

Minutes

Franklin Volunteer Network, July 10, 2009

Present: Cindy Brophy, Western Maine Community Action, Janet Smith, Women, Work & Community, Lisa Laflin, United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, Becky Perkins, University of Maine Farmington, Dennis O'Neil, Farmington Rotary, Paul Gilbert, State Representative- District 87, Lana Whittlemore, Abused Women's Advocacy Project, Joan Moes, Literacy Volunteers, and Ruth St. Amand, Retired Seniors Volunteer Project.

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Laflin of the UWTVA opened the meeting and welcomed all. Each person in attendance then introduced him or herself.

Month of Caring

- The "Month of Caring" Press Release, prepared by Lisa Laflin, was read over by everyone present and approved for release.
- The Month of Caring Participation Agreement was approved and everyone present was asked to distribute copies to any group or agency that might be willing to participate. Please return the signed agreements to Lisa at the UWTVA by the end of July. They can be dropped off at the office or faxed to 779-0577.
- There was discussion to expand the Franklin Volunteer Network by inviting other groups or agencies. Suggestions were made and Lisa compiled a list of possible participants. She will later extend invitations by email.
- As part of our marketing scheme, testimonials are needed to demonstrate the value of volunteerism, from both the point of view of the volunteer and the agency benefiting from volunteerism. Please email these testimonies to Lisa by the end of July.

Stuff the Bus

There is a tentative plan to have a school bus travel around greater Franklin County collecting school supplies. Glen Gordon of Community Concepts Transportation will be heading up this event. The bus could possibly be parked at the Meeting House Park during the UWTVA Kick-off, which will be on September 10th from 11:00am-1:00pm.

Recognition Event

Dennis O'Neil, of the Farmington Rotary, is in charge of the Volunteer Recognition Event to be held in October, after the Month of Caring. Discussion was held on the details of how, where and what to do for this event, taking into account availability of

parking, size of space needed, and the limited budget. After discussing the pros and cons, we tentatively decided on an ice cream social, to be held on a Friday evening (either Oct. 16th or 23rd) from 5:30-7:00pm, most probably at UMF. Dennis will continue to investigate.

Champion Update

Paul Gilbert, Rep. from District 87, was present as one of our “champions”. Other champions invited, but not in attendance, are Bobbie Hanstein of the Daily Bulldog, Pam West of Mountain View Chocolate Shoppe and Rotary, and Gary Perlson, retired from MSAD 58. Paul was encouraged to spread the word about the Franklin Volunteer Network in his district, and to distribute the participant agreements. He expressed concern that residents of Livermore or Livermore Falls would not consider themselves part of a Franklin Volunteer Network. Lisa commented that our group extends into greater Franklin County, which does include Livermore and Livermore Falls.

Video Training

There will be a video training included in the September 11th meeting, which will extend the time frame to 9:30 am. All were in agreement on the importance of including the training.

Blair House Conference on Volunteerism- Oct. 13, 2009

Funds are available to help cover the cost of sending participants to this conference. Becky Perkins expressed interest in attending, and will be in contact with Lisa.

Other Business

- October 17th will be “Make a Difference Day”
- UWTVA will be receiving an Americorp volunteer funded by the Maine Hearth Project. This volunteer is required to participate in an energy-related event, such as energy audits or some form of weatherization.
- Funds Available for Weather-Related Damage (see attachment).
- “82 High Street”- this low-income complex of apartments and mobile homes will be receiving much “TLC” in the form of repairs during the Month of Caring in celebration of its 20th Anniversary. There has recently been a change in management, from Preservation Management out of Portland, to the 82 High Street Board, headed up by Irv Faunce. Inquiries about available housing can be directed to Irv Faunce at 778-9420.

Next Meeting will be Friday, August 14th from 8:00 to 9:00 am in Conf. Room 123.