



e-Volunteer Voice

Volunteer Calgary's monthly news from the sector

Volunteer Calgary's employee volunteer program is going strong



Image courtesy of Volunteer Calgary's Flickr Account

With the first few weeks of summer under our belt, the VC Employee Volunteer Program is making a positive impact in communities all over our city. With 12 Paint the Town projects and 14 Community Connect projects already scheduled or completed in 2011, Volunteer Calgary and our corporate partners will be busy all summer long.

Despite our busy schedule we are still hoping to find more non-profit organizations that have either a summer or fall projects that would be suitable for an employee group to engage for a full day or half day. Not sure what we are looking for? Here are some ideas to get you started!

In the past, employee group volunteers have participated in:

- Painting houses, rooms, signs etc.
- Building cabins
- Reading to children
- Landscaping, Weeding, Planting, Gardening etc.
- Donation sorting
- Food preparation
- Client services (ie. mentoring)

If you have an idea, and even if you don't, we'd love to hear from you to help you brainstorm a potential project. Don't miss out on this opportunity to engage an enthusiastic group of employee volunteers and cross some of the "to do's" off your list this summer!

For more information or to fill out a project proposal, please contact Janet Kerrigan, Coordinator Corporate Citizenship at jkerrigan@volunteercalgary.ab.ca or 403-231-1428.

Call for community & service learning projects

From September to December 2011, a select number of students from the University of Calgary & Mount Royal University will be available to undertake short-term projects in Calgary. Another cohort of students will be available for projects between January and April, 2012.

Community and Service Learning (CSL) is an educational partnership between a community organization (usually a non-profit organization) and an instructor and his/her students, in which all parties learn from one another as they serve together. Students perform a service for the community partner. The project or service is related to the skills and knowledge to be learned through the course. It could be a community-based research project, or the provision of a customized service that the community needs. In the past, students have:

- Conducted surveys
- Developed a website
- Completed personal interviews
- Drafted a communications plan

Could your organization use assistance? Members of Volunteer Calgary who are interested in becoming a Community Service Learning Partner for the fall of 2011 are asked to contact [Buffly St. Amand](mailto:Buffly.St.Amand). An information Bulletin and a CSL Project proposal form will be sent to those who are interested. Our goal is to make CSL partner selection by the end of August.

Police checks made easy!

Calgary police are making it easier to get a Police Information Check by opening several new locations around the city for people to submit the applications.

Effective immediately, Calgarians can choose from seven locations... [Learn More](#) >>

Share your volunteer spirit! Help not-for-profit organizations

Alberta's Board Development Program is seeking volunteers to train as workshop instructors. Successful applicants receive specialized training in board governance and are expected to conduct 10 workshops with boards of not-for-profit organizations over a period of 2-1/2 years. Travel expenses are covered.

Preferred applicants: Those who have experience in the not-for-profit sector as board members or senior staff, and a background in facilitating adult groups.

How to apply: In the Edmonton area, call 780-427-2001
Outside Edmonton: toll free 310-0000, then 780-427-2001
Email: BDP@gov.ab.ca
www.albertabdp.ca

Application deadline: September 30, 2011.

Building the bridge: New strategies to engage today's volunteers

We invite you to join community leaders, public officials, volunteers, and volunteer resource managers for this FREE catered lunch workshop. Dive into the latest findings on Canada's volunteering landscape detailed in the recently unveiled Bridging the Gap research report.

[» Continue Reading](#)

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MEMBERS ONLY

Make your Membership benefits work for you!

Volunteer Calgary selects member organizations to promote on social media sites, newspapers and other media sources.

- Opportunity to become a Community Service Learning partner
- Complimentary access to the Canadian Directory of Foundations and Corporations
- Reduced rate on all Volunteer Calgary training programs.

... for a complete listing to all of your benefits with Volunteer Calgary, [click here!](#)

LOOK WHO'S NEW

Here are our newest non-profit members!

City of Calgary Emergency Management Agency.

The City of Calgary Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Social Services program partners with all levels of government, and many community non-profit agencies to coordinate the delivery of social services such as food, clothing, shelter, and counselling to people displaced from their homes during times of disaster. In 2010, over 1100 Calgarians received assistance from CEMA ESS. While our program utilizes volunteers from various community agencies, we have been approached by many Calgarians who would like to pre-register as volunteers we may call upon to enhance our service delivery model. We look forward to partnering with Volunteer Calgary to develop this system in 2011. [Learn More](#)

L.I.B. International
L.I.B. International (herein after referred to as L.I.B.) has two core objectives which in their entirety are interconnected and interdependent to one another. Interrupting the cycle of poverty and creating a new path of development in a developing community requires both financial and social stability, due to which our main goals rest on creating sustainable entrepreneurial support and community development. [Learn More.](#)

African Girls Education Fund

Our mission is to improve literacy, health and socio-economic well being of African girls through education. We provide scholarships to underprivileged girls in dire need to further their education. [Learn More.](#)

SIGN UP

Feel like it's a bit of work to track trends and news in the voluntary sector?

No sweat, we'll do that for you.

The Volunteer Calgary Blog is regularly updated with thoughts, news, books, events and stories on topics related to volunteering.

Comments and discussions are encouraged. [Subscribe](#) to our blog today for weekly updates, straight to your inbox.

PROFILE OF A PROFESSIONAL



LeeAnne Alexander is so passionate about volunteer management that she single-handedly created her volunteer management role at NeighbourLink Calgary. Back in 2009, LeeAnne started with NeighbourLink as a volunteer administrator for the All Roads Lead Home program. One year later, armed with previous experience and a hunger to do more, LeeAnne approached the leadership at NeighbourLink and said "I think we need a volunteer management position," then offered to take the role. Until this point, each of the program staff was responsible for their own volunteer recruitment and engagement.

"I could see the need that hadn't been filled," explains LeeAnne. "I had shown them [it would work] through success stories. They knew we had a need for a volunteer coordinator, so I presented them with a year's plan. They were able to find the funding to hire me, so they said, 'GREAT!' When you're taking 40 calls a day, you don't want to worry about if the volunteers are happy, so I do that now."

NeighbourLink works to provide low-income Calgarians with the resources, donated goods and connections they need to avoid homelessness. Volunteers are vital to NeighbourLink's service delivery. "Lifting spirits, one neighbour at a time" is what volunteers do every day for NeighbourLink clients. Volunteers build hampers, take baby supplies to needy families, sort donated goods in the warehouse, deliver heavy furniture and personally deliver Calgary Food Bank hampers to struggling Calgarians. "When you're a single mom living in poverty, you don't have a car to pick up a crib in the middle of winter."

Although you might think it's easy to see the impact NeighbourLink has in the community, LeeAnne feels it is important that the volunteers know how important their work is. With so many tasks to do, "...it's good for the volunteers to see for themselves and feel like they are making a difference. It's hard to understand that this happens in Calgary. It's hard to understand how delivering a chair can better our world, but delivering chairs means a family is not eating dinner on the floor tonight." LeeAnne shared a number of these heartfelt stories with us. The awe-struck stories from volunteers drive her to do her best. Even with highly engaged staff and leadership, LeeAnne says the biggest challenge is "...we always feel like we're not doing enough and that people don't know who we are. We just try to help as many people as we can."

NeighbourLink is now thinking about involving volunteers in different ways and took the first step when they hired volunteers to answer their help-line. "The leadership and staff have seen the growth and promise that new volunteer [positions] have made." Although she finds it challenging, LeeAnne is seeking new ways to develop new roles in IT, fund development and program development, but "wouldn't want volunteers to stop seeing clients for a fancy website."

When LeeAnne isn't brewing up solutions at work, she enjoys time with her family. She loves children's books and even has a bookshelf in her office that is full of her favourites, including One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. She enjoys spending time with her children who love watching So You Think You Can Dance together. "I have daughters. OF COURSE I love SYTYCD!" she laughs. You can catch LeeAnne wandering Kensington shops with her husband every Friday, enjoying consignment boutiques, Crave Cupcakes, coffee and wine stores.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

LeeAnne's top tips to being a successful manager of volunteers:

- Be flexible in your volunteer roles to honour the volunteer's time. If you have a delivery service, let your volunteers choose how often, what day and what area of the city. Save gas and time by grouping deliveries in similar areas.
- If your organization is restructuring, make sure your orientations, training and operating procedures are changed accordingly.
- Always explain why a volunteer position is important. "They want to know they are doing something significant to better our world."
- Don't reinvent the wheel—ask lots of questions! Network with other managers of volunteers, discuss topics on social media, and use your resources.
- Get to know your volunteers. "It's all about relationships. Conversations are worth more than a mug or a pen." Ask what their summer plans are, know their kids' names, make sure they know they matter as people, so when a volunteer retires "it's not a change in numbers, you're losing a friend."

~LeeAnne Alexander
NeighbourLink Calgary

Training Workshops @ Volunteer Calgary

Volunteer Calgary still has space to register in the following courses:



'Elements of Volunteer Engagement' (Sept 28 & 29, Oct 19 & 20, Nov 23 & 24)

This is our foundational training at Volunteer Calgary and is a prerequisite to most other courses offered. We've added an additional course in June to keep up with requested registration. Join us for 'EVE' and discover the key concepts integral to an up to date Volunteer Management program. Register early!

[Click here](#) for more courses and topics

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Let's learn about Leadership Calgary

Leadership Calgary is a community-based, leadership development program of Volunteer Calgary. Currently entering into its 13th year, the program encourages existing and aspiring leaders to work collaboratively to build a healthy and caring community.

Graduates from the LC program are up to so many great things in the city, that we wanted to take the time to recognize a few of them here. If you would like to know more about this program at Volunteer Calgary [click here](#)

At our 15th Annual Leadership Awards on April 13th, we were thrilled to present **Karen Gallagher-Burt, LC Class of 2010**, with the Leaders in Volunteer Management award for her dedication and unending support of the many volunteers at the Distress Centre. Congratulations, Karen, on your latest accomplishment!

Congratulations to **Lindsay Mitchell, Class of 2008**, in her new role as the Executive Director of Bridges Social Development! This local non-profit organization focuses on building human capacity, beginning in Yemen and more recently returning the focus back to local Calgary youth. Best of luck in your new position Lindsay!

We're incredibly excited to announce that **Jamie Niessen, Class of 2007**, is the new President/CEO of Volunteer Calgary, effective June 13, 2011. Jamie comes to us from TransCanada, has a great deal of experience working with non-profits and is the current Board Chair of the Calgary Public Library. Congratulations, Jamie, and welcome to the Volunteer Calgary Team!



What's new on the library shelves

Doing good together: 101 meaningful service projects for families, friends, and communities. Friedman, Jenny. 2010

Is your organization looking for service project ideas? An increasing number of schools, workplaces, and organizations are doing family service projects as a way to make positive change in their communities. 302.14 F911



End of fundraising: raise more money by selling your impact. Saul, Jason. 2011

Specifically, this groundbreaking book offers nonprofit professionals a guide to:

Understand the role of social change in our economy

Capture and communicate impact in simple, compelling terms

Identify the new market stakeholders that value nonprofit outcomes

Create powerful value propositions to increase leverage

Improve the success of a nonprofit's pitches to funders. 658.15224 S256



Game storming: a playbook for innovators, rulebreakers, and changemakers. Gray,

Dave. 2010

This book includes more than 80 games to help break down barriers, communicate better, and generate new ideas, insights, and strategies. The authors have identified tools and techniques that help create an environment for collaboration. 658.4022 G778



A special thank-you

Volunteer Calgary would like to thank our wonderful volunteers that came out to help us this year at our casino fundraising event at the Elbow River Casino. Without your support and willingness we couldn't have done it without you. We appreciate all those that supported us. We look forward to seeing you again in 18 months!

AGM presentation

If you missed the AGM, you can still see our guest speaker - Jocelyne Daw's presentation

[View](#)

[>>See More](#)

FEATURED TWEETS

@HawaiianLife - We can be more or less of anything we want... What do you want more of in your life???

@MealsOnWheelscaMeals - Thanks! We have had some fantastic volunteers join because of you. Great Job!

DOSE OF INSPIRATION

"There are two ways of spreading light - to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

-Edith Wharton,
Vesalius in Zante

BITS FROM THE BLOG

The glorious summer sun opens up endless possibilities for fun and adventure. While you are lying on the grass, soaking up some rays, mulling over the meaning of life and wondering how you can make the most of your summer, here's a thought to ponder: Why not volunteer?

Volunteering allows you to step out of your comfort zone and opens up your world to wonderful new experiences. Whether your goal is to meet new people, be more active, learn a new skill or two, or just about anything under the sun (pun intended), there is a volunteer opportunity out there with your name on it. So why not make your summer both exciting and productive by volunteering?

[>>Read More](#)

VOLUNTEER IN PROFILE

CTV & Volunteer Calgary present...
June 2011

GUS YAKI

who volunteers with

[FRIENDS OF FISH CREEK PARK](#)

Your volunteer can be the next VIPI! Don't miss the opportunity to give your organization's (and your organization's) their five minutes of fame! Nominating someone is simple. [Click here for more details](#) or contact our [Communication Team](#)

[Learn more](#)

About Us

Leading, promoting, connecting and strengthening volunteerism



e-volunteer voice is published monthly for the benefit of Volunteer Calgary non-profit members

For comments or to inquire about submitting content, email communications@volunteercalgary.ab.ca

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