



Change yourself. Change your world. Volunteer.

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Community Organization Newsletter

July 2008

[A Word from Sue Carter, Executive Director of VSD](#)

I attended last month's launch of USD's report on confidence in the nonprofit sector. I was concerned that nearly a third of our county had little to no awareness of the nonprofit sector, and excited by the opportunity it presents to our organizations to improve that awareness - and confidence - through volunteerism.

The presentation specifically mentioned improved volunteer engagement as a way to increase confidence in our nonprofits. It's a call to action that is consistent with VSD's new strategic plan. One of our core initiatives is to increase community impact through more effective volunteer action. In the coming months, we will focus our attention on helping prospective volunteers understand the varied ways they can participate - from hands-on activities and one-day projects to specialized strategic and leadership efforts and long-term projects. In addition, we'll help nonprofits improve their volunteer management practices and increase their readiness to engage and retain this newly emerging volunteer force.

It's a collective opportunity for us to improve San Diego in partnership - staff and volunteers - and to raise the confidence in our nonprofit sector because we learn and serve and problem solve together.

DOVIA Program Updates

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[Nominate Your Superhero Volunteers](#)



Directors Of Volunteers In Agencies (DOVIA) of San Diego County is a program of Volunteer San Diego. DOVIA's mission is to develop volunteer management skills and strengthen leadership through continuing education and support. Check out the [DOVIA](#) page for details on our programs.

DOVIA is taking some time off from our brown bags this summer. In the interim, as a reminder we have a volunteer manager discussion group on Google! You can continue networking that way. [Click here](#) to view the Google group.

Calling All Volunteer Managers

The DOVIA Advisory Council of VSD is seeking Volunteer Program Managers. Whether your title is Volunteer Coordinator, Director of Volunteers, or anything else, we need your input and help in planning trainings and recognition events for our San Diego County Volunteer Program managers. Have an idea for a training? Want to help Volunteer Managers succeed? Looking for networking opportunities? If so, the DOVIA Advisory Council needs you!

For further information, please contact [Sandra Bishop](#).

Other Volunteer San Diego News

Hands On San Diego Updates

What's next with Hands On San Diego? Many thanks to all of you who submitted projects! We had 112 submitted this year. Event sponsors will have first choice of projects beginning July 1st and all projects will be on the website and open to the public on July 14th.

Do you have clients who might be interested in volunteering? Invite them to come out and make a difference! Help us spread the word.

Art Contest Winners

Congratulations to all of our art contest winners. We received so many beautiful and inspiring entries that it was difficult to select the top ones. Thank you to all who participated. [Click here](#) to see the winners.

Using VSD's Services to the Fullest Potential

If you have recently partnered with Volunteer San Diego or just want to learn more about our programs and services, please join us at our monthly agency orientation at our offices in Kearny Mesa.

The first section is dedicated to learn more about **VSD's services and programs** in person and includes information on how your agency can benefit from our services. Our Agency services (resources, training and volunteer manager support), Flexible Volunteer Program, Referral Program and quick tips on posting your own volunteer opportunities will all be covered.

This is what some of our partners are saying about the orientation:

"Good information. I have passed it along to my supervisors in an email yesterday."

"I had all of my questions answered without having to ask them."

The next session will be held on Thursday, July 10th from 8:30AM to 9:30. This is a free session. [Click here](#) to sign up for this orientation.

For further information or to RSVP, please contact [Debbie Krakauer](#) at 858-636-4184. If you are unable to make it on this date you are welcome to call us and we can assist you with any of your questions.

Engaging Students in Service

[The Comprehensive Service-Learning Training](#)

On July 30th, we will host a workshop for educators looking to incorporate service-learning into their classes. This hands-on training is an "All-in-One." You will receive our introduction to service-learning, as well as two additional "In Focus" workshops exploring service-learning in the context of on-site projects and character education.

Participants also receive free resources, tools and access to on-going consultation to support their efforts after completion of this training.

WORKSHOP FEE: \$50 fee for all attendees.

Please sign up [on our website](#). For more information on this event please contact [Jennifer Hamilton](#).

Superhero of the Month

Corporal Robert "Bob" Pratt has been volunteering his time with the [San Diego Adaptive Sports Foundation](#) (SDASF) for the past four months as an adaptive sports mentor to children, ages 4-18 years old, with various physical disabilities such as amputations, spinal cord injuries, spina bifida, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other orthopedic and neurological disorders.

Bob joined the Marine Corps in March of 2003. He was injured in July of 2006 near the outskirts of Al Quaim, Iraq by a pressure plate IED. He has been a participant since then in our Injured Service members Program (ISP). After participating in our ISP programs, Bob decided he wanted to give back to the community and joined our program as a volunteer. Bob helps coach two teams including the Futures team and the Hammer Junior Varsity team. To date Bob has helped coach wheelchair soccer, wheelchair basketball, and wheelchair quad rugby.

Bob is an excellent mentor to these athletes because he is very positive and motivating. He respects children and sees them as individuals first and foremost, not their disabilities. He works them hard and in return they respect him and appreciate his matter of fact attitude.

His awards are numerous and include the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Medal. In his spare time (there isn't much), he likes to play video games, listen to music, watch movies, go hiking, read books (avid reader of

the LA Times), and computers. His future goals include transferring to a four year university and obtaining a degree in forestry.

VSD is Hiring!

We are recruiting for several positions including a Fire Recovery Coordinator, a Fire Recovery Assitant, and four AmeriCorps positions: Referral Coordniator, Project Coordinator, Volunteer Outreach Coordinator and Youth Leadership Coordinator.

Details on all of these positions can be found on the [employment page](#) of our website.

Youth Leaders Looking for Projects for Days of Service

Do you have a wish, a project or a need for your organization that you just don't have time or resources to do internally? Each yeah the SAVY Leaders research, plan and lead a project for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

of Service (January) and Global Youth Service Day (April).

They recruit volunteers, outreach to the media, fundraise and so much more. To learn more about how you can partner with the SAVY Leaders, email savy@volunteersandiego.org.



Fire Recovery Needs?

We are continuing to receive calls from local individuals and out-of-state groups that want to help in the fire recovery process. Do you have any needs that we can help fill? If so, please contact Patricia Davis at pdavis@volunteersandiego.org. Please keep us in mind now and in the future.

For more information on any of the above topics:

Debbie Krakauer of Volunteer San Diego

Email: dkrakauer@volunteersandiego.org

Phone: (858) 636-4184

Fax: (858) 492-2016

Web page: <http://www.volunteersandiego.org>