

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

64 Passaic Street Hackensack, NJ 07601 Phone: 201-489-9454 Fax: 201-489-1995
www.bergenvolunteers.org

For immediate release
March 10, 2008

Contact: Tess Tomas Ext.114
Maureen McCormick Ext. 126
201-489-9454

End date: April 3, 2008

Volunteer Center Debuts New Training Series for Community Groups

North Jersey – The Volunteer Center of Bergen County is offering a new training series of introductory courses covering the basics of non-profit administration. The Neighbor Academy is a series of free workshops 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.

The series kicks off with a workshop to equip community minded citizens to assume leadership roles. Entitled **Community Organizing**, the workshop will be presented on Monday, April 7th, from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm at the Volunteer Center's offices at 64 Passaic Street in Hackensack.

This interactive workshop will help participants:

- Identify personal leadership strengths and areas for growth
- Increase awareness of critical skills necessary for an effective grassroots leader
- Strengthen essential skills necessary to mobilize community members
- Learn from and connect with other leaders from the area

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:

- Non-Profit Incorporation June 2
- Faith-Based Benchmarking July 7
- Finding Funding for your Cause August 4
- 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 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.

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.

###