

**Connecting Resources. People. Organizations.**

October 2009 Newsletter

Number 31

## **The Entertainment Industry Foundation's iParticipate Initiative**

By: [Damien Chacona](#)

The Entertainment Industry Foundation has created a multi-year campaign called iParticipate to make service and volunteerism a national priority. The campaign kicks off with a week-long television event running from October 19 - 25, 2009.

During that week, America's most-loved television shows on ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, and other broadcast networks will spotlight service through scripted programming, segments and Public Service Announcements with inspirational messages and storylines about volunteerism.



For more information on EIF's iParticipate campaign, including a list of the shows that will feature volunteerism during the week of October 19th, visit [www.iparticipate.org](http://www.iparticipate.org). Make sure your organization's volunteer opportunities are included in this initiative. To post your volunteer opportunities please visit [www.thevolunteercenter.net](http://www.thevolunteercenter.net)!

## **The Board Match Experience - San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus**

By: [Michael Lynch](#)

Since our engagement as in-house entertainment at The Volunteer Center's 2007 Hats Off! event, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus has had a close eye on the great work TVC does in and for the community. Already in our 4th decade, we were looking to expand our board of directors.

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**DONATE!**

### **Fun and Useful Fact:**

The Serve America Act more than triples the size of AmeriCorps.

[Find out how to apply for an AmeriCorps volunteer today!](#)

### **TVC Wishlist**

Conference table  
Digital camera  
Fan  
USB jump drives  
Laminating machine  
New phone system  
Portable projector  
Shredder  
Vacuum cleaner

[Please contact us](#) if you would like to donate to



Faced with the unique challenge of attracting community members who were not necessarily San Francisco residents and who happen to be gay male singers, we took the opportunity at The Board Match, sponsored by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, to recast our ask: "we're looking for board members who reflect the face of our audience". We found more people--especially corporate folk--were interested in seeing how they could be involved with an historic cultural icon like the Chorus.

We met some great supporters and fans, and had an opportunity to answer questions from some corporate HR professionals asking, "What is it you need?" What we needed was board members in the professional services (Finance, CPA, HR management, Strategic Planning, etc). We had a great conversation with Brian Maxwell at Deloitte, who took our board service packet to circulate among his talent pool, and low and behold we met, interviewed, vetted (and were vetted by) a wonderful candidate who has joined our board for a three-year term.

With exposure at The Board Match event, using all of the helpful hints and tools provided by The Volunteer Center, we were able to express our need, expand our board, and build our confidence that we can attract top-rate talent to help us fulfill our mission. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus is registered for The Board Match 2010, and is already putting our board service packets together. We'll see you there!

To learn more and to register your nonprofit for The Board Match 2010, please [click here!](#)

## Meet TVC's AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer

By: [Jennifer Maples](#)

Hello!

The Volunteer Center

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My name is Jennifer Maples and I've come to The Volunteer Center (TVC) as an Americorps VISTA sponsored by CaliforniaVolunteers. Americorps VISTA is the national service program that places volunteers in a yearlong position at a nonprofit organization or local government agency fighting poverty. Along with 26 other CaliforniaVolunteers VISTAs across the state, I will work to strengthen nonprofits throughout California that serve people living in poverty by helping them increase their use of volunteers. I am serving my VISTA year working fulltime in TVC's Consulting and Training Department.

Over the coming year, I will focus on reaching out to nonprofits in San Francisco and San Mateo counties.



As a member of the Consulting and Training Department, I will engage nonprofits to investigate how volunteers can be used to carry out their missions and enhance the effectiveness of their programming. Additionally, I will work to deepen relationships with agencies already utilizing TVC's services as well as support members of TVC's Nonprofit Volunteer Leaders Council.

I'm excited to join TVC's staff because I believe that volunteerism is a key component in community success and health. During my recent involvement in Week of Caring and at the Bay Area Volunteer Leaders Forum, I have already begun to gain exposure to the wide variety of nonprofits engaging community volunteers in innovative ways.

I'm a Bay Area native and after working as an administrator at a technical company, I've taken President Obama's call to service to heart and decided to dedicate a year to exploring how I can enrich my community through volunteerism. I'm looking forward to a year at The Volunteer Center learning and sharing about how volunteer resources and training inform and enrich our communities!

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### **BACVC Member *Holiday* Spotlights -**

Advent Software  
Franklin Templeton Investments  
Levi Strauss & Co.  
McKesson  
Pacific Gas & Electric Company  
Wells Fargo

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*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.*

Every holiday season the Bay Area Corporate Volunteer Council's member companies engage their employees in a variety of fun, meaningful and much needed volunteer activities. Read on for a small sampling of some of the unique and impactful activities they have planned for this year!

**Advent Software's** San Francisco and Boston offices will host gift drives for homeless youth and youth in the foster care system, respectively. Their San Francisco and New York offices will also host food drives benefiting local food banks.

**Franklin Templeton Investments** holds a traditional toy drive, which culminates in an Executive Elf Challenge where company execs must wrap oddly-shaped gifts while blindfolded. The winner is named Top Elf. After the challenge is complete, employees participate in an on-site volunteer project to wrap and tag all of the donated gifts in the company cafeteria around the lunch hour.

**Levi Strauss & Co.** will have their annual holiday gift drive where they adopt 17 Bay Area nonprofit organizations. These agencies range from children and families to elderly individuals. Their employees are very passionate about this annual event and donated over 500 gifts last year.

**McKesson's** Corporate Citizenship department will host a coat drive and encourage employees to donate new or gently used clean coats for the One Warm Coat organization. Bay Area employees will also be participating in an "Angel Tree" program to collect toys for the Bay Area Crisis Nursery and the Family Service Agency of San Francisco.

**PG&Eers** will assist children to glide on the ice in wheelchairs, shoes, skates, walkers and folding chairs atop the roof of the Moscone Center in San Francisco to help the Support for Families of Children with Disabilities at their holiday event this year.

**Wells Fargo** works with nonprofit agencies statewide for their Adopt A Family program. Teams commit to providing their adopted family with a \$100 grocery gift certificate and

at least two new gifts per child. Last year over 600 teams participated in the project.

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

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## **NVLC Member Spotlight - SFJAZZ**

[By: Rick Warren](#)

*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.*

SFJAZZ presents a wealth of year-round programs, including the internationally acclaimed San Francisco Jazz Festival, the SFJAZZ Spring Season and numerous community outreach and education programs.

From the beginning, a dedicated group of volunteers has been essential to the success of SFJAZZ. Volunteers lend a hand to a wide variety of SFJAZZ activities: they usher, sell merchandise, greet concert attendees, work as backstage monitors, serve guests at special events and provide essential assistance at the SFJAZZ offices. From age 18 to 88, they are working people, students and retirees, from a wide variety of backgrounds, that all share one thing in common: a love of jazz.

The SFJAZZ logo consists of the word "SFJAZZ" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, centered on a solid black rectangular background.

Over 300 people pitch in each year. "Like many nonprofit organizations, we are seeing an influx of volunteer requests this year. But we're always looking for more volunteers to fill our many show needs," says Rick Warren, head of the SFJAZZ volunteer program.

Starting with the upcoming San Francisco Jazz Festival (October 10 - November 21), SFJAZZ began using Shiftboard, the volunteer management system. This online scheduling and database program makes it easy to post items to a calendar, and allows the volunteer real-time access to available shifts and the ability to print their own assignments. "This program has really opened up the way we are able to communicate with our dedicated volunteers on

a daily basis, and is allowing me to focus on all the other needs of the department."

For more information about the volunteer program at SFJAZZ, contact [Rick Warren](#) or [click here to get more information](#).

*And to learn more about the Nonprofit Volunteer Leaders Council, please [click here](#)!*

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## **TVP Volunteer Spotlight - Lauren F.**

*By: [Matt Miller](#)*

*The Volunteer Center's Transitional Volunteer Program (TVP) provides vocational training 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.*

Lauren F. amazes everyone she comes into contact with. From her fellow churchgoers, to the grateful staff at Support for Families of Children with Disabilities, Lauren touches people everywhere she goes. She began her work with the Transitional Volunteer Program almost two years ago. Since then she has contributed to the organization where she has worked in such a substantial way it is nothing short of spectacular.



For over two years, Lauren has done everything from organizing a resource library, answering phones and providing valuable administrative support to watching disabled children as their parents access the services provided by Support for Families of Children with Disabilities. By every account she is a volunteer angel.

Currently, she donates more than 20 hours per week to Support for Families because of the way their work has changed her life and the lives of so many others. We thank Lauren for showing us all what a huge impact a volunteer can make.

*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](mailto:mmiller@thevolunteercenter.net).*

## **FYI - Upcoming Dates!**

Working Smarter: Surviving and Thriving During Tough Times  
- FREE!

October 15 - Silicon Valley (San Jose)

October 21 - San Diego

October 22 - San Joaquin Valley (Stockton)

[Please click here to register for one of these conferences!](#)

Nonprofit Boards: Effective Governance in Nonprofit Organizations Today

October 20-21, 2009

Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley

[Please click here to apply!](#)

Make a Difference Day

October 24, 2009

[Please click here for more information and to get involved!](#)

2009 Nonprofit Conference: Rethinking Conventional Wisdom

October 29, 2009

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

San Rafael, CA

[Please click here to register!](#)

**The Board Match Application Period Closes!**

October 29, 2009

[Click here to apply today!](#)

The Board Match event

January 12, 2010

4:30 - 7:30 pm

Moscone South, San Francisco

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