



Current Volunteering Opportunities in Greater Franklin County

Volunteer, Wilton Blueberry Festival Corporation

The Wilton Blueberry Festival is currently seeking the assistance of 20 volunteers to help with the parade to be held on Saturday, August 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Volunteers would be helping to keep people off the road as the parade goes by. Training and fluorescent orange t-shirts will be provided. The Wilton Police Chief will be conducting the training a week before the parade. The AmeriCorps*VISTA member at the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area will be collecting names for those interested.

Contact:

Isaac Frith, (207) 778-5048

Office Support Volunteer, LEAP, Inc.

LEAP is currently searching for someone who would like to help in its main office. Volunteers would be working in a social environment and would be part of a team working to support the mission of LEAP: empowering individuals with disabilities to live a joyful life. Tasks would include answering telephones, typing, copying, collating and bulk mailing. LEAP is willing to help train volunteers.

Contact:

Rick Dorian, (207) 788-3443x104

Volunteer, Touch of Class Thrift Shop

The Touch of Class on Route 2 is looking for volunteers to help with the sorting and steaming of donations. Touch of Class works in association with Work First Inc. to help in its mission to promote the fullest development of individuals with disabilities. A definite schedule will be required and a background check will need to be conducted.

Contact:

Linda LaRue Keniston, (207) 778-3200 ext. 22

Be a Tour Guide, Washburn-Norlands Living History Center

At Norlands Living History Center, visitors come to learn about the Washburn political family and to experience 1870s rural Maine. Tours are given at four site buildings (a mansion, library, school house, and meeting house). Norlands' volunteers lead groups of visitors to explore the history of the Washburns and rural Maine through educational programs. Norlands will provide the required training for tour guides and the different programs offered.

Contact:

Nancy Drinkwine, (207) 897-4366

Catalog Historical Artifacts, Washburn-Norlands Living History Center

Norlands has an extensive collection of items from the 1800s. Most of the Center's artifacts either belong to a Washburn family member or had an association with the family home. The Norlands Living History Center is currently updating its inventory of all items and migrating the information from paper files to an electronic database. A number of items have been moved to a database. The volunteers would be verifying and completing information fields. Norlands will provide the necessary training to get volunteers started.

Contact:

Nancy Drinkwine, (207) 897-4366

Be a Tutor, Literacy Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers is seeking volunteers who would like to work in a classroom setting. The students would be sixth grades or advanced readers at a lower grade level. The class would be four to six weeks, one hour a week. The tutors will be training the students to be Tutor of Learning Readers.

Contact:

Joan Moes, (207) 778-3460

Volunteer, Maine's Paper and Heritage Museum

Volunteers can help maintain an Information Center at the Museum and learn the history of the Maine Paper Industry. Volunteers may become tour guides for visitors and tourists, help in data entry, cataloging artifacts, and information displays. Training sessions are provided and there are several time slots to choose from; as one can volunteer for a few hours during the summer or half a day. Volunteers of the museum work collaboratively on community engagement with Jay, Livermore, Livermore Falls Chambers of Commerce

Contact:

Sherry Judd, info@papermuseumofmaine.org

Volunteer, Work First, Inc.

Work First, Inc. is looking to host a weekly Bingo game at their Rt. 4 location. They are seeking a volunteer (or two if you have a friend who'd like to help) to assist with announcing the numbers during the games. Start date is to be determined, but the anticipated weekly time slot is 10-11:30 a.m.

Contact:

Linda LaRue-Keniston, (207) 778-3200, ext. 22

Volunteer with the Community Energy Challenge Continuing Efforts to Winterize Homes

This past winter the Community Energy Challenge winterized area homes using interior storm window panels and provided energy education. These window panels save homeowners money and energy by reducing the heat loss that can occur through glass windows. Up to 25% of energy is lost through windows of homes during winter months. Over 219 panels have been made and installed in homes throughout this past winter. Approximately \$8,043 has been saved through the project (assuming all the window panels installed are 3x5). The Energy Challenge is in the planning stages for next winter; call to be a part of the Energy Challenge.

Contact:

Isaac Frith, (207) 778-5048 or Nancy Teel, nteel@localnet

Mentor, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin and Oxford Counties

A prevention program based on one-to-one mentoring relationships between an adult volunteer and a child in Southern and Central Franklin County. Training is provided.

Contact:

Executive Director, (207) 743-7035

Be a Mentor, Mt. Blue School District

Mt. Blue RSD needs mentors to be a non-judgmental friend to students. Mentors meet once a week, usually at lunch, with their student. After lunch, mentors often play games, help with homework or go out to the playground. It's a wonderful opportunity to share your life experience with a student. Mentors undergo a "mentor training" with the Volunteer Coordinator. They meet with their student only on school grounds during school hours. Background information and references are required.

Contact:

Pauline Rodrigue, (207) 778-3707

Clothing Exchange Coordinator, Franklin County Children's Task Force

Responsible for upkeep of clothing exchange program which consists of sorting through and organizing children's clothing sizes newborn to 4T. Volunteer will be responsible for identifying age appropriate clothing, as well as additional supplies and donations. Volunteer will also be responsible for outreach involving needed items for families and community members involved in programming. Must be able to identify clothing sizes by labels, be neat and orderly as well as respectful to families using the clothing exchange.

Janice Crandall, (207) 778-6960

Help in a kindergarten classroom, Mt. Blue School District

Help kindergarten teachers by being their extra hands, eyes and ears. If you love energy and the unexpected, this is a wonderful place to be. In a morning or afternoon you might help with snack, run a center, zip jackets, tie shoes, read to students, and help them with their work. Kindergarten volunteers do need to do a brief orientation with the volunteer coordinator, otherwise there are no limitations.

Contact:

Pauline Rodrigue, (207) 778-3707

Volunteer, Area Food Banks

There are a number of area food banks located throughout Great Franklin County. Potential tasks that may be asked of volunteers would be: filling shelves with food, unloading food and placing it in storage, organizing foods by type, etc. Volunteers should check with their local food bank for volunteer opportunities. For a complete list of area food banks, contact the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area or visit www.uwtva.org.

Contact:

United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, (207) 778-5048

Volunteer, Franklin County Animal Shelter

Some of the tasks which may be required of volunteers include helping clean kennels and cages, taking dogs outside for short walks as well as filling water bowls and feeding the animals. Other tasks may include helping with any events and office work such as data entry.

Contact:

Franklin County Animal Shelter, (207) 778-2638

Volunteer Driver, Community Concepts, Inc.

Community Concepts, Inc.'s volunteer drivers provide transportation to citizens of Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties. They provide rides to medical appointments, child development programs and other critical destinations. They offer a vital service to the community, enhancing the quality of life for those who have no other means of transportation. In 2008, volunteers donated more than 600,000 hours to the transportation program. They drove over 13 million miles! Mileage reimbursement is offered.

Contact:

Koriene Low, (207) 779-0594

A Program for Grieving Children & Teens Volunteer

A Program for Grieving Children and Teens is a support system for children and teenagers ages 3 to 18 who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, grandparent, relative or friend. Sessions are offered free of charge in Lewiston/Auburn, Mexico/Rumford, and Farmington. Each (either 8 or 10 week) session is offered in the early evening and provides a trusting environment where feelings about the loss of a loved one may be expressed and shared with others in similar circumstances. Activities such as drawing, writing, art, music, and discussion will help children communicate their feelings. Children are divided into appropriate age groups that are staffed by volunteer facilitators. A separate facilitated group session is held at the same time for adult family members. Volunteers complete a 27-hour training program. A Program for Grieving Children and Teens is sponsored by Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice.

Contact:

Pedro Rojas, (207) 777-7740

Volunteer, Healthy Community Coalition

Hope Harvest Garden:

The Hope Harvest Garden is a 60 x 110 foot garden plot, located on a sunny southern exposure on the grounds at Franklin Memorial Hospital. It is a collaboration between Healthy Community Coalition, University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners, Franklin Memorial Hospital, Western Maine Community Action, and local groups and businesses. In a given year, an average of 175 volunteers are involved in growing more than 2,200 pounds of chemical-free produce that is donated to area food pantries. The goal is to raise awareness of food pantries' needs, increase access to fresh produce by pantry clients, and use the garden as a learning tool for the community. Volunteers are needed for all phases of gardening - planning, cultivating seedlings, preparing the soil, planting, weeding and harvesting produce.

Contact:

Lorri Brown, (207) 779-2929

Volunteer, HealthReach RSVP

Health Reach Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) helps retired people, over the age 55, make productive and personally rewarding contributions to communities, including Greater Franklin County, through volunteer services with non-profit agencies and organizations that make a difference. Volunteer placements are available all year. Signature Programs include the Born to Read Program, Matter of Balance Program. Mileage reimbursement is available.

Contact:

Linda Rood, (207) 778-0427

Franklin Memorial Hospital

The gift of your time can help so many! Call FMH at 779-2552. Volunteers are ordinary people, just like you, with a desire to help others, a professional attitude and a willingness to learn new things. The following items are just a few of the tasks that need volunteer support:

Information at Escort desk; Flower delivery; Daily mail distribution; Clerical; Gift Shop
Blood Drives; Special Projects; Bulk Mailings

Contact:

Charlie Woodcock, (207) 779-2552

Volunteer, LEAP (Life Enrichment Advancing People)

LEAP Inc. is looking for volunteers to help with its "growing" Stone Soup Gardens project. Volunteers are welcome to help plant harvest, or prepare new raised bed gardens that are on a beautiful 40-acre parcel of land off Rt. 2 in Farmington Falls. Volunteer are also needed to help develop walking trails or maintain ones on the property. LEAP, Inc. is a private non-profit organization devoted to supporting people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities to be actively involved in their home communities. Stone Soup Gardens is accessible to those with disabilities.

Contact:

Rick Dorian, (207) 778-3443

Tutor, Literacy Volunteers of Franklin and Somerset Counties

Literacy Volunteers provides free reading/writing service to individuals with low level literacy skills. Trained volunteer tutors serve Franklin and Somerset Counties and Livermore Falls, Livermore and Jay areas. Literacy Volunteers tutors take an 18-hour workshop. They are then matched with a student in their area. This service is free, confidential, and on a one-to-one basis. Tutors and students meet at a place of their choice, either in the student's home or a local learning center, or library. Literacy Volunteers has teen tutoring programs in schools in both counties. Literacy Volunteers also send volunteers to different nursing homes in the area to read to the patients.

Contact:

Joan Moes, (207) 778-3460

Volunteer Driver, SeniorsPlus

SeniorsPlus provides meals all year to seniors throughout Greater Franklin County. It delivers thousands of meals per year to approximately 150 seniors in the region. SeniorsPlus is currently looking for a Meals on Wheels volunteer driver to deliver meals from Livermore to Phillips one day a week. Mileage reimbursement is available, and the position could be shared. SeniorsPlus is looking for volunteers to serve as "back-up" volunteers to support the efforts of volunteers currently serving meals at the congregate dining site at the Masonic Hall one day a week.

Contact:

SeniorsPlus, (207) 795-4010

Helpline Volunteer, Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES)

Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES) provides a free 24/7 helpline for survivors of recent or past sexual assault, as well as family, friends and others who need support and information regarding the assault of their loved ones. Volunteers are needed to staff the helpline. Extensive training is provided.

Contact:

Judy Rawlings, (207) 778-9522

Volunteer, United Methodist Economic Ministry

UMEM is a crisis oriented ministry. This means that UMEM believes that it is sometimes necessary to provide short-term support as part of the empowering of individuals to become self-sufficient. UMEM currently operates a thrift shop, a housing ministry, a food bank and a Warming Center. All hands are needed.

Contact:

Crystal Cook, Operations Manager, (207) 678-2611

Western Maine Community Action

Make a positive difference for yourself and others in your community by volunteering with Western Maine Community Action. WMCA has projects, education and outreach opportunities, and special events available throughout Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties. WMCA strives to match your interests with the most appropriate openings. WMCA maintains a listing of current and specific agency opportunities that is available upon request, including Operation Santa Claus and Seeds of Life program.

Contact:

Cindy Brophy, (207) 645-3764

American Red Cross – United Valley Chapter

The American Red Cross is always looking for volunteers to join their Disaster Action Teams. Volunteers provide critical services to those who have been a victim of fire or other disaster. Training is provided.

Contact:

Eric Lynes, (207) 795-4004

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

Come share your love of Franklin County. Volunteers needed for greeting visitors to the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center in Farmington & the Information Center in Carrabassett. We are committed to promoting all of Franklin County and need your help to keep our visitor centers open daily. Duties include answering telephone, greeting visitors, general office work. FMI: 778-4215 or assistant@franklincountymaine.org
www.franklincountymaine.org

For additional opportunities, visit www.volunteermaine.org

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