actually put them to use, we do know of one young man who did. Alex Ruup, an Eagle Scout who directed his brother and a friend to safety as a tornado barreled down on their home, credited one of our training events with giving him the tools needed to act.

donoars from page 3

- JD & K Management, Inc.
- Johnson Bank
- Wayne & Ruth Johnson
- Junior League of Racine, Inc.
- Kenosha County Nursing Assoc.
- Kiwanis Club of Racine
- Kiwanis Club of West Racine WI Fd., Inc.
- Kiwanis Foundation of Racine, Inc.
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- Carolyn J Wergin
- Russell & Debra Weyers
- Woman's Club of Racine
- Youth Volunteer Corporation
- Tom & Marybeth Zuhlke

Upcoming Events

Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day Celebration
 April 12 & 13 State TRIAD Convention
 April 16 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
 April 18 - 24 National Volunteer Week
 April 24 Earth Day

Nominate a special person for a Volunteer Recognition Award! Nomination forms inside.

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**Volunteer Center of Racine County
 6216 Washington Ave., Suite G
 Racine, WI 53406**