

# **Minutes**

## **Franklin Volunteer Network**

**Friday, May 14, 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; Trudy Hamilton, SeniorsPlus; Barbara Sylvester, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP); Linda Rood, HealthReach RSVP; Lisa Laflin, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area; Nancy Teel, Volunteer Coordinator of the Community Energy Challenge; Crystal Cook, United Methodist Economic Ministry; Cindy Brophy, Western Maine Community Action; Dennis O'Neil, Community Member and Volunteer; Michelle Mason, AmeriCorps\*VISTA with SeniorsPlus; Ashley Hutter, Community Concepts

**Regrets:** Pauline Rodrigue MBRSD Volunteer Coordinator

### **Recognition Event Farmington Grange, May 20, 2010**

- Volunteers are needed to help for setup for the event. Dennis, Isaac, Lisa, and Nancy will begin to setup at 3:00-3:30. Attendance may exceed 100 guests. Lisa, Nancy, and Isaac will bring backup food.
- The format of the evening's activities was planned and discussed.
- Rick discussed the possibility of a DJ to have some background music and create a more fun environment.
- Consensus was reached that Ashley Wentworth, the LEAP nominee, would receive the Rising Star Award. After much discussion it was decided that Roger and Karyl Condit, the Community Energy Challenge nominees, would receive the Shining Star Award. All other nominees will receive an honorable mention and will qualify to be nominated next year.
- Pam Zeutenhorst, Commission staff, will be coming to the May 20 event.

### **Building Relations with the University of Maine-Farmington**

- There will be a community stakeholder meeting on June 2 at 12:00 at the United Way. This meeting will focus on improving coordination of internships and practicum students with the University of Maine-Farmington.
- Rick discussed having a uniform approach instead of creating layers to deal with a potential problem in an internship. Lisa will send out an email invitation.

### **\$1,500 in Funding for Volunteer Weatherization-Developing Strategies**

- Lisa gave some background information of the potential extra funding for weatherization efforts. Among some of the ideas that this funding would be used for are: an energy boot camp, an energy education program and two mini-grants.
- The mini grants would be for an innovative project and a youth program in energy conservation or expanding the Community Energy Challenge.
- Rick Dorian also encouraged Lisa to explore having youth actually work on a home using purchased energy conservation products (foam, caulking, etc.) and then hosting an open house for the community.

### **Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP) Skillbuilder opportunity and feedback**

- MANP would like to do more outreach and would like to bring workshops to Western Maine. A survey will be sent out to gather suggestions for workshops.
- There was discussion of having a one day conference in Western Maine that would involve MANP workshops, as well as build on our own gifts and capacities using presenters from local community organizations.
- On May 18 from 8:30-9:30 a planning committee for the Blaine House conference on volunteerism will meet via conference call. The meeting will be about logistics of food, packets for participants and registration for the conference in the fall. Any network members are welcome to attend the call at the United Way's office. Planning members are needed!

### **Updates:**

#### **National Volunteer Week Coverage**

- LEAP held a volunteer celebration in April. Rick discussed the event and some of LEAP's volunteer training.
- There was a five page spread in the Franklin Journal. This spread was celebrating volunteers for National Volunteer Week. A hardcopy of the spread was passed around.
- A full-color spread also appeared in The Franklin Focus.

## **Volunteer Generation Fund Application**

- Next Wednesday is the deadline for the Maine Commission for Community Service to submit its application. Nancy Teel will be working on an application this summer with Lisa and others to draft a local proposal quickly should the Maine Commission for Community Service be funded and put out a request for proposal.

## **Continuing with using Betty Stallings' Training Guide (Volunteer Recruitment)**

- Trudy discussed the next chapter on volunteer recruitment. An exercise on finding solutions to the challenges of volunteer recruitment was performed. Among topics covered were:
  - Resistance to volunteering with your organization
  - The needs of the organization and the volunteer must both be met
  - Recruitment techniques to avoid
- LD 2202 (An Act To Allow the Town of Kittery To Implement a Program To Abate Taxes for Senior Citizens in Exchange for Public Service) was mentioned as it gives volunteers over the age of 60 a tax deduction. There continues to be confusion about the legislation. The LD is attached.

## **Summer Session Meetings**

- It was decided that the Franklin Volunteer Network would continue to meet at the same regularly scheduled time during the summer. The meetings for the summer are June 11, July 9, and August 13. All meetings will be from 8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. and will be at Mt. Blue Middle School

Respectfully Submitted by

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AmeriCorps\*VISTA member  
Maine-HEARTH Project  
United Way of the Tri-Valley Area