

Volunteer Voice Newsletter

Spring 2018

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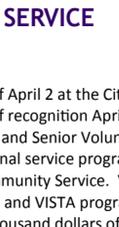
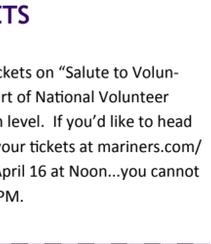
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK IS APRIL 15-21

Volunteer Connections is a "match-maker". We match great people to wonderful opportunities to serve our communities! In 2017 six hundred sixty three volunteers placed by Volunteer Connections served an astonishing 61,268 hours at nonprofits and agencies across the county! You have made significant differences in our community and we cannot thank you enough for all your dedication! Most of your organizations will likely have a special recognition for you during this month or next, and we too will offer our thanks in various ways this month and in the month of May. Please know that whether you donate an hour a month or several hours a week, you have made a difference and it is appreciated! Your Volunteer Connections staff is working hard to do some improvements to the overall program over the coming months. If, between now and the end of the year, you receive a call or an email asking you to participate in a survey we'd be grateful if you help us by taking the time to answer a few questions about volunteering. It will help us build a program that benefits even more people.



HONORING THE "GREATEST VOLUNTEERS" WITH "THE GREATEST SHOWMAN!"

In honor of National Volunteer Week, on **Tuesday April 17**, come see a special movie matinee screening of one of the best movies of 2017, "The Greatest Showman" starring Hugh Jackman. The movie matinee screening will be at **Glenwood Place Senior Living 5500 NE 82nd Ave in Vancouver. Doors open at 3:30, with the movie starting at 3:45.** Celebrating the birth of "show business", it tells the story of a visionary (PT Barnum) who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation- "the Greatest Show on Earth!" The songs, including the inspiring "This is Me" and dance numbers harken back to the golden age of movie musicals! We'll be serving popcorn, drinks, and your favorite movie candy! Seating is limited so **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!** Phone 360-735-3690 or email shannons@hsc-wa.org by April 16. This is a screening for volunteers and one guest as a special thank you from Volunteer Connections and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP).

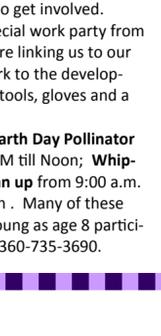
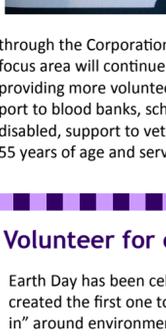


MARINERS OFFERING REDUCED PRICE TICKETS

Every year the Seattle Mariners offer reduced price tickets on "Salute to Volunteers" night. This year it's Monday April 16, at the start of National Volunteer Week. Tickets are \$15 for view level and \$30 for main level. If you'd like to head up to Seattle to enjoy a night of baseball simply buy your tickets at mariners.com/Volunteers. Deadline to purchase tickets is Monday April 16 at Noon...you cannot buy them that night at that price. Game time is 7:10 PM.

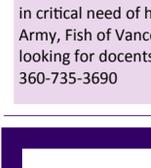
MAYOR ISSUES PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE CORPS DAY OF RECOGNITION APRIL 3

Vancouver Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle issued a proclamation the night of April 2 at the City Council meeting honoring National Service Corps members for their day of recognition April 3rd. National Service Corps members include volunteers serving in the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, (RSVP), AmeriCorps VISTA, and AmeriCorps. Each of these national service programs are part of the Corporation for National and Community Service. Volunteer Connections is the local sponsor of the RSVP and VISTA programs. 222 RSVP volunteers have provided over \$899 thousand dollars of service totaling over 29,000 hours in nonprofits around Clark County. The RSVP program has been housed with Volunteer Connections and the Human Services Council since 2008. The VISTA program (Volunteers in Service to America) has been part of the Human Services Council (HSC) for 16 years. HSC will transfer sponsorship of VISTA to the Clark County Food Bank in June. Five VISTAs served during 2017-May 2018, with one VISTA still in service, Charles Marentes serving at Vancouver Public Schools. The RSVP program was recently awarded another year of funding through the Corporation for National and Community Service. The primary focus area will continue to be Healthy Futures with special emphasis on providing more volunteers to area food banks along with continuing support to blood banks, schools, thrift stores, transportation for elderly and disabled, support to veterans, and more. RSVP Volunteers must be at least 55 years of age and serve in an area of critical community need.



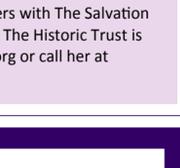
Volunteer for our EARTH on EARTH DAY APRIL 21 or 22

Earth Day has been celebrated since April 22, 1970 when Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson created the first one to call attention to issues surrounding the environment. At first, a "teach-in" around environmental issues, it is now a day for people to get out and do significant volunteer projects for our planet. Here in Clark County you'll find several ways to get involved. **The Confluence Land Bridge** is celebrating Earth Day on April 21 with a special work party from 9:00 a.m. till Noon. Help spruce up this unique treasure linking us to our historical past from the Klickitat Trail to Lewis and Clark to the development of the Northwest. Wear closed toed shoes, but tools, gloves and a barbeque lunch at noon are provided! Other Earth Day activities on April 21 will include an **Earth Day Pollinator Garden** planting with the City of Vancouver from 10 AM till Noon; **Whipple Creek Trail Maintenance** or **Frenchman's Bar Clean up** from 9:00 a.m. till Noon with Clark County Public Works Parks Division. Many of these events are family friendly and accept volunteers as young as age 8 participating with a parent. To sign up email Shannons@hsc-wa.org or call us at 360-735-3690.



PEN PAL PROGRAM UPDATE

171 volunteers ranging in age from 20 to 95 have been writing monthly letters to 270 fifth grade students in 11 classrooms at four different schools for the 23rd year of the Pen Pal Program. Though we have fewer schools than in previous years, we actually are serving more students. Several volunteers are writing to multiple students. Our waiting list has seen new volunteers get assigned students as some adults are unable to continue or as new students have moved into classrooms. The students will correspond with their adult Pen Pal through the end of the school year. They will get a chance to meet face-to-face at an end of the year dessert party at their school coming up in late May and early June. Recruitment for the next school year is typically in July and August. To get on the recruitment list just send an email to shannons@hsc-wa.org.



URGENT NEEDS: If you are looking for a new opportunity, we have several partners in critical need of help. We've received requests for additional volunteers with The Salvation Army, Fish of Vancouver, Confluence Land Bridge, Fish of Orchards, and The Historic Trust is looking for docents for tours! To learn more email shannons@hsc-wa.org or call her at 360-735-3690

It's grant report time at Volunteer Connections. PLEASE report all hours through March 31 by April 13, 2018. Your hours are critical to our continued funding support. Report your hours to shannons@hsc-wa.org or call them in at 360-735-3690.

We'd appreciate a "LIKE" and a "SHARE" on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/HSCVolunteerConnections! It's also the way you can stay up-to-date with special events and new volunteer opportunities. We update our Facebook page several times a week.

The Volunteer Voice Newsletter is a publication of the Human Services Council Volunteer Connections Program. *Volunteer Connections mission is to connect the wisdom, experience, and talents of volunteers with opportunities to enrich the quality of life for themselves and their communities*
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