

NEWS

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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For Immediate Release

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Answering the President's Call to Service

North Jersey--- In his inaugural speech last week, President Barack Obama said, “What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility—a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world...this is the price and the promise of citizenship”.

As the country's new administration takes shape, President Obama and Vice President Biden will call on Americans from every walk of life and of all ages to serve.

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County has resources available to help area residents heed this national call to action. The Center offers to the public a comprehensive printed guide and website, both of which list hundreds of volunteer opportunities plus a multitude of tips and questions to ask when people are exploring a volunteer position or project.

The 2009 **Guide to Volunteering** lists more than 300 nonprofit agencies and 1,100 volunteer positions for people of all ages. The book will be especially helpful to students seeking ways to fulfill community service requirements.

In addition to listing volunteer positions at agencies, the guide offers tips on how groups can organize their own volunteer projects, including collection drives, ideas for family volunteering and information about great youth volunteer websites. Also included are lists of project ideas that people can do alone or with a group.

The 144-page guide is indexed and cross-referenced to help prospective volunteers find volunteer opportunities that fit their interests, geographic location and availability. Also listed are volunteer positions suitable for high school students, students under age 14, and families who want to volunteer together.

The 2009 Guide for Volunteering will be available in the next few weeks. Bergen County high schools, middle schools and libraries will receive the guide free of charge. It can also be ordered online at www.bergenvolunteers.org. There is a \$5.00 shipping and handling charge.

To reserve your copy, or to learn more about volunteering in general, contact the Volunteer Center at 201-489-9454.

The Volunteer Center's web site, www.bergenvolunteers.org, features a searchable database of volunteer opportunities in and near Bergen County. Individuals, groups, students and businesses interested in volunteering may look for opportunities by keyword, by area of interest or by geographic location. The web site also includes information about Volunteer Center programs and services as well as links to a variety of other web sites covering such topics as mentoring, youth service and service learning.

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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