

the volunteer center

Serving San Francisco and San Mateo Counties

Supporting volunteers in *your* community since 1946.

May 2009 Newsletter

Number 26

Hats Off!

By: Damien Chacona

2009 Volunteer Award Winners

Since 1992, The Volunteer Awards have raised awareness about inspirational volunteers, nonprofits and businesses who continue to raise the bar in community involvement.

The Volunteer Center congratulates the winners of the 2009 Bay Area Volunteer Awards, and will honor all 2009 Bay Area Volunteer Awards winners and nominees at The Volunteer Center's annual volunteer celebration, Hats Off! A Celebration of Volunteer Heroes! sponsored by Kaiser Permanente.

Volunteer and Be Celebrated!

Volunteer at Hats Off! A Celebration of Volunteer Heroes! on May 6, 2009. You can help set-up the event, interact with partygoers while bussing glassware, and/or help break-down once all of the celebrating is over.

Sign-up online!

Many of the volunteer shifts take place after normal work/school hours. If you're interested in helping out, but one of our time slots doesn't work for you, please contact us! We'll find a way to make it work!

Thank you for your interest!

2009 National Conference Update!

By: John Power



June 22-24
Moscone Center - West

During tough economic times, volunteers are more important than ever in keeping nonprofits running, growing, and thriving. The 2009 National Conference on Volunteering and Service, June 22-24 at Moscone-West in San Francisco offers hundreds of learning and networking opportunities to help maximize volunteer engagement today, to see far-reaching results tomorrow.

Early-bird registration extended to May 15, 2009.
Don't miss it!

Volunteer for National Conference:
Get Involved! Be a part of the team that makes it happen!

Volunteering is Up!

By: Jill Blackburn

A convergence of situations, some positive and some negative, has resulted in more people getting out and giving back to their communities.

We've been hearing a buzz from around the country about volunteerism. From the President's national call to service, Governor Schwarzenegger's appointment of Karen Baker as the first cabinet-level Secretary of Service and Volunteering, the newly approved Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, and the economic downturn ensuring that more people have more time on their hands, we are experiencing a watershed moment in the volume and extent of volunteerism.

The Volunteer Center surveyed the Nonprofit Volunteer Leaders Council to find out if the increased interest in service and the increased unemployment rate has actually translated into action. Is it just a perception that more people are

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DONATE!

Fun and Useful Fact:

The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$20.25 per hour for 2008.

TVC Wishlist

Conference Table
Digital camera
Fan
Fax Machine
Jump drives
Laminating Machine
New phone system
Projector
Shredder
Vacuum

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volunteering, or is this perceived groundswell a reality?

A representative of [Shelter Network](#) indicated that not only have they experienced a significant increase in volunteers, there is also an increased need for services: "The number of volunteers helping at Shelter Network increased by 157% between 2007 and 2008. The hours also increased by 36%."

And continues, "Between July '08 to present, our request for shelter services has tripled. Over the past year, volunteers provided the work equivalent of 22 full time employees. For our clients this means we can shift more money into programs and help them get back on their feet and back to self-sufficiency and market-rate housing in a more timely manner."

Similarly, [Lyon-Martin Health Services](#) in San Francisco has "seen a tremendous increase in the number of people inquiring about volunteering at the clinic. In response to increased inquiries, we have added more formal 'tracks' for volunteers. We now offer 'front office', 'clinic', 'mental health' or 'business' options for volunteers. We put our volunteer application and a detailed description of volunteer opportunities on our website.

More of our patients, who don't have jobs or insurance, and can't afford to pay for their healthcare are offering to volunteer at/for the clinic out of gratitude for their visit."

All responding agencies indicated similar findings: not only are there more volunteers, but the demand for their services has increased as well. So whether you're a student, you're employed or you're in search of employment, there is something out there for you to do, and your time volunteering will be well spent!

[Find an opportunity that meets your needs](#) at The Volunteer Center, and get involved!

BACVC Member Spotlight - Pacific Gas and Electric Company

By: Julia Love

The Volunteer Center's Bay Area Corporate Volunteer Council (BACVC) engages businesses in supporting the nonprofit sector through employee volunteering and advises them on how to tie those efforts to their philanthropic goals, corporate social responsibility strategies and business success.



Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) joined the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF) on Saturday, April 25, 2009, to celebrate Earth Day and clean up and restore 16 parks in Northern and Central California.

PG&E granted \$170,000 to CSPF to help fund these important events, and more than 1,200 company employees, retirees and their families participated in volunteer efforts. At the 16 sites, PG&E volunteers cleaned up the shoreline, planted trees and shrubs, removed invasive non-native plants, and cleared trash and debris.

This year marked the eighth consecutive year that PG&E partnered with CSPF on the Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup program. Overall, PG&E has granted more than \$850,000 to fund vital maintenance and improvement projects at California's parks with more than 5,000 PG&E employees contributing thousands of volunteer hours.

These are among the few reasons why The Volunteer Center is pleased to honor PG&E with the 2009 Corporate Community Involvement Award!

[About Pacific Gas and Electric Company](#)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to 15 million people in northern and central California. For more information, visit www.pge.com/about/.

And to learn more about the Bay Area Corporate Volunteer Council, please click [here](#)!

NVLC Member Spotlight -

Community Vocational Enterprises, Inc.

By: Kelleigh Trowbridge

The Volunteer Center's Nonprofit Volunteer Leaders Council (NVLC) provides a platform for Bay Area nonprofit professionals to access the resources they need for volunteer program development and management, facilitates a forum for these professionals to tap into a peer network for support, and provides a venue for cross-sector interaction with its sister-council the Bay Area Corporate Volunteer Council.



CVE Inc., a nonprofit social enterprise, was founded in 1986 to address the issues of unemployment and underemployment of individuals with mental health disabilities living in San Francisco.

A social enterprise describes any nonprofit, for-profit, or hybrid corporate form that utilizes market based strategies to advance a social mission. CVE is pleased to share that 71% of our clients are still gainfully employed two years after receiving CVE's services.

For more information on CVE, Inc., please [click here!](#)

TVP Volunteer Spotlight -

Teresa Smith

By: Matt Miller

The Volunteer Center's Transitional Volunteer Program (TVP) provides vocational counseling to people with mental health disabilities. TVP places clients in volunteer jobs as a means of transitioning to a life of work - more than 120 placements per year.

Teresa Smith is a longstanding Transitional Volunteer with an outstanding record of commitment and service.



Teresa began working with TVP well over two years ago. In her time as a volunteer her dedication and service has had a profound impact on the organization where she works, Support for Families of Children with Disabilities. Teresa says, "Through participating in TVP, I have been able to show up for a volunteer job consistently. I feel as though I am able to do more and am looking forward to working with [TVP] to find a second opportunity. I am very happy with my placement and the TVP counselors were very helpful and thoughtful."

Since working with Support for Families, Teresa has been able to provide invaluable help through her tireless administrative support and committed work ethic. For her long-term commitment and desire to volunteer we would like to recognize Teresa as an exceptional example of the impact made by Transitional Volunteers.

To find out more information about hosting a TVP volunteer at your nonprofit, please contact Matt Miller, Vocational Counselor, at 415-982-8999 Ext 245 or by email: mmiller@thevolunteercenter.net.

FYI - Upcoming Dates!

Hats Off!: A Celebration of Volunteer Heroes

Ordinary People, Extraordinary Action

May 6, 2009

San Francisco, CA

Creating and Running a Successful Volunteer Program

May 13, 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

San Francisco, CA

[Register!](#)

The Merrill Lynch Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management Presents: Benevon - Creating Sustainable Funding For Nonprofits

May 15, 2009

8:30 am - 11:00 am

San Francisco, CA

[Register!](#)

BACVC Special Topic Meeting

May 19, 2009

Oakland, CA

Email for information

Board Service Information Session

May 21, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

San Francisco, CA

[Register!](#)

Microfinance: It's Happening in our Backyard
May 28, 2009
8:00 am - 7:30 pm
Palo Alto, CA

NVLC General Meeting
New Date: May 29, 2009
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
San Mateo, CA

Engaging the Business Community
June 10th
San Francisco, CA
Register!

National Conference on Volunteering and Service
June 22- 24, 2009
San Francisco, CA
Register!

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