

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
May 18, 2009
End date: June 5, 2009

Contact: Maureen McCormick
(201) 489-9454 Ext. 126

Comedy Night Planned to Benefit Volunteer Center

BERGEN COUNTY – A Night of Comedy will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2009, at the Banana’s Comedy Club, 283 Rt. 17 South, Hasbrouck Heights. Doors open at 7:30 pm for the 8:00 o’clock show; tickets are \$25.00 per person with a 1 item minimum.

Tickets can be obtained by calling (201) 489-9454 ext. 125 or on-line at

www.bergenvolunteers.org.

Funds raised at this event will support the work of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County, which for 42 years has strengthened 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.

Its important work includes the following activities:

- Two **Mentoring Programs** are helping more than 100 abused or neglected children and over 50 overwhelmed mothers see and take steps to achieve a brighter future.
- The **Chore Volunteer Handyman Service** is keeping more than 1,500 seniors safe in their own homes.
- **Bergen LEADS**, with monthly seminars led by former County Executive William “Pat” Schuber, is developing a new generation of community leaders schooled in issues of critical importance to Bergen County.
- The **Business Volunteer Council** sponsors initiatives that benefit children and families in need.

- The **All Wrapped Up** holiday giving program generated well over \$440,000 in resources for people in need during the recent holiday season (\$33,000 more than last year).
- An expanded roster of **Trainings** is helping nonprofits increase their management capacity, and the **Neighbor Academy** is helping small, grassroots groups get organized.
- The **2009 Guide to Volunteering** and the searchable online database link thousands of prospective volunteers with 1,100 volunteer jobs at over 330 agencies
- The **youth service activities** are helping students, schools and groups become engaged in the community.

The stories of the volunteers and programs of the Volunteer Center are ones of commitment, caring and selfless giving. The stories of the recipients of these acts of kindness are ones of hope, love and gratitude.

“A movement growing is growing out of the current economic climate, an interest in civic engagement, an appetite by Americans to pull together to help their neighbors,” says Janet Sharma, the Volunteer Center’s executive director. “We are uniquely positioned to play an important role in shaping President Obama’s call to service, and how Bergen County residents respond to needs in our community.”

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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