

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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Forum for Volunteer Managers to be Held

North Jersey—The Volunteer Center of Bergen County will be hosting a free Volunteer Managers Roundtable on Engaging Skilled Volunteers, with a focus on professionals who have been recently laid off. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in March of 2009 the number of unemployed persons increased by 694,000 to 13.2 million, and the unemployment rate rose to 8.5 percent.

Many experienced professionals, recently displaced from their jobs, now find they have time on their hands, and are turning to the volunteer sector to offer their time and expertise. “The question is: Are non-profit agencies ready to accommodate this influx of highly skilled and motivated volunteers, and provide the most meaningful experience for them?” asks Janet Sharma, Executive Director of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County. “Charitable agencies stand to benefit from this outpouring of interest in community service, as long as we can manage it effectively.”

The Non Profit Training and Resource Center of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County will present a Volunteer Managers’ Roundtable on Thursday, April 30th, from 8:30am to 9:30am at the Volunteer Center’s offices at 64 Passaic Street in Hackensack.

Managers of volunteers at non-profit agencies, faith-based groups, or community groups are invited to attend this session to learn how to engage skilled volunteers in high-level projects to meet specific goals of the organization.

Skilled volunteers want to offer their time and expertise for various reasons: to do good and help their communities, to keep their skills honed, to pursue a passion or avocation, or to parlay a volunteer experience into a new career through networking.

Pre-registration to attend the free roundtable is required; the deadline for registration is April 25th. For more information or to register, e-mail training@bergenvolunteers.org, or call (201) 489-9454 ext.114.

The mission of the Volunteer Center is to strengthen 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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