

# NEWS

## VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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### **Volunteer Center      New Training Series for Community Groups**

North Jersey – The Volunteer Center of Bergen County is offering a free **Neighbor Academy** training course, “Finding Funding for your Cause”, on Monday, August 8, 2008 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Volunteer Center’s offices at 64 Passaic Street in Hackensack.

The workshop will focus on developing a fundraising plan, including how to build a donor base, an introduction to the grant application process, and incorporating special events to position an organization to attract funders.

**The Neighbor Academy** is a series of free introductory courses covering the basics of non-profit administration. The workshops are targeted specifically to community groups including newly-incorporated or yet-to-be incorporated non-profits, neighborhood associations, faith-based groups, and grassroots organizations.

**The Neighbor Academy** is part of the Volunteer Center’s long-running Non-Profit Training and Resource Center, a program geared toward non-profit professionals. “The Volunteer Center has been offering professional-level trainings for several years,” said Janet Sharma, Volunteer Center Executive Director, “But the Neighbor Academy grew out of our understanding that grassroots groups needed support in developing their efforts, that they needed those fundamental tools that will turn their ideas into action and that can grow their charitable efforts into formal organizations.”

Classes in the series will take community groups through the process of developing a non-profit organization, from community organizing and formal incorporation to delivering services and measuring success.

All **Neighbor Academy** courses are held on Mondays, from 7pm-9pm at the Volunteer Center, 64 Passaic Street, Hackensack. Other classes in the series include:

- Developing Community Assets            September 8
- Defining Your Message                    November 3

There is no fee for **Neighbor Academy** courses. Pre-registration is required, and can be done by calling (201) 489-9454 Ext. 114 or e-mail [training@bergenvolunteers.org](mailto:training@bergenvolunteers.org) at least three business days in advance of each class. More information on the Volunteer Center's Training Program can be found online at [http://www.bergenvolunteers.org/agency\\_services.htm](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org/agency_services.htm).

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County strengthens the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating model volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

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