



Generous volunteers impact community

Welcome to a weekly article with the purpose of informing you about some of Delaware's not-for-profit 501c-3 organizations. Who they are, what they do and most importantly who they serve. The goal is keeping you updated about organizations with timely and positive information.

When I accepted the position of Connections Volunteer Center Director I didn't expect it to be a job that has proven to have so much meaning.

In working with local non-profits and helping match community volunteers with community needs, I often find myself in amazement of the impact that generous volunteers in our community make.

There are days that I find myself with goose bumps when I hear about how volunteers are helping others.

Most recently, I had the pleasure of partnering local youth with volunteers from Home Depot to make repairs at Equi-Valent Riding Center, a local organization that provides equine assisted therapy. I watched in amazement at the genuine interest and patience Home Depot volunteers displayed as they taught the youth new skills, skills they'll be able to take with them as they continue on as adults in our society. It may not have been evident to those involved, but they were teaching the youth more than how to use a drill, they were teaching them patience, acceptance and the importance of serving their community.

The project was part of Global Youth Service Day. Connections Volunteer Center, a program of HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties Inc. was awarded a mini-grant from Serve Ohio, which helped fund the project. Connections also coordinates a community-wide



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Connections

project for Make A Difference Day, where over 400 volunteers gather to help others.

At Connections, I've seen an increase in those encouraged to give the gift of time.

Not only are schools putting a greater emphasis on volunteering, but so are corporations.

In 2012, Connections matched over 1,000 volunteers and was able to track 16,117 hours of service, a value of over \$350,000.

Directing the Delaware County Volunteer Center and being able to offer a one-stop-shop for community volunteer needs, makes me feel like I'm making a difference every day.

Connections has a variety of additional services offered to the community with a specific focus on engaging adults age 60 and older as well as recruiting and training volunteers to respond in the event of a disaster. Continuing education for professionals is also available through our organization.

Connections is partially funded by the Council for Older Adults, United Way of Delaware County, HelpLine of Delaware & Morrow Counties Inc. donations, and grants.

For more detailed information about Connections or to make a donation, please visit our website at www.connectionsvolunteer-center.org or call 740-363-5000.

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