

Volunteer Ministries



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“TEENS: THE TAKE-ACTION GENERATION”

Excerpts from *Parade Magazine*, 12/28/2008

Record numbers of young people are volunteering — and inspiring schools, employers, and others along the way. [Teens] are volunteering in record numbers. ...“What’s different about this generation is that they are really acting from passion, not obligation.” . . . “They are wired, opinionated, and more informed than kids have been before.” There’s no doubt that the Internet and networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace have made it easier for teens to organize for change across town or across the world. Young people want to be a part of something bigger than themselves, and opportunities to give back are more accessible than ever before.

A high school biology class inspired Matthew Bauer, 19, of Schaumburg, IL, to launch environmental projects. “We learned about how the environment was deteriorating and that if action was not taken soon, it would fall into a state of non-recovery,” he says. So Matthew got to work. He conducted a cleanup of a local stream, coordinated a hazardous-battery collection, and winterized the homes of three underprivileged families. “My generation knows,” says Matthew, “that if we don’t solve the world’s problems now, we will suffer from their consequences in the future.”

At the same time, young people are calling upon schools and employers to pitch in. “In today’s world, where they’re feeling a serious economic pinch, universities and corporations are focusing on social responsibility and on volunteer opportunities for their students and employees,” says David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National Community Service. “Volunteering is an important pipeline that could produce the next generation of leaders,” adds Eisner.

Editor’s note:

As the church, we have helped shape the commitment to service that is part of the larger society. We continue to shape opportunities for direct social service and participation in justice advocacy in ways that engage the world with God’s life-giving love.

Become my friend on Facebook and get connected with others involved in volunteer service.

—Mary Schaller Blaufuss

ALONG THE WAY... NEWS FROM VOLUNTEERS



Dosia Carlson is a connection-maker. Never underestimate the multiplying influence of a person's deep commitment to service ministry. Recently, completing her seventh full-time volun-

teer experience at Abernethy Laurels in Newton, NC, Dosia writes about the weaving of UCC Volunteer Ministries through her life for the past twenty years.

“Back in 1989, while I was Executive Director of Beatitudes Center DOAR, we engaged numerous UCC volunteers through Carl Bade. One of the women who spent a year with us was veteran volunteer Betty Bicknell. During her time with us, she was recognized as “Volunteer of the Year.” I even wrote a song that was sung to honor her at the national meeting. Betty had already volunteered several times at Abernethy Center, and she was very enthusiastic in her comments about that retirement place.



More stories of volunteer experiences and reflections at www.ucc.org/volunteer

Fast-forward thirteen years, and there I am [now retired and on the other side] starting my volunteer adventures at Abernethy. Yes, Betty lives there as a resident. Over the years I became a close friend with another Abernethy resident, Lou Grandmaison; in fact, several times I lived right in her town house (on the same block with Betty Bicknell!) Lou began devoting her energies to a prayer shawl ministry. Now, at the next CHHSM (Council for Health and Human Services) conference to be in March 2009, Lou will be honored as the “Volunteer of the Year.” How grateful I am to be associated with both these caring women.

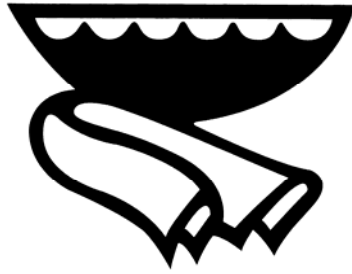
Today, Betty Nelson of our Church of the Beatitudes in Phoenix, Arizona, forwarded to me your current e-mail promoting the “UCC Companion Communities.” I have agreed to serve on our local committee to help administer the program in Phoenix. I am so hopeful that this will provide meaningful experiences for young adult volunteers. Here's hoping that there will be many applicants.

[More information on UCC Companion Communities, page 3 of this newsletter]

Check out resources for planning community service events in your local community.

- **List of suggested national days of service**
<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/national-days-of-service.html>
- **Get connected with Interfaith Youth Core.** <http://www.ifyc.org>
Director, Eboo Patel, will be a speaker at General Synod 27 in Grand Rapids, MI as part of River City Saturday, June 27, 2009.

UCC Companion Communities: Young Adult Service Communities



“To Engage young adults with human need &
Expansion of spiritual reflection, while
Encompassed in communal living
Embraced by the church”

Will You Serve?

Are you 21-30 years old?

Committed to actions of service and social justice,
conscientious living and spiritual reflection?

UCC Host Congregations provide intentional community settings

You Serve in an agency focusing on service/justice advocacy
Share in congregational life & leadership
Network with volunteers in UCC Companion Communities
across the United States

Apply On-Line: www.ucc.org/volunteer

Questions: Contact Executive for Volunteer Ministries
216-736-3214

Application Deadlines:

Part I March 1, 2009

Part II March 13, 2009

Notification of Acceptance and Placement: By April 30, 2009

Housing, Health Insurance and small Stipend for living expenses provided
Participation may qualify volunteer for deferment of student loans

Locations

Good Shepherd UCC, Sahuarita Valley, Arizona (June – August, 2009)
Setting: Border & Immigration Ministries

Church of the Beatitudes, Phoenix, Arizona (Sept 8, 2009– June 30, 2010)
Setting: Community Ministries

First Grace UCC, Akron, Ohio (9/8/2009 – 6/30/2010)
Setting: Inner City Ministries

Westmoreland Congregational UCC, Bethesda, Maryland (9/8/2009 - 8/15/2010)
Setting: Washington, DC-area direct service and advocacy Ministries

And Others. . .

Bulletin Insert Available.

Download from <http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/pdfs/Bulletin-Insert-Partners-in-Service.pdf>

Want to Serve?



Through the act of foot washing, Jesus makes clear God's call to serve others. We are invited to ministries of service that reflect God's love by responding to the needs of the world and involving ourselves in efforts to challenge injustices. The logo of the towel and basin remind us of God's call to serve.

***Partners in Service* volunteers
serve in diverse settings
throughout the United States
from 1 month to a year or more**

*Camps/Conference Settings
Disaster Recovery Ministries
Community Organizing
Direct Social Service with Homeless Populations
Direct Social Service in Poverty Contexts
Housing Ministries
Mental Health Ministries
Youth Settings
And More...*

Open to Adults of all ages

Applications for full-time placements available on-line

www.ucc.org/volunteer

Call or write for more information

700 Prospect Avenue East

Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

blaufusm@ucc.org

866.822.8224 ext. 3214 or ext. 3216

Partners in Service site listing as well *UCC Mission Trip Opportunities* for groups are available in printed booklet or on-line. Order your printed copies from United Church of Christ Resources 1-800-537-3394. Listings available on-line www.ucc.org/volunteer

These resources are free for your use, thanks to your generous contributions to *Our Church's Wider Mission, Basic Support*

Partners in Service Alumni on the Move...

Where Are They Now?

Virginia Michaels, volunteer at several sites during the 1990s recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Happy Birthday, Virginia!

Christian Kölzer, volunteer at the Religious Coalition in Frederick, MD in 2006-7 will be returning to Frederick to serve as a German teaching assistant at Hood College. Each year Hood College, a UCC related school in Frederick, offers a one-year scholarship to a student at the University of Mainz, Germany. Way to go, Christian!

Zayna Thompson and Douglas McCollum were married October 2008. Zayna served as a volunteer at Evangelical Children's Home, St. Louis, MO 2005-6 and will serve as the F.A.S.T. summer mission trips intern for 2009 in Whytesburg, KY. Congratulations!

Leah Lyman, volunteer at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS in 2007 and Chris Waldron, former member of Global Ministries Council of Theological Students announce their engagement to be married. Leah and Chris met at a meeting of young adults to brainstorm ideas for what has now been launched as the UCC Companion Communities: Young Adult Service Communities. Leah plans to enter seminary in the fall of 2009. Congratulations to all!

Thanks to 'Partners in Service' Volunteers Recently Completing Service

(Oct. 2008—Jan. 2009)



Joseph Conn, FL at Slumber Falls Camp & Retreat Center, New Braunfels, TX
Richard Freridge, MI at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA
Jillian Glasgow, OR at JOIN, Portland, OR
Bill & Pat Lincoln, NC at Heifer International Overlook Farm, Rutland, MA
Maggie Miller, IN at Brethren Mennonite Council, Minneapolis, MN
Ken Nelson, MN at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Richard & Phyllis Rhinehart, FL at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Bill & Mary Ruth, NC at Wider Church Ministries, UCC, Cleveland, OH
Alice Scott, CA at Wider Church Ministries, UCC, Cleveland, OH
George & Jean Siddall, OH at First Christian Church Disaster Recovery, Galveston, TX
Bob & Connie Waidman, TN at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR
Daniel Williams, IL at Heifer Ranch, Perryville, AR

Jared Adams, WI at Religious Coalition, Frederick, MD
Marilyn DeTizio, VT at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Ed Finertie, NE at Prodigals Community, Winston-Salem, NC
Tracy Hughes, OH at Su Casa Catholic Worker, Chicago, IL
Debora Kovach, Hungary at Humane Borders, Tucson, AZ
Betty Mae Shear, OH at Abernethy Center, Newton, NC
Sandy Shnay, IL at Back Bay Mission, Biloxi, MS
Frank Zahn, IA at South Central Conference Disaster Recovery, New Orleans, LA

Welcome New & Returning
'Partners in Service'
Volunteers

UCC VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES

Office of Volunteer Ministries
United Church of Christ
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Cleveland, OH 44115-1100

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For over 50 years, Volunteer Ministries has provided opportunities for people to share their gifts of service and witness to others. Through the act of foot washing, Jesus makes clear God's call to serve others. We are invited to ministries of service that reflect God's love by responding to the needs of the world and involving ourselves in efforts to challenge injustices. The logo of the towel and basin remind us of God's call to serve.

Always a new look on the website!
<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer>

*MISSION TRIPS
PARTNERS IN SERVICE
UCC COMPANION COMMUNITIES
SERVICE DAYS*