



VOLUNTEER SAN DIEGO

Change yourself. Change your world. Volunteer.

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Volunteer Newsletter

March 2009

"When the story of these times gets written, we want it to say that we did all we could, and it was more than anyone could have imagined."

- Bono

Executive Director's Message

From Sue Carter

VSD prides itself for using technology in new and exciting ways to connect to our community and you, the volunteers working to change it for the better. We've recently increased our Social Media efforts even more and you're invited to join us! The bigger groups of friends/followers we build, the bigger impact we can have on San Diego. How you can help:

1. Find us on these sites and add VSD info or feeds to your profiles.
 - * [Twitter](#)
 - * Facebook: [VSD group](#)
 - * [MySpace](#)
 - * Blog: Read our [blog](#) or [subscribe](#) to our feed
 - * Podcast: [Listen in](#) or download on iTunes as "Volunteer San Diego podcast"
2. Forward this newsletter to your willing circles of friends.
3. If you're using one of these sites, please distribute the newsletter there, as well. Send invites to your Facebook or MySpace friends

Quick Links

[Find A Project](#)

[Flex Orientations](#)

[VSD Podcast](#)

[VSD Blog](#)

and RT us regularly on Twitter.

We're very careful to keep our posts relevant, informative and useful, so anyone who does friend/follow us will know we respect their time and interest. We will reward their passion for volunteering - and hopefully engage even more people in service!

In Memory...

We dedicate this newsletter to our Flexible Volunteer Program Team Leader, Kim Heil. It is with great sadness that we announce her passing, but we continue to celebrate her life and wonderful contributions to the community and Volunteer San Diego. For four years, she led one of our Homework Helper projects in Carmel Valley and, for many new volunteers, was the first person from VSD that they would have met. If you attended a Jumpstart Orientation at the Carmel Valley Library, you would have seen Kim. We often received feedback from volunteers saying how informative, well-organized and genuinely nice she was. Many came back to the project over and over again because of the positive experience she created for them. Kim passed away in a traffic accident over the President's Day weekend and is greatly missed.

What's New

Servapalooza is Coming!

Volunteer San Diego, eXcel Youth Zone and Kids for Peace are co-hosting Servapalooza to celebrate Global Youth Service Day. Servapalooza is a Service Festival and Parade of Wishes in Balboa Park on Sunday April 26, 2009. Participants will enjoy the entertainment, Parade of Wishes, food, vendor booths, raffle prizes and the main event, Service Stations. To find out more, click [here](#).

We are still looking for volunteers to help plan Servapalooza. If you are interested in being on the team to make the magic of Servapalooza, please contact savy@volunteersandiego.org.

Save the Date!

We are going to have a fun party downtown during National Volunteer Week (April 19-25). Silent auction, drinks specials, prizes and more. 21 and up only. More details to follow.

Other VSD News

Thank you to all the Buick Invitational Volunteers

Volunteer San Diego truly appreciates everyone who volunteered at the Buick Invitational last month. Thank you for your understanding with all the changes and last minute cancellations due to the weather. Because of each volunteer, Volunteer San Diego will receive a donation from The Torrey Pines Lodge and the Century Club for each volunteer hour. We are still awaiting those numbers.

UnitedHealth Group

While attending their National Consultant Forum in San Diego, employees had an option to volunteer one of their afternoons upgrading an outdoor courtyard/patio at a local nonprofit. Volunteers painted walls, replaced missing tiles, gardened, assembled two benches, created three mosaic boards and a beach mural that were all installed in the courtyard. The recipient of this volunteer project was the Family Recovery Center in Oceanside.



To learn more about how Volunteer San Diego can coordinate and manage your project for your group, team or company, click [here](#).

10News Leadership Award



With Volunteer San Diego, Sempra Energy Foundation and LEAD San Diego, the 10News Leadership Award recognizes someone who provides leadership by making San Diego a better place to live, by standing up for those who need help, and improving the quality of life for all San Diegans. [Nominate](#) a leader for their work in the categories of Volunteerism, Environment, Diversity or Community Action.

Hot Projects

Outreach Volunteer

Volunteer San Diego is looking for a volunteer to help with the development of outreach materials with VSD's mission and goals to be used at various outreach events throughout the year. Click [here](#), if you are interested!

In Case of Emergency, Read Here!

Just as we citizens depend upon our first responders in a crisis, San Diego's life-saving agencies depend upon us to respond as trained volunteers. And these agencies offer highly competitive training and volunteer opportunities for the times in which we live. Take a moment to read through these critically important positions: [Firefighters, Volunteer and Reservist](#); [Search and Rescue Responders, Sheriff's Department](#); [Health Practitioners](#). If you know a neighbor, friend or family member who might be interested, spread the word!

Or, if you have excellent office skills to offer in administrative support of our emergency responders consider these positions: [Fire Service Administrative Assistants](#); [Medical Reserve Corps Part-time Administrative Intern](#).

Weed Whackin' Wednesdays

Survivors of the 2007 Wildfires need your help! Volunteer San Diego is seeking community volunteers to help provide brush management services for fire survivors in need. With assistance from local fire recovery centers and partner organizations, teams of volunteers will be able to provide these services at no cost to fire survivors who are either senior citizens, physically unable, low-income, under-insured or challenged by special circumstances. [Sign up](#) now! No experience necessary - we provide the training!

Flex Members

Flex Projects

Project Spotlight

Weed Warriors

With the weather getting more and more beautiful, come join us at Tecolote Canyon on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month as we help protect and preserve this special place so that San Diegans can enjoy it for generations to come.

What another Flex volunteer is saying about the project: "I enjoy this project...neat to be outside and helping de-weed public areas that I can enjoy in my free time. Would definitely recommend this to friends..." - Allyson

[Sign up](#) today!

Updates

Angels Depot

This project will be cancelled for several months. Keep checking the Project Calendar for its return.

Beautified Nature Walk for Teens

Join us for the Beautified Nature Walk and learn more about local plants and animals while helping save the environment on March 28 and/or April 25. [Sign up](#) today!

Not a Flex member yet? Click [here](#) to join.

Have an idea for a Flex Project? Email [Leia](#) or call her at (858) 636-4139 for more details.

Be a Leader

Flex Team Leaders Needed!

Interested in Being a Flex Team Leader?

We need Team Leaders for:

- * Childcare at the Women's Resource Center (WRC) - 5th Wednesday (when we have a 5th Wednesday) of each month
- * Friends of Cats - 4th Saturday of each month and/or as a substitute team leader as needed
- * North County Food Bank - 1st-3rd Thursday of each month

If you are interested in becoming a Team Leader for any of the

above projects (or have an idea for a new project you would like to lead), please email [Debbie](#) or call her at (858) 636-4184.

Board and Committee Members Wanted

Are you looking for a position on a committee or Board of Directors? Check out a list of opportunities with a variety of organizations looking for your expertise [here](#).

Flex Accomplishments

Flex keeps growing and improving the community!

In the month of January, 596 new volunteers joined Flex and attended orientations. Welcome to Flex!

And thanks to all the Flex volunteers! **934** volunteers completed **97** projects and **2,000** hours of service in January.

Not yet a Flex Member?

Please take our online [Flex Orientation](#)!

SAVY Leaders

Do you have a Wish for the World?

If your group has a Wish for the World, participate in a service project to grant your wish and then celebrate your service in the Servapalooza Parade of Wishes on April 26th.

Create a Wish Banner for the parade, decorated with your Wish for the World and memories of your group's service project. After the parade through Balboa Park, you'll have the opportunity to present your Wish on stage and put your banner on display throughout the day's festivities. To join the parade and find out how to do a Wish service project (and earn a mini-grant for your supplies), click [here](#).



Superhero of the Month

This month we would like recognize **Cheryl Shaw**, a volunteer with Best Buddies San Diego. Best Buddies is a non-profit organization whose goal is to provide people with developmental disabilities with opportunities for one-on-one friendships. Volunteers from the community are matched into such a friendship with adults with disabilities who share similar interests. A Best Buddies friendship provides vital socialization skills, a heightened sense of independence and increased self-confidence to the people who are often neglected by mainstream society.

Cheryl volunteers about 15 hours each month through this program and has done so for the past two years! In addition to this, she has been a den leader with Cub Scouts, a volunteer with the Boy Scouts, and a board member for the Escrow Association.

If you would like to [nominate](#) a volunteer, please let us know!

Support Volunteer San Diego

Donate to Volunteer San Diego

Click [here](#) to donate funds.

Check out the latest Volunteer San Diego fashions.

Visit our shop [here](#).

Supporting VSD is easy!

Now you can raise money for Volunteer San Diego just by searching the Internet at goodsearch.com.

Have an Albertson's Preferred Savings Card?

Sign up your Albertson's card to benefit Volunteer San Diego. Support VSD youth programs with your Albertsons Preferred Savings Card! Register [here](#) & enter our ID# 49001011683.

For more information contact:

Volunteer San Diego

Email: volunteer1@volunteersandiego.org

Phone: (858) 636-4131

Fax: (858) 492-2016

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

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