

# Minutes

## Franklin County Volunteer Network

Friday, April 9, 2010

Mt. Blue Regional School District Administrative Offices, Mt. Blue Middle School

**Present:** Isaac Frith, AmeriCorps\*VISTA with United Way of the Tri-Valley Area; Michelle Mason, VISTA member with SeniorsPlus; Lisa Laflin, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area; Rick Dorian, LEAP; Allison Wood, UMF intern, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area; Cindy Brophy, Western Maine Community Action; Dennis O'Neil, Community Member and Volunteer Extraordinaire; Nancy Teel, Volunteer Coordinator for the Community Energy Challenge; Pauline Rodrigue, MBRSD Volunteer Coordinator; Trudy Hamilton, SeniorsPlus

**Regrets:** Linda Rood, HealthReach RSVP, Crystal Cook, United Methodist Economic Ministry

### Welcome and Sharing:

#### **Rick Dorian, LEAP, Inc.:**

- LEAP is seeing a rise in volunteering for the organization. Many projects in the works. This rise has left the organization scrambling, however, and is looking forward to having a more coordinated effort. Will be recognizing volunteers at a recognition event on April 22. LEAP, Inc. engaged over 100 volunteers in 2009.

#### **Nancy Teel**

- Nancy noted she had been absent from the group for a number of meetings but still wants to be actively involved. She had been very busy over the winter and early spring coordinating the Community Energy Challenge. She engaged 50 volunteers, 24 of whom were actively measuring, building and installing interior storm window panels throughout Greater Franklin County.

#### **Michelle Mason**

- Continues to enjoy serving at SeniorsPlus as an AmeriCorps\*VISTA member.

#### **Isaac Frith**

- Isaac discussed his transition from helping with the Community Energy Challenge to supporting the work of the Franklin Volunteer Network. He will provide administrative support and be able to help with special projects as part of his VISTA service, which is completed in late August, 2010.

#### **Pauline**

- Pauline has been extraordinarily busy with Kindergarten registration, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade career fair and the Community Read at Cascade Brook School, which was supported by Farmington Rotary. The Community Read featured the purchase of numerous copies of the book Rules by Cynthia Lord which were distributed to students, staff and community members. All got a chance to meet Cynthia and discuss the book in various venues throughout the week. All projects involved many volunteers.

#### **Cindy**

- Cindy has also been busy coordinating the Seeds of Life Program. Volunteers have been making up packets of seeds to deliver to low-income families on Earth Day. Seedlings will also be distributed the first week in June.

### **Allison**

- Allison has enjoyed interviewing food pantry volunteers recently in preparation for media coverage of National Volunteer Week.

### **Trudy**

- Trudy noted the successful completion of SeniorsPlus' ChocoLArt fundraising event, featuring chocolate, wine and art.
- The mobile outreach office will be headed back out on the road this month.
- Looking for volunteers to host the mobile office, particularly in northern Franklin County. The host would also be trained to possibly also provide benefits check ups, Medicare information, etc.
- SeniorsPlus participated in an Alternative Spring Break program. College student volunteers from other states visited during their school vacation. They did outdoor work and spring cleaned the SeniorsPlus kitchen to maintain important health standards. They also detailed the delivery vans.

### **Media Coverage for Volunteer Week**

Lisa encouraged group members to submit articles to be featured in upcoming media coverage.

### **Volunteer Generation Fund**

Nancy Teel spoke of her involvement in the Volunteer Generation Fund grant application that is initially being submitted by the Maine Commission for Community Service (MCCS). If funded, MCCS would then have an RFP process for local volunteer networks to apply for up to \$30,000 in funds. Focus of the application will be to support the creation of or expansion of Volunteer Connector Organizations (such as the Franklin Volunteer Network), training opportunities – particularly for rural communities, and strategic planning. Those who attended a conference call to discuss MCCS' application agreed that the focus of the project would be supporting efforts that relate to energy or health initiatives specifically.

### **Volunteer Celebration**

Nancy discussed the evolution of the Volunteer Celebration she was coordinating for the Energy Challenge volunteers. After discussing with Lisa the idea that the Volunteer Network had in October of 2009 of recognizing community volunteers collectively, Nancy's idea evolved into a Volunteer Celebration to be held on May 20 at the Farmington Grange, from 5-7 pm. It will be a potluck. The Network will award a Shining Star and Rising Star Award to community members. FVN members are encouraged to submit nominations by May 10. More details will be sent via e-mail between meetings, including distribution of a printed invitation and an e-invite that all FVN members are encouraged to distribute to their volunteers. Isaac and Nancy will be calling FVN members to gather number of volunteers and number of volunteer hours in 2009. This will be announced at the Celebration.

As the Network activities grow, Rick Dorian expressed interest in exploring how FVN members could invest in the work of the Network. Would it be unreasonable to ask members to financially contribute a nominal amount? There was mixed reaction, and it will continue to be discussed.

### **Looking Ahead:**

Next meeting, May 14 at 8 am

(All meetings are held at the Mt. Blue Middle School in the conference room of the administrative offices. Entrance is to the left of the school, across from the bus garage.)

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Lisa Laflin*

*Executive Director, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area*