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*Inspiring, strengthening, and
supporting volunteerism in
Frederick County.*



Quarterly Newsletter

Fall 2008

The Recycled Gift

"One man's trash is another man's treasure" may have become a tired cliché over the years, but the concept is as timely as ever. In unsure economic times it might be hard to commit to a volunteer position and cash donations are not much easier. A possible solution for giving neither time nor money, is giving stuff you already have!

There are great options giving to established agencies like Goodwill, the Salvation Army, or the Frederick Rescue Mission and they are in our daily routines. Planet Aid donation drop boxes are now common sites in shopping centers.

Even browsing eBay opens a window to donating. Local authors Brad and Debra Schepp have some tips about using eBay for the greater good in their book, *How eBay Really Works*. They explain that using eBay's Giving Works feature helps buyers, sellers, and nonprofits alike. As a seller on eBay, "when you create your listings through the Giving Works program, a portion of your proceeds goes to a charity you choose. That nonprofit's logo and mission statement will automatically be included in your listing..." It is becoming easier and easier to make giving a part of our daily lives. Let's hope this becomes a habit that's hard for all of us to break. ●

Agency Profile:

Goodwill Industries of Monocacy Valley

"Where holiday giving helps fulfill a mission of hope, jobs & futures"

Do you have clothes, jackets, books, trinkets, or furniture that you don't use anymore? Before throwing away unused items, take a look to see if they can be of use to someone else and take them to your local Goodwill retail store! People are in need of these everyday necessities for survival, especially around the fall and winter months. Goodwill Industries of Monocacy Valley accepts almost any new or used clothing or household goods from anyone in the Frederick and Carroll county areas and sells it at a discounted price.

Goodwill Industries of Monocacy Valley serves Frederick and Carroll Counties, operating four retail stores in the area, two in Frederick, one in Thurmont and one in Westminster.

Many people who donate items to Goodwill do not realize what a huge contribution they are making to people that may be less fortunate than themselves. Donating items and even shopping at Goodwill stores help fund training and other services to prepare people for job success. Almost 87% of every dollar obtained through the stores helps businesses fill gaps caused by labor shortages and trains workers to fill outsourced needs in the areas of courier delivery, power washing, custodial work, groundskeeping and more. Goodwill helps people with disadvantages such as welfare dependency, homelessness, lack of education or work experience as well as those with physical, mental or emotional disabilities.

In addition to assisting people with job placement and training, Goodwill Industries of Monocacy Valley has also implemented the C.A.R.E.S (Community Alliance to Request Emergency Services) Program, in which people who are in need of emergency items can obtain C.A.R.E.S certificates which may be used to purchase emergency needs goods for free at any of the Monocacy Valley locations. Currently, Goodwill is accepting everyday items especially jackets, warm clothing, shoes, hats and any other necessities for the coming winter months. Items may be dropped off during operating hours at any of the four locations.



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Youth Action Corps Update

The Youth Action Corps (YAC) hit the ground running in September and has not stopped since! At their first meeting of the new school year, which took place on September 11, they discussed service projects they wanted to do for the year and started planning the creation of the Youth Action Corps, Jr (YAC, Jr.). The very first YAC, Jr. meeting was held on October 9th and the 2 members who attended decorated goody bags with Halloween drawings and stickers. The goody bags were later filled and given to residents at Homewood Retirement Center during a Kids Care Week service project that YAC hosted.

YAC and YAC, Jr members have participated in a variety of other service projects including a project at the Frederick County Animal Control office, a Wags for Hope Fundraiser with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk, and many others. YAC also hosted a Make a Difference Day project at Waterford Park where they planted trees and a Family Volunteer Day project where they created lap blankets and pillows for Hospice caretakers. So far this school year, YAC and YAC, Jr have given over 310 hours of service to the Frederick Community!

YAC was recognized on September 7, 2008 by the Baltimore Ravens Honor Rows Program. During each Ravens home game throughout the 2008 regular season, the program honors youth groups or youth organizations that provide outstanding volunteer service to communities. YAC members received 20 tickets to the game, Honor Rows t-shirts, a pre-game on field visit, in-game recognition on the SMARTVISION screens, and were featured on WBFF Fox 45 in the week following the game. YAC also received the Vision of Character Award from the Character Counts Council of Frederick County on October 15th.

Both YAC, a group of middle and high school aged youth, and YAC, Jr, a group of elementary school age youth, are dedicated to creating and implementing service projects in Frederick County. Members learn valuable skills such as leadership, mobilizing others to action, and personal responsibility. Membership is open to all youth who share this passion for service. For more information on upcoming projects or how to join please contact Stacey or Paul at 301.663.5214 ext. 2# or e-mail yac@volunteerfrederick.org.



Although the day was rainy, YAC members shown here work hard to dig a hole for this tree to be planted at Waterford Park.

YAC "Makes a Difference" at Waterford Park

On the fourth Saturday of October every year, millions of Americans unite to serve their communities on Make a Difference Day. Thousands of projects addressing a variety of social issues are completed by willing volunteers who want to better their communities. Volunteer Frederick's Youth Action Corps (YAC) and Youth Action Corps, Junior (YAC, Jr) participated in Make a Difference Day by partnering with the Friends of Waterford Park and Streamlink for an environmental project.

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On October 25th fifteen YAC and YAC, Jr members each gave 3 hours of

service to Waterford Park. They were joined by volunteers from Friends of Waterford Park, Volunteer Frederick, and John Smucker of Streamlink. Volunteers planted and mulched over 100 trees and relocated several dogwoods.

Youth Action Corps members also participated in Kids Care Week 2008, which ran from October 19 and culminated on Make a Difference Day.

On October 23 YAC and YAC, Jr members hosted a Halloween party for residents at Homewood Retirement Center. Youth assisted the residents with making fall crafts, served refreshments, and distributed goody bags to 75 residents. The bags and supplies for both projects were made possible through funding from the Hands on Network Kids Care Club Party Pals Mini-Grant and by a grant from the Maryland Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism.



These YAC members helped to spread mulch after the trees were planted.

Get Ready for The BIG Sweep

It's getting to be that time again to... "turn trash into cash!" The BIG Sweep will take place on April 25, 2009 in conjunction with National and Global Youth Service Day. This day is known as one of the largest youth service events in the world, with people all around the globe participating in community improvement projects, including The BIG Sweep.

In its eighth year, this annual county-wide beautification project raises money for participating area non-profits. Groups formed from school clubs, youth organizations, civic organizations, churches, businesses and non-profit agencies collect sponsorship donations from family, friends and other supporters. They then pick up trash from Frederick County roadsides and dump sites with seventy-five percent of the money raised going to the non-profit of their choice.

This annual project hopes to attract groups returning for second or third years but also new groups interested in conserving the environment.

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Goodwill will also be celebrating its 40th anniversary starting in 2009. A year-long recognition will follow to highlight the many achievements of the organization. This anniversary is organized around the four major operational divisions and will highlight each of these every quarter.

Starting on January 7, 2009 at 7:30 a.m., Goodwill Industries of Monocacy Valley will host a kick-off for the year-long celebration at their Church Street location in the conference center. Neil Romano, Assistant Secretary of Disability Employment Policy with the U.S. Department of Labor will be a guest speaker and a continental breakfast will be provided.

For more information about other events taking place in honor of the anniversary or for information about programs or donating, please visit their website at <http://www.gimv.org/index.php> or contact Elissa Gross, Marketing and Development Director at egross@gimv.org.

Last year, groups picked up approximately thirteen tons of trash and 474 tires throughout Frederick County and raised almost \$40,000 for respective non-profits.

It's simple to become involved in The Big Sweep. Any organization that wants to participate registers their group of volunteers and solicits donations for their selected nonprofit. Participants that collect at least \$35 will receive a free BIG Sweep t-shirt. Businesses can also put together BIG Sweep teams and donate funds raised to a participating non-profit. Let's help to make this year's event even more successful! For more information, please contact Diana Halleman at dianah@volunteerfrederick.org or 301-663-5214 ex. 6#.



Did you know it takes...

***A styrofoam cup 20 years to decompose**

***200-500 years for an aluminum can to decompose**

***20-30 years for a plastic bag to decompose**

***But... tires never decompose**

Become Volunteer Frederick's Friend on FACEBOOK!

These days everyone is on networking sites like Facebook and Myspace. Volunteer Frederick wanted to find out what all of the excitement was about so we became a member of Facebook. With over 19 million registered users, it is a good way to connect with a broader generation of people in the Frederick area that are interested in volunteering in their community. Not only can you become our friend, you can also support some of the programs we are involved in by adding the "Causes" application.

Anyone can join a "Cause" on Facebook which is why we have created one in support of the annual BIG Sweep. Causes include issues pertaining to animals, education, environment and religion that people may support. This application keeps interested persons up to speed about certain issues and it can even raise money for the them as well.

Don't hesitate! Show your support for Volunteer Frederick and stay informed about volunteering in your community. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/people/Volunteer-Frederick/510063281> and request to be our friend. What are you waiting for?

Highlights From the RSVP “Models of Service” Fashion Show



Our “Models of Service” (from left to right) Linda Despeaux, Sheila Kline, Diana Goodall, Sandi Lee, Anne Leffler, Ronnie Osterman, Karlys Kline, Elizabeth Brady and Jennie Sue Pearson.

Our “Models of Service” Fashion Show was a great success and a very fun day! The event was held on September 20, 2008 at Dutch’s Daughter restaurant, and featured fashions from Coldwater Creek. The clothes were modeled by some of our RSVP Members, and prominent community members. A silent auction was held with donations from local area businesses and accessory items were sold by local vendors from Silpada, Stacie Jewelry, Aunt B’s Angel Cookies, Gentle Spirit Creations and Beijo Bags. This event raised much needed funds for the RSVP Program! A big thank you goes out to our wonderful models and to all who attended for their support.

Growing Native

Growing Native is a year-round volunteer project that helps to restore and protect rivers and streams in the Potomac River watershed. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds participate in *Growing Native* by collecting native tree seeds and planting trees along streams and rivers across the region. Not only are participants creating forests for tomorrow, they are also learning the important connection between healthy, forested lands and clean waters.

Since *Growing Native’s* inception in 2001, nearly 30,000 volunteers collected more than 94,000 pounds of acorns, walnuts, and other hardwood tree seeds. These seeds are delivered to state-run nurseries to generate seedlings that will be replanted to restore sensitive streamside lands.

Growing Native’s efforts culminate in the fall, when they do large scale outreach to individuals, community groups, and local businesses to get involved while seeds are dropping on the ground! They invite people to volunteer by acting as *Growing Native* ambassador, seed collection event coordinators, and Drop-off site coordinators. *Growing Native* is an easy and flexible project to be a part of - Volunteers can get involved in any capacity, from collecting seeds in their backyard as an individual, joining their family and friends together to collect at a park, or by attending one of Potomac Conservancy’s public seed collection events!

Join the RSVP Breakfast Club!

Volunteer Frederick’s Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is starting an *RSVP Breakfast Club* for our members. Once a month we will be gathering for breakfast, networking, and socializing at *Perkins Restaurant in Frederick*. During this time, we will be featuring guest speakers from area agencies to talk about their organizations and how volunteers can help! This will give you the opportunity to learn a little more about opportunities that are out there, and a chance to get to know other RSVP members! Our first meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2009 @ 9:00 am. Our speaker that day will be Jamie Sonnenberg, an AmeriCorps VISTA with Volunteer Frederick. Jamie will be informing our guests about the Plan to be Safe Plan 9 Campaign. The campaign is a simple guide to encourage citizens to make a plan and a kit using nine essential items to shelter in place during an emergency. Citizen can also be trained to train others in promoting this program. If you would like to register to attend the Breakfast Club or if a representative from your agency would like to be a guest speaker, please email Suzanne Franklin at suzannefranklin@volunteerfrederick.org or Diana Halleman at dianah@volunteerfrederick.org

Holidays & Year-Round Giving

Year Round Donations

- **The Seton Center Thrift Shop** located at 16840 S. Seton Ave., Emmitsburg, 301-447-6102
- **Advocates for Homeless Families** at 216 Abrecht Place, Frederick, 301-301-662-2003
- **The Frederick Rescue Mission** (clothing, furniture and canned goods), 419 W.South St., Frederick, 301-695-6633
- **Habitat ReStore** (good quality used appliances and building supplies) located at 1109 E. Patrick St., 301-662-2988.
- **Goodwill** (clothing and furniture) located at 5831 Buckeystown Pike, Unit B, Frederick, 301-668-5369 and also in Thurmont at 202 East Main Street, 301-271-2100.
- **The Frederick Foodbank** (CAA) (Canned goods and \$) found at 100 S. Market St., Frederick, 301-694-1506

Holiday Donations



The **Mental Health Association** is collecting gifts for Operation Santa Clause for 200 patients, all of whom are children or adolescents under 18 years of age at local mental health facilities. Gift ideas include hats, gloves, winter coats, pajamas, sports jerseys, CDs, board games, DVDs, video games, art supplies, etc. For more information, call Cheryl Evans at 301-663-0111, ext. 137 or email cevans@fcmha.org.



Adopt-a-Family opportunities are available through **Advocates for Homeless Families** (301-662-2003 or email Mary Johnson at mjohnson@ahf.org.) or at **The Seton Center** (contact Sr. Mary Pavonarius, Outreach Coordinator, at 301-447-6102 or email mpavonarius@hotmail.com). A list of

needed items and foodstuffs will be supplied upon request.



The **Alan P. Linton Emergency Shelter** has a need for men's winter gloves, white crew socks, hot cups of instant soup, bottled water, instant tea or lemonade mixes, backpacks, sleeping bags and a great many other items. To learn more, call the shelter at 301-631-2670, ext. 112. Items may be dropped off at the shelter between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at 27 DeGrange St.



New toys, games, and childrens books and art supplies are some of the needs expressed by the **UpCounty Family Center** in Emmitsburg. For more information, contact Liza Frye, Director, at 301-447-2310 or email efrye@cc-md.org.



Stone Bridge Transitional Home is in need of items for residents for Christmas. Gift cards to discount stores, passes for entertainment, craft supplies and school supplies would be helpful. Stone Bridge serves boys ages 6 to 12 and girls ages 6 to 17. A full list of items can be obtained from their website at www.brooklane.org.



The **Frederick County Humane Society** runs a year-round Emergency Pet Food Bank at their facility and are in constant need of replenishment. Donations of canned or unopened bags of dog and cat food and cat litter are most welcomed and appreciated. Donations may be dropped off at 217 W. Patrick Street. For more information contact Brigitte Farrell, Executive Director, at director@fchs.org or visit their website www.fchs.org.

Save the Date!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 19th, 2009



Please contact Stacey White or Paul Winzer at
301.663.5214 ext. 2# or e-mail
yac@volunteerfrederick.org for more information
about the events that will be taking place during this
national day of service.

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