



Youth Serving Animals: Helping Furry Friends

Do you have a special place in your heart for a certain furry friend? Do you wish you had a pet, but your parents won't let you? The theme of this issue is youth service with an emphasis on how youth can help animals.

Almost 3 million cats and dogs enter shelters each year and are euthanized, so there is most certainly something that can be done! The following are some ways youth can help animals in need:

***Participate in a cat or dog food drive or coordinate your own.** Volunteer Frederick recently hosted an animal food drive on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, where we accepted dog and cat food from attendees which was donated to the local shelter. Partner with Frederick County Humane Society who is looking for volunteers to collect pet food donations for their Emergency Pet Food Bank.

***Volunteer at a local shelter or farm.** Although orientation is required at most nonprofit organizations, once you complete the requested, it is easy to begin building a bond with the many types of animals there. See the Days End article to find out how you can volunteer with horses.

***Foster a pet.** Taking a pet into your care, helps a shelter with the overwhelming need of space that they may not have to house that animal. Frederick County Animal Control is a great place to find unwanted animals that you can foster. Stop by their office every Saturday morning to see animals in need of a temporary home. For more information call them at 301-694-8300.

***Join an organization that supports animals.** This is an easy way to become involved and to help in a behind-the-scenes way. For example, Small Angels Rescue, based in Frederick, helps to stop the killing of small varmints such as mice, gerbils, rats, and chinchillas. To find opportunities, visit 1-800-Volunteer.org on our website.

There are so many opportunities to help your furry friends, so get out there! ●

Agency Profile:

Days End Farm Horse Rescue

Youth volunteers help with the treatment and care of abused and neglected horses



These youth work together to pick up hay at Days End Farm.

Did you know that 59.3% of youth, ages 12-17, volunteer an average of 3.5 hours a week? With youth volunteering being at a record high, more youngsters are trying to find organizations to volunteer with, especially in the spring and summer months.

Days End Farm Horse Rescue is a volunteer based nonprofit that provides care for unwanted, abused, or neglected horses. Since its inception in 1989, Days End has grown steadily from housing only

a few horses to currently housing up to sixty horses on its grounds. Over 1,200 volunteers, both adults and youth, help the farm to fulfill its mission: *Ensuring quality care and treatment of horses through intervention, education, and outreach.* In 2008 alone, volunteers gave over 33,000 hours of service to Days End!

Horses are housed on a 58 acre farm in Lisbon, Maryland, with 40 fenced acres of pastures, paddocks, three barns, and a petting zoo. Volunteers are needed on a daily basis to work with the horses and petting zoo animals and are educated about horse rehabilitation.

Youth over the age of 12 can volunteer without a parent after attending a mandatory orientation which is held on the second Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Once volunteers attend orientation, they can choose a specific volunteer opportunity of interest to them. Some opportunities require more experience than others and may involve tests or evaluations from the staff before beginning. Mucking and cleaning around the barn, watering and feeding the horses, office work, building/ground maintenance and fundraising events are just some of the ways that volunteers can lend a hand.

All of these opportunities are hands-on, with room for growth for any youth volunteer. Not only does Days End count on their volunteers to assist them day-to-day, there are also many special events that take place in which volunteers can help. Coming up on June 6 there is the Volunteer Clean up Day and Cook-Out. During this time, all volunteers help to get ready for the Spring Open House with activities including painting buildings, mending fences and cleaning out stalls.

Days End is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., seven days a week and volunteering is flexible with only a three hour minimum required per visit. To register for orientation, e-mail your name and contact information to info@defhr.org or call the office at 301-854-5037. For any questions about volunteer opportunities for either individuals or groups, please contact DeEtte Gorrie, Volunteer Coordinator, at deette@defh.org. ●

2009 BIG Sweep Results!

Over 1,100 volunteers representing 71 community organizations raised over \$54,000, a record, for their respective causes for the 8th annual BIG Sweep! On April 25, volunteers cleaned Frederick County and City roads, parks and watersheds and picked up 15.32 tons of trash and recyclable items and 389 tires weighing 8.6 tons.



The winning photo for the 2009 BIG Sweep Photo Contest, submitted by Team 25.

The three organizations turning in the most funds by the deadline were Small Angels Rescue raising \$3,488, Frederick Area Swim Team raising \$3,474, and Brunswick Food Bank raising \$2,973. Thanks to all who helped to make this event a success, from our volunteers to our great sponsors! **Congratulations!** •



From the Volunteer & Medical Reserve Corp: H1N1 Flu

Volunteer Frederick's Volunteer & Medical Reserve Corps (V&MRC) strives to support Frederick County and supplement resources in public health emergencies, disaster preparedness initiatives, and response efforts.

V&MRC members recently responded to a request from the Frederick County Health Department to help staff the H1N1 Flu (formerly Swine Flu) call center. The Health Department set up this hotline to take calls from the public looking for information about H1N1 flu. Everyone can help keep Frederick County healthy and prepared by staying informed and taking the simple

precautions recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) such as washing hands frequently and staying home from work if feeling sick.

For more information regarding H1N1 Flu visit the Center for Disease Control website <http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> or the Frederick County Health Department's Flu Page by going to the Frederick County Government website. For questions regarding the Volunteer & Medical Reserve Corps please contact Stephanie Schepp at 301-663-5214 ext. 4# or Stephanies@volunteerfrederick.org. •

Volunteer Frederick Celebrates Inspiring Frederick County Youth Volunteers



Members of Volunteer Frederick's YAC and YAC, Jr. recognized at the Youth Volunteer Ceremony.

On Thursday, April 30, Volunteer Frederick hosted its seventh annual Youth Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, honoring 132 youth volunteers from Frederick County for their outstanding service to the community. Seventy-four of these youth received the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award, an award created by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation to recognize and honor Americans whose committed volunteer efforts inspire others.

Together, these 132 inspirational youth dedicated more than 14, 403 hours to volunteering. Their activities included, but were not limited to, mentoring local youth, assisting people with disabilities, organizing canned food drives for local food banks, hosting events like the Senior-Senior Prom for adults with disabilities, participating in mission trips both within the United States and abroad, and starting new service clubs to engage even more youth in volunteerism.

Stacey White, Volunteer Frederick's Youth Service Director, was very impressed by the youth honored at the Ceremony, "I am blown away by the magnitude and diversity of the community service that these youth have engaged in. Not only was I inspired by their achievements, but I think hearing about each other's projects inspired them to continue their work in the community and expand it in new directions."

Devonna Bell, a former participant of Volunteer Frederick's youth service-learning programs, kicked off the ceremony with a keynote address detailing how important her participation in service projects was in defining her life. Delegate Rick Weldon, CEO and President of the United Way of Frederick County; Karlys Kline, Founder of the Women's Giving Circle of Frederick County; Donna Kuzemchak, Alderwoman for the City of Frederick; Jim Ferrant, FCPS Service-Learning Coordinator; Melissa Sines, Volunteer Frederick Board Vice-President; and Amy Benton, Senior Vice President of Sandy Spring Bank were among those in attendance.

These dedicated community leaders and dignitaries showed

their support for the youth by reading youth nominations and handing out Certificates of Recognition and the President's Volunteer Service Award.

"It was really interesting to see how many of these amazing youth started their volunteer work through Volunteer Frederick's SummerServe and SummerServe Express programs," noted Stacey White. This summer marks the twelfth year of Volunteer Frederick's SummerServe program. For more information on this and other volunteer opportunities, call Volunteer Frederick's Youth Service department at (301) 663-5214, x2#. •

Expansion of the Pro Bono Consulting Program!



Volunteer Frederick announces the expansion of its Pro Bono Consulting Program by way of the VIRE (Volunteer Impact, Retention and Expansion) Grant from HandsOn Network. The Pro Bono program matches volunteers with high-impact short-term projects at agencies and organizations.

Volunteer Frederick is excited to introduce Donna Kuzemchak, the new Pro Bono Consulting Coordinator. She has worked in the Frederick County School System as a substitute teacher and a volunteer for the past 18 years. She is currently serving her 3rd term as an Alderwoman for the City of Frederick and participates in Leadership Frederick County.

Donna will be meeting with organizations in the Frederick area to discuss their project needs and then matching these needs with local professionals.

For information on the program, please contact Donna at donnak@volunteerfrederick.org or 301-663-5214, ext. 0#.

Welcome aboard, Donna! •

Host the Volunteer Frederick Sign!

Volunteer Frederick is asking businesses located downtown to consider displaying a Volunteer Frederick sign on its premise for a month-long period. The sign includes brochures and newsletters for people who may be interested in volunteering and shows local businesses support for community involvement.

The sign, shown, will include your business name at the top stating, "<Your Business> agrees...Volunteers make Frederick County a better place to call home!"

To host the sign, please contact Eve at 301-663-5214 ext. 7# or eves@volunteerfrederick.org. •



RSVP Updates

Volunteer Frederick RSVP Members are "The Ultimate Gift"



City of Frederick Alderman Alan Imhoff presents RSVP Volunteer Ardine Gorden with a Gold Presidential Service Award (picture courtesy of Natalie Leonard)

Volunteer Frederick recognized its retired and senior volunteers at a celebration ceremony on March 27, 2009 at Frederick Community College's Jack B. Kussmaul Theatre. The theme of the event was "Volunteers – The Ultimate Gift". Seventy-five RSVP Volunteers were in attendance and received Presidential Service Awards for their efforts in meeting critical community needs.

Overall, 230 volunteer received Presidential Awards. The volunteers were joined by Volunteer Frederick staff, elected officials and nonprofit agency representatives to honor their achievements. Michael Cronin, Volunteer Frederick's Board President opened the ceremony, followed by Executive Director Lisa Orr, and RSVP Project Director Suzanne Franklin. Julianna Albowicz, a representative from Senator Barbara Milkulski's office read a special message from the Senator, and Robin Summerfield from Senator Ben Cardin's office read a message from President Obama regarding the recent passage of the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act. Mayor Jeff Holtzinger was also in attendance and presented Volunteer Frederick staff with a city proclamation citing March 27, 2009 as "RSVP Day", and City of Frederick Alderman Alan Imhoff presented each recipient with their award.

RSVP Director Suzanne Franklin stated "that goodness just doesn't happen. It happens person by person. The service our volunteers give to their communities, we feel, is the ultimate gift. They are vital to the growth of area agencies". Individual RSVP volunteers, such as

Jennie Sue Pearson were recognized for their involvement as Leadership Team members with Volunteer Frederick's Volunteer Mobilization Center. James Cox received a special certificate for his work with the Volunteer Frederick Pro Bono program and Sandy Powell received special recognition for her in-house assistance with RSVP Program.

Ardine Gorden, a CAPS volunteer with the Frederick County Sheriffs office and several other members of the CAPS program were also honored. Ardine says that "volunteering is something that I really enjoy. It gives me something to do, and gives back to the community. I enjoy meeting people and have made so many friends". ●



RSVP Volunteers (L to R) Jennie Sue Pearson, Judy Hallman and Betty Baggett (picture courtesy of Natalie Leonard).

RSVP Breakfast Club Update

The Volunteer Frederick RSVP Breakfast Club had its fourth meeting on April 17, 2009. RSVP volunteers joined Volunteer Frederick staff to hear Sharon Hannaby from Frederick Memorial Hospital talk about her organization and available volunteer opportunities. Several members from the FMH Auxillary, who are also RSVP members, were in attendance and shared their experiences as volunteers with the hospital and how much they enjoy their time there.



This month Dianne Khara from Hospice of Frederick County will be joining us on May 22 and Maret Sisas from Big Brothers Big Sisters will be our speaker on June 19.

The RSVP Breakfast Club's purpose is for RSVP members to get to know each other and to learn about different volunteer opportunities via guest speakers from area agencies. Presentations will last 15 minutes. If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Suzannefranklin@volunteerfrederick.org to register. ●

Youth Volunteer Opportunities



If you missed your chance to sign up for SummerServe or SummerServe Express, there are still many volunteer opportunities available this Spring! See below for some ideas or visit 1-800Volunteer.org!

Birthday Party Volunteers at the Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo - Help with the birthday party of Gladys (tortoise) and Caz (Cassowary). Assist with information, event preparation, planning and mailing, man information booths, help with guest activities and more from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Minimum age requirements: 15 and over. Contact Brandi Owens, Volunteer Coordinator at 301-271-4922 or email volunteer@cwpxoo.com.

Wildlife Habitat Volunteers at Windstar Wildlife Institute - Volunteer workers are needed to help maintain a 4-acre demonstration wildlife habitat near Myersville. Activities include planting a wildflower meadow, repairing and installing nesting boxes, creating brush piles, weeding, pruning, photography and more. To volunteer, contact Tom Patrick, Executive Director, at 301-293-3351 or email wildlife@windstar.org.

Adopt-A-Resident Volunteer at St. Catherine's Nursing Home - Volunteers who want to spend quality time with residents are always needed. These volunteers would visit regularly, write letters and cards to the residents and remember them on special occasions with small gifts. Minimum age for volunteers is 18+ for individuals. It is also a great family volunteering opportunity. Mary Grist would love to hear from interested parties and she can be reached at 301-447-7000 or via email at mgrist@scncah.org.

Internship/Service Learning Opportunity with Northampton Manor Health Care Center - Under supervision, volunteers provide one-on-one visitation and activity support to residents including supporting daily recreation/leisure activity programs, special projects and events. For more information, contact Beth Montgomery at emontgomery@magnoliamgmt.com or call 301-662-8700.

Historical Internship at Schifferstadt Architectural Museum - A multi-faceted program that encourages hands-on learning, self-confidence, and a willingness to learn historic/business practices. Sample activities include serving as a docent, data entry, research, group projects and various museum management tasks. Interested volunteers should email Jillian Roberts at Schifferstadt@verizon.net. Interns should be either high school or college age.

Administrative Assistant Internship at Frederick Co. Landmarks Foundation - Interns would support office administrator and perform clerical, computer and office related tasks. In addition, they would prepare and conduct mass mailings, assist with special event promotions and coordination, learn research skills, etc. To learn more, contact Elizabeth Martin at 301-668-6088 or email eamartin@fredcolandmarks.org.

Volunteer Actors with the Kid's Theater - Aspiring cast members are being sought for the summer production of "Pete Pan". Roles are open to all hardworking volunteer actors between the ages of 6 and 18. No acting experience is necessary. The August 21-22 performances will benefit local disabled and disadvantaged people in the community. Contact Colleen McCarrick, Director, at KidsTheatre@officeliveusers.com.

Fundraising and Event Volunteer at Small Angels Rescue - Volunteers needed to serve on a fundraising committee for animal rescue of chinchillas, gerbils, hamsters, mice and rats. Events to participate in and raise money include, yard sales, gala's, The BIG Sweep, movie nights and e-mail campaigns. For more information, contact Angela Moxley at armoxley@gmail.com or call 301-668-3117.



Remembering Board Member Francie Billotti Wood



The Board and staff of Volunteer Frederick are grieving the loss of Francie Billotti Wood and her family. We extend our most sincere sympathies to all members of her extended family and the entire family's community of friends.

In her short time with Volunteer Frederick, Francie exuded enthusiasm, intelligence and creativity. She readily jumped at the opportunity to lead Volunteer Frederick's Marketing and

Development Task Force. On April 10th, she participated in a Lunch 'n Learn with Volunteer Frederick staff and board members to share ideas and strategies gained from attending the Nonprofit Summit on March 25.

Francie was delighted to be back engaged in the community where she grew up. She often shared stories about her children and family; her passion for life and giving back came through during every interaction.

She will be greatly missed by Volunteer Frederick's, Board of Directors, Executive Director Lisa Orr, and staff. To honor her passion for community engagement, Volunteer Frederick's 2009 BIG Sweep on April 25 was dedicated to Francie Billotti Wood. •

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Visit our web site at:
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