

WHY VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering provides a variety of personal benefits and satisfaction, in addition to the benefits received by the organizations and society as a whole.

According to the Points of Light Foundation's web site, in a recent survey, volunteers were asked a series of questions about the reasons they volunteered, and the findings confirm what is already well known: The most important reasons cited were:

- ✓ 86% Feeling compassion for those in need;
- ✓ 72% Having an interest in the activity or work
- ✓ 70% Gaining a new perspective on things; and
- ✓ 63% The importance of the activity to people that the volunteer respects.

After the September 11 terrorist attacks, President George W. Bush called for Americans to perform two years-or the equivalent of 4,000 hours-of their lifetimes in citizen service. President Bush said, "We will make a determined attack on need, by promoting the compassionate acts of others. We will rally the armies of compassion in our communities to fight a very different war against poverty and hopefulness, a daily battle waged house to house and heart by heart."

Points of Light's National Volunteer Week, April 27-May 3, 2003 (The Spirit of America), is one example of spotlighting the efforts of those who go the extra mile to make a difference, and to encourage others to get involved and answer that call.

Here are some important volunteer programs and dates:

National Youth Service Day - April 11-13, 2003. Theme: The Power of Youth Serving Youth. National Youth Service Day has three primary goals: to recognize the year-round service and volunteering efforts of millions of young people nationwide; to recruit a new generation and cadre of citizens that are both participants and supporters of youth service organizations; and to promote young people as resources rather than problems. For more information contact: Youth Service America, (202) 296-2992 Ext. 34 or www.ysa.org or www.youthserve.net

Join Hands Day - June 21, 2003. Theme: Youth and Adults Volunteering Together. The goal of Join Hands Day is to begin making connections and friendships across generations that will continue long after the day is over. For more information contact Join Hands Day Action Center, 1-877-OUR-IDAY or www.joinhandsday.org.

Make a Difference Day - October 25, 2003. Theme: A National Day to Help Others. Make a Difference Day is a national community service effort designed to challenge and reward volunteers. More than one million citizens are committed to spending the fourth Saturday in October "making a difference" in their communities. For more information contact, 1-800-416-3824 or www.makeadifferenceday.com.

National Family Volunteer Day - November 22, 2003. Theme: My Family Matters We VOLUNTEER! The Points of Light launched the Family Matters initiative to encourage and engage families in community-oriented projects. The program rests on the powerful principle that a volunteering family benefits itself, the community and the nation at large. For more information contact, Points of Light, 1-800-VOLUNTEER or www.pointsoflight.org/familyMatters.oriz and www.alliancel.org.

If you're looking for community service opportunities, please contact your local Volunteer Center or Chamber of Commerce for ideas. We have also included a listing of activities you or your family can be involved with in your communities. Mother Teresa once said, "Love cannot remain by itself - it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service."

DOOR COUNTY

Volunteer Center of Door County
345 S. 18th Avenue
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
(920) 746-7704

Fox Cities

Volunteer Center of East Central Wis. Inc.
820 W. College Avenue Suite 2
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 832-9360
E-mail: vcenter@athenet.net

LAKESHORE

RSVP & The Volunteer Center of
Manitowoc County
2 N. 8th Street Suite 211
Manitowoc, WI 54220
(920) 686-2461
E-Mail: vc_c@hfmhealth.org

Brown County

Volunteer Center Inc. of Brown
County
984 9 Street
Green Bay, WI 54304
(920) 429-9445
E-Mail: gbvolctr_c@netnet.net
Web Site: www.vounteergb.org