



**VOLUNTEER
• IMPACT •**

Connections

Improving Our Detroit Metropolitan Community Through Hands-On Volunteering

Family Fun Fest for Katrina Families

Hurricane Victims Warming to Michigan Welcome, Weather

Volunteer Impact co-sponsored a Family Fun Fest for Katrina victims with Congressman Sander Levin, Mitch Albom's "Time to Help" and the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit on Oct. 8. Sixty volunteers and an equal number of "New Michigianians" participated in a fun-filled day

There was great food provided by **Matt Prentice Restaurant Group, Hogan's, Outback Steakhouse of W. Bloomfield, Happy's Family Pizza, Franklin Cider Mill, Starbucks, Hogan's, and Mitchell's Fish Market.** **Southfield Public Schools** helped provide transportation, and the **City of Lathrup Village** donated its park space. Supplies such as tables, chairs, tents, and ice were provided by Mitch Albom's Time to Help, the **Meijer Corporation,** and **US Ice Corporation.** **The Michael Galvin Trio** provided great music. Moonwalks, Bungee Jumping and other games were generously provided by **PlanetX.** Craft projects and other activities were orchestrated and provided by the YMCA. The kids said they especially liked the face-painting, the great music, and the Velcro wall. Grateful adults appreciated the incredible food and music, but were surprised by their first introduction to



Congressman Sander Levin and Mitch Albom greet the crowds at Annie Lathrup Park.

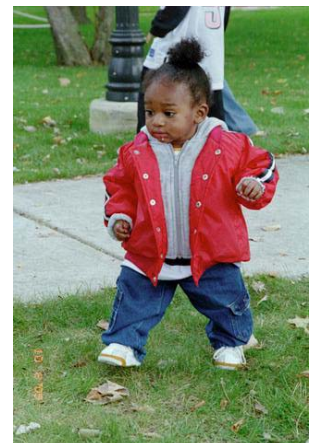
Michigan's crisp fall weather. Special thanks to **Volunteer Impact "Super" Volunteer Marci Fitch** for organizing and coordinating such a terrific event in only three weeks. Look for an article featuring the occasion in an upcoming *Parade* magazine issue.

You can't leave footprints in the sands of time while sitting down.
—Nelson Rockefeller

**Adopt-a-Shelter
Dec. 3**

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VOLUNTEER IMPACT, INC. A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

OUR NEW HOME:
6690 Orchard Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
Suite 207 (Mail 204)
(248) 932-2580 Phone
www.volunteerimpact.org

From the President

Join Us, Help Us, Support Us



Nancy Welber Barr

This year end, please make a commitment to volunteerism. We know that you have given for the many natural disasters which have occurred during 2005. However, as residents of the Metro Detroit community we still have an obligation to our local community. Volunteer Impact has served our community since 1990—at no cost to the non-profits we serve.

Join us: Is it possible that the holiday season is upon us? At Volunteer Impact we have been planning our annual Adopt-a-Shelter project for some time now. We hope you will join us on Saturday, December 3, when we bring some holiday joy to families in 12 homeless shelters across Metro Detroit. As is our custom, we will provide a Christmas party to the shelter residents complete with treats, art projects, manicures for the moms and gifts. Please check our wish list in this Connections and bring as much you are able so that we can be sure this Christmas is bright for everyone. Be sure to sign up by calling the VI office at (248) 932-2580 or (even better) by e-mailing us at volunteer_impact@yahoo.com.

Help Us: If you want to get something done, ask a busy person. Somehow, that busy person seems to always have time to do a little extra. At Volunteer Impact we find that asking a busy person usually rings true. However, we are a little busier than we planned to be this year, since we no longer have any paid staff. If you have office skills and would like to spend a few hours a week volunteering in our West Bloomfield, office answering phone messages, helping with correspondence, and other similar tasks, please call us. We can use you. Our number is (248) 932-2580 or e-mail us at

volunteer_impact@yahoo.com.

Support Us: The Michigan economy has not been kind to Volunteer Impact. Volunteer Impact has is having difficulty meeting its barebones obligations—at a time when the need for our assistance is at its greatest. We have streamlined our office operations, laid off all of our paid staff, and have cut costs wherever possible, but we still have ongoing costs we must meet to survive.

This year end, please make a commitment to volunteerism. We know that you have given for the many natural disasters which have occurred during 2005. However, as residents of the Metro Detroit community we still have an obligation to our local community. Volunteer Impact has served our community since 1990—at no cost to the non-profits we serve.

Please look at the list of activities listed in this newsletter that your money will sponsor. If you donate \$100 or more, you will be listed in coming newsletters as a member of our One Hundred Club for donors of \$100 or more. If VI is important to you, and we think it is, please tell us by sending us your tax-deductible check or credit card donation. You can even donate on-line at our secure website by clicking on this link: (<http://www.volunteerimpact.org/vi/donate.cfm>). Our Board of Directors has made the commitment. 100% of our board has recently donated to Volunteer Impact to show its commitment to *Revitalizing Metro Detroit Through Volunteering*.

Won't you?

Youth Board News

The VI Youth Board meets monthly the first Tuesday of each month in the café at the Southfield Public Library at 6:30 p.m. The board is open to high school students in the tri-county area. Each month the VI Youth Board selects community service events that are youth-friendly for students, and designs a project that can be implemented by any group—from school clubs, church groups, to a group of friends.



The Youth Board is also interested in collecting e-mail addresses for a contact person who coordinates community service opportunities at each area high school. To assist them, please pass this information on to your high school student, or share with your local high school.

Next meeting:

*Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 p.m.,
Southfield Public Library Café*



Volunteer Opportunities for November 2005

Tikun Olam (Repair the World)

--Hebrew Proverb

Tues, Nov. 1

4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring, Detroit
Helping students with homework.
Call: Dr. Donald M. Lutas 313-896-1843

Wed. Nov. 2

10:00a -12:00p Lighthouse of Oakland County, Pontiac
Packaging fruits and vegetables
Volunteers needed to package fruits & Veggies when they are delivered to Lighthouse on the first Wednesday of each month. We could use 3 - 4 people between the hours of 10:00 and 12:00. The job involves light lifting but does require some bending at the waist as we currently are packaging the bags on the floor.
contact: Ken Fuerst
248-683-9788 - Leave message if you like.
kenn1st@comcast.net

Thur, Nov. 3

10:00a -11:00a or
12:30 -1:30p
Ushers needed for Wild Swan Theatre, Washtenaw Community College
"A Thousand Swans"
Performances have no intermission and last about 45 minutes to one hour. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Kim McLean at the Wild Swan Theater at (734)995-0530 or at abby@wildswantheaterorg
Thurs and Fri: 3 persons needed
Sat.: 8 persons needed
Note: The times listed are for showtimes. Plan to arrive 45 minutes earlier.

Fri., Nov. 4

10:00a -11:00a or
12:30 -1:30p
Ushers needed at Wild Swan Theatre, Washtenaw Community College
"A Thousand Swans"
Performances have no intermission and last about 45 minutes to one hour. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Kim McLean at the Wild Swan Theater at (734)995-0530 or at abby@wildswantheaterorg
Thurs and Fri: 3 persons needed
Sat.: 8 persons needed
Note: The times listed are for showtimes. Plan to arrive 45 minutes earlier.

Sat., Nov. 5

10:30a -12:30p Detroit Public Library Elmwood Branch
Contact Cally Kypros to sign up 313-877-8015
2:00 -3:00p
Ushers needed, Wild Swan Theatre, Washtenaw Community College
"A Thousand Cranes"
Performances have no intermission and last about 45 minutes to one hour. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Kim McLean at the Wild Swan Theater at (734)995-0530 or at abby@wildswantheaterorg
Thurs and Fri: 3 persons needed
Sat.: 8 persons needed
Note: The times listed are for showtimes. Plan to arrive 45 minutes earlier.

Tues, Nov. 8

4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring, Detroit
Helping students with homework.
Call: Dr. Donald M. Lutas 313-896-1843

Thurs, Nov. 10

4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring, Detroit
Helping students with homework.
Call: Dr. Donald M. Lutas 313-896-1843

Sat., Nov. 12





9:00a -12:00p New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale
New Hope Food Pantry
Packing boxes of food. Melvindale.
8-10 volunteers needed. Call Kathy Letz (313)225-6205

9:00 AM - 12:00 Time to Help with Mitch Albom—Painting and Holiday décor, Royal Oak
Decorating Christmas trees for the holidays and painting a large hallway. Please wear clothes appropriate for painting. If you are able, please bring a paint roller & extension stick and/or paint brush:
Judson Center 4410 West 13 mile Rd. Royal Oak, MI 48073 (N.E. Corner of 13 mi. Rd. and Greenfield) Please use main office building entrance. Please sign up for event online: <http://volunteerimpact.org>

Sun., Nov. 13

4:30p -7:30p Ronald McDonald House, Detroit
Ronald McDonald House of Detroit
Bring a dish to pass for a Sunday potluck for families residing in the house while their child is in the hospital. 3911 Beaubien St. Detroit, MI. 48201 Call-Karen Hanson (313)724-0555. 8 volunteers needed.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PROJECT

-  Kids 12 and younger may attend **Family Friendly** projects as long as they are accompanied by a parent or guardian
-  **Youth Friendly Projects** are for teens 13-17 years old unless specified.
-  **Singles Projects** are designed for single adults.
-  **Seniors** – 55 years or older.



Volunteer Opportunities for November 2005

Tues., Nov. 15

4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach
Tutoring, Detroit
Helping students with homework.
Call: Dr. Donald M. Lutas 313-896-1843

Thurs., Nov. 17

10:00 a.m. - 1p.m.
New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale
Distributing boxes of food. 8-10
volunteers needed. Call Kathy Letz
(313)225-6205

4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach
Tutoring, Detroit
Helping students with homework.
Call: Dr. Donald M. Lutas 313-896-1843

Sat., Nov. 19

Morning Shift: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00
Food Bank of Oakland County,
Pontiac
Afternoon Shift: 12 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
Volunteers needed: 15
Contact Project Coordinator: Nancy
Knop
248-332-1473 fx:248-335-8160
nknop@gcfb.org
Gleaners Community Food Bank
of Southeastern Michigan
Oakland County
120 E. Columbia
Pontiac, MI 48343

10:30 AM - 12:30 pm
Detroit Public Library Elmwood
Branch, Tutoring
Contact Cally Kypros to sign up.
313-877-80

Sun., Nov. 20

1:30p -3:00p Arden Courts,
Bingham Farms
Crafts with Alzheimer's Patients
Assist Alzheimer's patients with
simple crafts. Persons needed: 5-8
Contact: Janet Evans (248) 644-8100

Tues., Nov. 22

10:00a -1:00p New Hope Food
Pantry, Melvindale
10:00 a.m. - 1p.m.
New Hope Food Pantry
Distributing boxes of food.
Melvindale. 8-10 volunteers
needed. Call Kathy Letz (313)225-6205

4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach
Tutoring, Detroit
Helping students with homework.
Call: Dr. Donald M. Lutas 313-896-1843

Tues., Nov. 29

4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach
Tutoring, Detroit
Helping students with homework.
Call: Dr. Donald M. Lutas 313-896-1843

Thurs. Dec. 1

9:00 AM - 12:00 p.m. Hadassah-Doll
Making, West Bloomfield
Make cute and cuddly dolls to
distribute to local hospitals. Volun-
teers: 5 Contact: Eleanor Smith 248
626-0762 or Greater Detroit
Hadassah Office: 248 683-5030
Note: Every Thursday except Oct.
13 and the month of November.

Don't forget to check
online at <http://volunteerimpact.org>
for an up-to-date list
of holiday events that
did not make our
printing deadline.



Wish List for Adopt-A-Shelter

Dec. 3, 2005

Residents of the shelters will have an opportunity to shop for their families from the gifts that you bring.

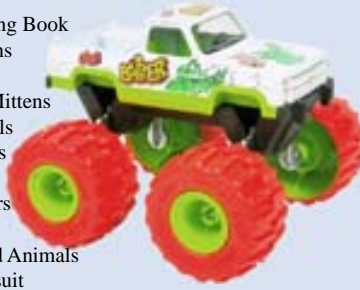
Infant/Toddler

- Bibs
- Cotton Balls
- Blankets
- Books
- Booties
- Bottles
- Diaper Bag
- Diapers
- Educational Toys
- Hats/Mittens
- Pacifiers
- Sleepers
- Snowsuits
- Socks
- Teethers
- Toys
- Wipes



Child (4-12)

- Art Kits
- Batteries
- Board Games
- Books
- Boots
- Coat
- Coloring Book
- Crayons
- Dolls
- Hats/Mittens
- Overalls
- Puzzles
- Scarf
- Slippers
- Socks
- Stuffed Animals
- Sweatsuit
- Toy Trucks/Cars
- Underwear



Teenager

- Backpack
- Batteries
- Board Games
- Books
- CD/MP3 Players
- Clothing
- Electronic Games
- Football, Basketball
- Headphones
- Jewelry Kits
- Pencils/Paper
- Skateboards
- Scooters
- Slippers
- Socks
- Underwear
- Wallets
- Winter Clothing
- (especially large sizes)



Parent

- Alarm Clock
- Bathrobes
- Batteries
- Books
- Boots
- Coat
- Crossword Puzzles
- Fanny Packs
- Hats/Mittens
- Headphones
- Scarf
- Slippers
- Socks
- Sweaters
- Sweatsuit
- Towels
- Underwear



Household

- Band-Aids
- Bath towels
- Batteries
- Blankets
- Boots
- Cleaning Supplies
- Coat
- Cottonballs
- Dishwasher Soap
- Drinking Glasses
- Facial Soap
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Pots and Pans
- Shampoo
- Slippers
- Socks
- Toothbrushes



If you will be volunteering at Adopt a Shelter on Dec. 3, please bring your unwrapped donations with you. Items may also be dropped off at the Volunteer Impact Office, 6960 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 204, West Bloomfield, MI 48322

Recommended sizes

Infant and 4-12 years: all sizes
 Teenage: Large and Extra-large
 Parent: Extra large and XXX-large

How Easy It Is to Collect Gifts for Adopt-A-Shelter



The VI Youth Board suggests that November is the perfect month to set up a drive at your school, place of business, your sports team, your church, or your club to help homeless families. Just make copies of the Adopt-a-Shelter Wish List and post them or include them in your monthly newsletter, or select an item to be collected and hang signs. Be sure to select a place for items to be collected and then bring the gifts on Dec. 3 to a shelter if you are helping out at an Adopt-a-Shelter party, or deliver them to the VI office prior to Dec. 2. How about a "Magic Mitten Drive" at your child's elementary school? Or a "Sock-it-to-me" sock drive in middle school? Collecting items for homeless children leads to excellent discussions...such as why are socks as important as mittens to a homeless child?

2005 Adopt-a-Shelter Parties

AMELIA AGNES TRANSITIONAL
42960 Ryan Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48314

BOOTH EVANGELINE SALVATION ARMY
3737 Lawton
Detroit, 48208

COTS
26 Peterboro
Detroit 48201

DOORSTEP WEST
224 Highland
Highland Park, MI 48238

FIRST STEP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SHELTER
44567 Pine Tree Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170

GENEIS I
131 Stimson
Detroit, MI 48201

GENESIS II
2015 Webb
Detroit, MI 48206

GENESIS III
3840 Fairview
Detroit, MI 48214

PEGGY'S PLACE
16630 Wyoming
Detroit 48221

STARFISH FAMILY SERVICES
30000 Hiveley
Inkster, MI 48141

WAYNE COUNTY FAMILY CENTER
20600 Michigan Ave.
Westland, MI 48141

WOMEN'S SURVIVAL CENTER OF OAK-
LAND COUNTY
76 William Street
Pontiac MI 48341

What's an Adopt-a-Shelter Party?

Adopt-a-Shelter is an annual Volunteer Impact event serving around 1500 homeless children and their parents living in shelters throughout the Metropolitan Detroit area. This program was created to ensure that for one day, homeless children and their families living in a shelter experience a little of the joy and magic usually associated with the holidays.

What do volunteers do?

Volunteers provide the shelter guests with many fun activities: face painting, arts and crafts projects, a visit from Santa and, of course, good things to eat. Volunteers are asked to bring at least one item from the shopping "wish list". Each shelter needs at least one volunteer to dress as Santa, so if you have a Santa Suit, do let us know! Volunteers are also encouraged to bring holiday decorations, face paints, nail polish, and crafts projects (beads and beading string are a big hit, children's scissors, glue, colored paper, felt, cotton balls, sparkle glue—your imagination is your limit) to help insure a fun and active day for shelter children and moms.

What happens at an Adopt-a-Shelter Party?

While children make their holiday crafts, and get their faces painted, their mothers are invited to shop in the "Secret Store". The stores are stocked with the new, unwrapped items that have been donated, and mothers are given an opportunity to select presents for their children and to pick something for themselves as well. Volunteers, corporations and schools collect the gifts that are used to stock the "stores" at each shelter. In the past, some organizations have provided a photographer for the day so that each family has a photo with Santa. One service the moms all seem to adore is a manicure, done by volunteers. For women who struggle to provide life's basic needs, pampering by someone else is the most indulgent thing in the world.

The parties are as rewarding for the volunteers as they are for the children, parents, and agency staff. In past years, it's been rewarding seeing how much the mostly teen moms really appreciated everything they received— from bath wash and pajamas—to toys for their children. One mom stated that she never could have afforded any of the items that VI and the volunteers provided. Another mom cried tears of joy when she won a handmade blanket a volunteer donated as a door prize.

Restaurants that wish to donate pizza, cake or other treats are encouraged to participate. And what's a party without music? If you have a band, play the guitar, or like to sing, this is your opportunity to put on a show.

How do I sign up?

Groups are asked to call Volunteer Impact at (248) 932-2580 to register, or to email a list of participants to Volunteer_impact@yahoo.com. Your PC (project co-coordinator) will email you a confirmation as well as directions to your shelter. Individuals may sign-up directly online at <http://volunteerimpact.org>. You will receive a confirmation by email as well.

What else can I do?

Please call us if you can arrange to provide any of the following:

Music

Santa Suit

Food donations (pizzas, soda, cake or cupcakes, fresh fruit)

Corporate partnerships—Monetary donations to help cover costs of arts and crafts projects

High School Community Service Credit

Community Service credit is given for high school students who participate in Adopt-a-Shelter. Be sure to check with the Project Coordinator at your site to receive your certificates. School personnel: if your school requires a special form, please bring it to the shelter.

VOLUNTEER GIVING OPPORTUNITIES CAN MAKE AN IMPACT!

This holiday season, you can help VI help our community by being a Volunteer Impact Angel. Your tax-deductible contribution to VI can support a volunteer project, support our Youth Board, or help provide Adopt-a-Shelter party. It's a wonderful way to honor friends, business associates, co-workers, or family members. We will send a card to acknowledge your holiday gift.

Ten Suggestions to Help VI Make an IMPACT this Volunteer Giving Season:

Be a title sponsor for one month of <i>Connections</i> , our newsletter	\$2,000.00
Sponsor one month media buy	\$1,000.00
Provide breakfast for <i>Hands on Detroit Day</i>	\$500.00
Provide activities and crafts for an <i>Adopt-a-Shelter</i> party	\$250.00
Supply a pizza lunch at an <i>Adopt-a-Shelter</i> location	\$100.00
Sponsor a Youth Board Meeting	\$75.00
Sponsor a project for one <i>Dr. Seuss' Birthday</i> party	\$50.00
Pay for one month of DSL Internet Access	\$36.00
Provide consumable office supplies	\$25.00
Send a Volunteer Impact Holiday Tribute (\$10 minimum)	\$10.00

Name of donor: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of donation: _____

Check enclosed ___ (please make payable to Volunteer Impact)

Credit card ___ VISA -- Mastercard -- Discover -- Am Ex (circle one)

Phone (_____) _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Card number _____ Exp. Date _____

Send card acknowledging tributes to: (attach another page if necessary)

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail us at volunteer_impact@yahoo.com or call (248) (248) 932-2580 for any questions. Holiday gifts will be acknowledged in January's *Connections* as well as with a card to the recipient. Secure online giving is also available on our website: <http://volunteerimpact.org>

Send completed form to: Volunteer Impact 6969 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 204 West Bloomfield, MI 48322