



Issue #19 - December 2009/January 2010



Mission: The Volunteer Centers of Michigan strengthens, develops and connects volunteer centers throughout the state.

Vision: The Volunteer Centers of Michigan ensures all volunteer centers have the capacity to positively impact every Michigan community and their citizens through volunteerism.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service in Michigan- Jan. 18, 2010

MLK Day is just around the corner, and the Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC) has been leading statewide efforts to grow and expand Michigan's service and volunteering efforts of this year's King Day of Service. MCSC has been working to promote service projects in local communities with the Michigan Association of United Ways, the Corporation for National and Community Service state office, the LEAGUE, Michigan Campus Compact and VCM.

The following statewide goals have been established by MCSC and statewide partners to grow MLK Day in Michigan:

1. Raise Public Awareness- reach out to new organizations.
2. Kickoff to a Semester of Service- MLK Day can be used as a kickoff day to an entire semester of service ending with Global Youth Service Day.
3. Time Banks- implement this new neighborhood service concept that allows individuals to bank and trade service hours
4. Consistent Communications- MCSC will provide materials and resources to be distributed among
5. Evaluation- implement thorough evaluations of service projects to identify successes and challenges.



Get involved. If you are already planning an MLK Day event, use available resources to your benefit, and register your project at <http://serve.gov/>. When posting a project online, be sure to use key words (such as MLK Day) in the title and project description. Plan a 2010 project with the help of the Martin Luther King Day of Service Toolkit [found here](#). If you lack the capacity or means to develop your own service project, identify local opportunities to partner with organizations in implementing existing projects.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, January 18, 2010, is approaching quickly and HandsOn Network wants to know if your Action Center has plans to commemorate this signature day of service? Please take a few minutes to complete this [short survey](#) about your MLK Day plans. HandsOn has also provided MLK

Day resources such as toolkits, books and websites are available for youth, family and faith-based groups at <http://handsonnetwork.org/events/mlk2010/get>. Other great resources are available at the following websites: <http://www.mlkday.gov/>, <http://www.mlkmobilization.org/>; <http://serve.gov/>, and <http://michigan.gov/mcsc>.

Also, please consider applying for a MLK Day/Home Depot Foundation Grant. Through a generous gift from the Home Depot Foundation, ServiceNation has \$5,000 worth of Home Depot gift cards to be used for 2010 MLK Day service projects. The gift cards will be given out in \$500 increments to support sustainability or community revitalization projects. Proposals must be submitted by Wednesday, January 7. For more information, or to apply, [click here](#).

General questions about MLK Day of Service and MCSC's state collaboration efforts can be directed to Jeanine Yard at yardj@michigan.gov or 517-335-7952, and as always, VCM would love to hear about your plans for MLK Day and how we can help. Email your plans to agulker@mivolunteer.org.

Resources & Opportunities

St. Simons HandsOn Leadership Retreat

HandsOn network held a Leadership Retreat in St Simons, GA last week. This was promised to be a lively and informative retreat to report future strategies and decisions of the HandsOn Network. VCM is pleased to announce that Diana Algra and Kyle Caldwell were invited to attend this retreat, representing the nonprofit sector in Michigan and our network of Michigan volunteer centers. Stay tuned for a report from Diana will on topics discussed at the retreat.

January is National/Michigan Mentoring Month

Michigan and National Mentoring Month is designed to generate a concentrated burst of national, statewide, and local media activity. Combine this with community-based activities and you have the recipe to successfully recruit new mentors. The 2010 theme is "Pass It On." During January 2010 Mentor Michigan will celebrate the everyday, ordinary people who are making a difference for kids in Michigan. Mentors don't need special skills--all they need to do is care about kids and be willing to volunteer about an hour a week. [Click here](#) to view the 2010 Michigan Mentoring Month Tool Kit. It contains resources and ideas to help local mentoring programs promote their activities, thank their mentors, and recruit new mentors. Please keep track of your 2010 Michigan Mentoring Month efforts as Mentor Michigan will create a recap of the month's festivities this February. If you'd like to share a story, email Elyse V. Walter at verberkmoese@michigan.gov.



Save the Date - VCM Network Retreat

Mark your calendars for March 10-11, 2010. VCM will be hosting the network for a retreat in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan at the Comfort Inn. Stay tuned for more information including a survey of session topics as well as registration in the coming months. We look forward to this time of professional development and networking.

2010 Census - Nonprofits Count!

The numbers published by the U.S. Census have a significant impact on states and communities. The finalized data will affect the dispersion of



federal funds, political representation, public infrastructure and private investment. For every 100 people not counted, a community risks losing at estimated \$1.2 million over the next decade for federally funded programs alone. Nonprofits Count! is a campaign to mobilize nonprofits to get involved in making sure that every person is counted, with a special emphasis on hard-to-count communities. Visit <http://www.mnaonline.org/census.asp> for more information including [Maps and data for hard-to-count census tracts in Michigan](#). How do you plan to get involved and make sure your community is counted for the 2010 Census? [Let us know](#).

Registration Open for 2010 Certified Volunteer Administration Program

Individuals seeking to earn the CVA (Certified in Volunteer Administration) credential in 2010 may now register. This unique, international, performance-based program recognizes practitioners with at least three years of experience in the field of volunteer resources management. The CVA program is now sponsored by the Council for Certification in Volunteer Administration. Registration for the next cycle will remain open until March 1, 2010. Register by December 31 and save money with the special Early Bird fee. This is a self study process requiring no travel or classes. To get started, visit the CCVA [website](#). Specific questions can be directed to CCVA at 804-794-8689 or ccva@comcast.net.

The 14th Annual Institute: Service-Learning and Civic Engagement



Join higher education and K-12 administrators along with community-based organizations for a practical, interactive and stimulating Institute on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement. The 2009 Institute will be February 9-10, 2010 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City, MI. The Institute provides opportunities to examine service-learning models of success, network with service-learning professionals and explore campus-community partnerships. To learn more and register for the event go to

<http://www.micampuscompact.org/institute.asp>.

Tax Extenders Package Passes House, Stalls in Senate

The House passed the [Tax Extenders Act of 2009 \(HR 4213\)](#) December 9, 2009. If the Senate does not follow suit before the fast-approaching congressional recess, the IRA charitable rollover will expire on December 31, 2009. Congress could take retroactive action in 2010 on the extenders, but this will increase confusion for donors and push back possible contributions. Please take action now! [Call Senators Levin and Stabenow](#) and urge them to act now to prevent the expiration of this powerful giving incentive and to restore greater certainty for both donors and charitable organizations that rely on these gifts to expand vital programs and services in their communities. Talking points and a sample letter are [available here](#) to help you make the case.

Guide to Giving Wisely This Holiday Season

Donors are always encouraged to gather information about the organizations to which they contribute. If a donor is uncomfortable with information they find, the donor should seek clarification. The organization in question should always be given the opportunity to clarify issues. To assist donors in making these critical decisions, Michigan Nonprofit Association, Council of Michigan Foundations, Michigan Association of United Ways and the Michigan Attorney General have developed a guide for [Giving Wisely This Holiday Season](#). To view the guide, visit www.MNAonline.org/donor.asp.

SuperConference Call for Presenters -The Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference 2010 theme is "Bringing Focus to the Future," to invoke a feeling of forward-thinking and optimism during a time of great challenges in the sector. The goal is to not just discuss the future of the nonprofit sector, but for participants to leave the

conference with real ideas of their own personal, and their organization's, contribution to the future of the sector. Download the [RFP here](#); proposals will be accepted until January 6, 2010.

Give a Day - Get a Disney Day Free

Disney Parks is celebrating something new and that's the good things people do for their communities. In 2010, Disney wants to inspire one million people to volunteer a day of service to a participating organization in their communities and celebrate their good works by giving each of them one day admission to a theme park at Disneyland® Resort or Walt Disney World® Resort, free. Starting January 1, 2010, Guests can go to www.disney Parks.com to search for volunteer opportunities made available through HandsOn Network and sign up for a day of volunteer service. As the nation's largest volunteer network, HandsOn Network has 250 on-the-ground volunteer action centers across the country and connects volunteers to more than 70,000 nonprofit agencies that need their help. Many of the opportunities will be projects that entire families can participate in together. To learn more, just visit www.disney Parks.com. If you are community partner interested in this program, [click here](#) to see how you can receive more details. Stay tuned for more details.

Special Recognitions

Award of Honor - Mary Estrada

VCM would like to congratulate Mary Estrada for a recent award she received from the Society of Government Meeting Professionals (SGMP). SGMP is the only national organization in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to government meetings. Their mission is to enhance the knowledge and expertise of government meeting professionals. SGMP's objectives are to improve the quality and promote the cost-effectiveness of government meetings.

The Michigan chapter of SGMP recently honored VCM staff member Mary Estrada with The President's Award. The President's Award is a special tribute for exemplary and extraordinary accomplishments in SGMP. The award winner is honored with a presentation from the society's president. This award is given at the discretion of the President and is not necessarily awarded every year. Mary received this award back in 2001 and in 2004 she was awarded Planner of the Year. We appreciate all of Mary's hard work to get us the best conference locations and rates.

Kudos to our Executive Director - Diana Algra

Diana was recently appointed to the board of directors for Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan (PHPMM). This is a significant honor for Diana and VCM. Physicians Health Plan of Mid-Michigan is governed by their Board of Directors, composed of adult PHPMM enrollees, residents of the community, participating physicians, and hospitals. The PHPMM Board of Directors is responsible for establishing and overseeing corporate policy, and is supported by designated committees covering areas such as operations, quality improvement, care coordination, finance, credentialing, and pharmacy and therapeutics. Congratulations, Diana!

Tecnology Resources

FREE online storage and sharing for nonprofits

Nonprofits can store and access up to 5 GB of Microsoft Office applications such as Word, Excel, and Powerpoint with Office Live Workspace for free. Files uploaded to Office Live Workspace are password-

protected and can be accessed by authorized users from any computer connected to the internet. It's great for collaborating with staff and/or volunteers. [Read more...](#)

Free Color Printers for Nonprofits

FreeColorPrinters.com is providing a FREE Xerox Phaser 8560DN solid ink color printer to nonprofits. The program is recommended for organizations that print at least 2,000 color prints each month (four reams of paper) and have printing costs of at least \$125 per month. [Read more...](#)

VISTA Spotlights

New VISTA Members

Within the last month three new VISTA members have joined VCM Start-Up centers across the state. A special welcome to these new VISTA members:

- Tara Amarose is serving at the United Way Volunteer Center of the Eastern Upper Peninsula in Sault Ste. Marie. Tara is a UP native and resides in the Sault Ste. Marie area. She is a recent graduate from Grand Valley State University with a degree in Psychology.
- Anthony Sacco joins Lenawee Community Foundation in Tecumseh. Anthony is an Ohio native and attended the University of Toledo where he majored in Finance and Information Systems.
- Kristy Anderson is a December graduate from Central Michigan University. She is joining the Thumb Volunteer Alliance in Caro.

VCM is also happy to have Linda Gouda returning to Volunteer Muskegon based in Hart where she will be serving as a VISTA for a second year.

VISTA Service in Action

The United Way Volunteer Center of the Eastern Upper Peninsula collected, organized, and distributed 129 food baskets to serve 455 individuals in need in the Sault Ste. Marie, St Ignace, and Newberry communities. This was done through the services of 54 families who participated as a part of the November 21, Family Volunteer Day. An additional 495 community members donated items for the baskets. The families were involved in packing the baskets and making Thanksgiving cards to accompany the baskets.



The center's VISTA, Brad Hunter, worked to promote the event. Brad applied for and received a \$1000.00 grant through the Disney Corporation's Minnie Grant project. The funds were used for promotional flyers, marketing materials, and \$10.00 gift certificates towards the purchase of a turkey. This helped make the Family Volunteer Day event a success.

Calendar

December 2009	
----------------------	--

1	World AIDS Day
24 - Jan. 4	VCM Offices Closed
January 2010	National and Michigan Mentoring Month
12	VCM Network Conference Call, 10:00 am -11:30 am
18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
February 2010	
3	VCM Executive Committee Conference Call 10:00-11:30 am
9-10	Institute: Service-Learning and Civic Engagement , Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, MI
15	President's Day, VCM offices closed

Happy Holidays From VCM

The Volunteer Centers of Michigan staff would like to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season. We appreciate all you hard work and dedication throughout the past year. The VCM offices will be closed December 24th through January 4th.

© 2009, VOLUNTEER CENTERS OF MICHIGAN, 1048 PIERPONT, SUITE 3, LANSING, MI 48911.
 TEL: 517.492.2430. FAX: 517.492.2410.
 AFFILIATED WITH THE MICHIGAN NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION. VCM IS A MEMBER OF THE POINTS OF
 LIGHT & HANDS ON NETWORK.