



Connections

Improving Our Detroit Metropolitan Community Through Hands-On Volunteering

Mitch's 'Super' Idea

Sports columnist brings higher purpose to year's biggest sporting event

The Super Bowl is the world's largest moveable feast, and you shouldn't feast without at least acknowledging – and hopefully helping – those that will never make it to your table.

– Mitch Albom



Free Press Columnist and Volunteer Impact MVP Mitch Albom

While the Super Bowl Community was partying into the night, rubbing shoulders with CEOs and celebrity's alike, VI's own celebrity member Mitch Albom recently spent a night sleeping at the Detroit Rescue Mission. And although the Super Bowl Committee planned special events for the homeless for the three days leading up



to the Super Bowl, Mitch Albom reminded us all, in several Detroit Free Press articles, that when the Super Bowl is over, the homeless shelters across Wayne and Oakland Counties will still face shortfalls – from broken equipment to not enough beds or no mental health counselors for those in need of a warm meal and a warm bed.

Volunteers from VI partied at Christmas at a dozen local homeless shelters. For one day, a few hundred

volunteers provided a little joy and happiness to almost a thousand homeless mothers and children.

Mitch Albom reminds us that the homeless remain after we pack up our parties and move on. He has asked the Detroit community to open their hearts and pockets. Let us continue this year to remember those less fortunate. Mitch Albom has asked us to “boost our homeless services and organizations beyond one football weekend.” We applaud Albom.

Save the Dates

Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party
March 2-4

Adopt-a-Mom
May 6

Hands on Detroit Day
May 20



WHAT'S INSIDE!

- 2 Letter from the President, Youth Board News
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Having a Motown Blast

If you're making your way downtown for the Motown Winter Blast, bring your camera and come find Volunteer Impact's booth (in front of Fishbones on Monroe). Volunteers will be serving beverages from beer to coffee liquors, jungle juice, and even a not-so-fine Shiraz, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the organization.

Spots are still open for those who'd like to spend some time behind the bar, although our fine president Nancy Barr has warned concessioners to wear warm socks.

For the event, VI is partnering with Big Boy Restaurants and the Super Bowl Committee. Shifts run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or 5 p.m. to midnight from Thurs., Feb 2 through Sun., Feb. 5. Sign up for as many shifts as you wish. Please call the VI



office if you're interested in coming down. Volunteers must be 18 years of age due to the sale of alcohol, and the committee also has a certain dress code (white turtlenecks and khakis).

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VOLUNTEER IMPACT, INC. A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

OUR NEW HOME:

6960 Orchard Lake Rd.
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
Suite 207 (Mail 204)
(248) 932-2580 Phone
www.volunteerimpact.org

From the President

Be My VI-alentine



Nancy Welber Barr, President of Volunteer Impact, is smiling in a portrait. In the text, she discusses the organization's busy month of activities, including the 6th Annual Dr. Seuss' Birthday, the 2nd Annual Adopt-a-Mom, and the 15th Annual Hands-on-Detroit Day.

This year, VI is collaborating our signature Dr. Seuss event with the United Way Women's Initiative, as we celebrate along with the National Educational Association's Read Across America Day.

Volunteer Impact has no executive director or paid staff. We depend on you, our volunteers, to keep our website current, to host our Youth Board, to maintain our calendar and the connections with our community's needs. We need liaisons to

agencies looking for volunteers. We need volunteers to help organize our signature events. We need computer gurus to help clean up our mailing lists and the other files on our computers. We need volunteers to help staff our office and answer the telephone. And we need coordinators for each of our projects. If you like volunteering, we need you!

Get into the habit of consulting our website. We keep adding new volunteer opportunities every day. If you are not receiving our newsletter, sign up for it online. Please note that some mail servers prevent our newsletter from reaching some e-mail addresses, so make it a habit to check us out periodically if you haven't heard from us.

Finally, we need your support. Remember Volunteer Impact when you wish to send a memorial or a congratulatory tribute to your friends, family or co-workers. We depend on your contributions so that we can continue serving as the source for **Helping to Revitalize Metropolitan Detroit Through Hands-On Volunteering**.

Youth Board News

Arden Courts seniors get Valentine visit from juniors, sophomores, freshmen, et al.

By Andrew Stern

On Sunday, January 15th, the Volunteer Impact Youth Board visited Arden Courts to work on crafts projects with seniors. The members cut out and glued pictures from magazines and newspapers onto construction paper and made collages for the senior residents. They also decorated the doors of the seniors with special Valentine's Day accessories. This was the first Youth Board visit to Arden Courts. "I really enjoyed working with the seniors. It was an eye-opening experience that has helped me to appreciate my life that much more," said Natalie Stern. Indeed, monthly activities like these keep the Youth Board together throughout the busy school year.

Arden Courts, located in Bingham Farms, is an assisted living facility for adults with Alzheimer's. Sign up for crafting at Arden Courts with Volunteer Impact the third Saturday of every month.



The Volunteer Impact Youth Board meets the first Tuesday of every month in the cafe of the Southfield Public Library. All high school students are eligible to attend. Contact Marcy Fisher, Caroline Spriggs or Yolanda Haynes, Co-Chairs, at volunteer_impact@yahoo.com.

Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party

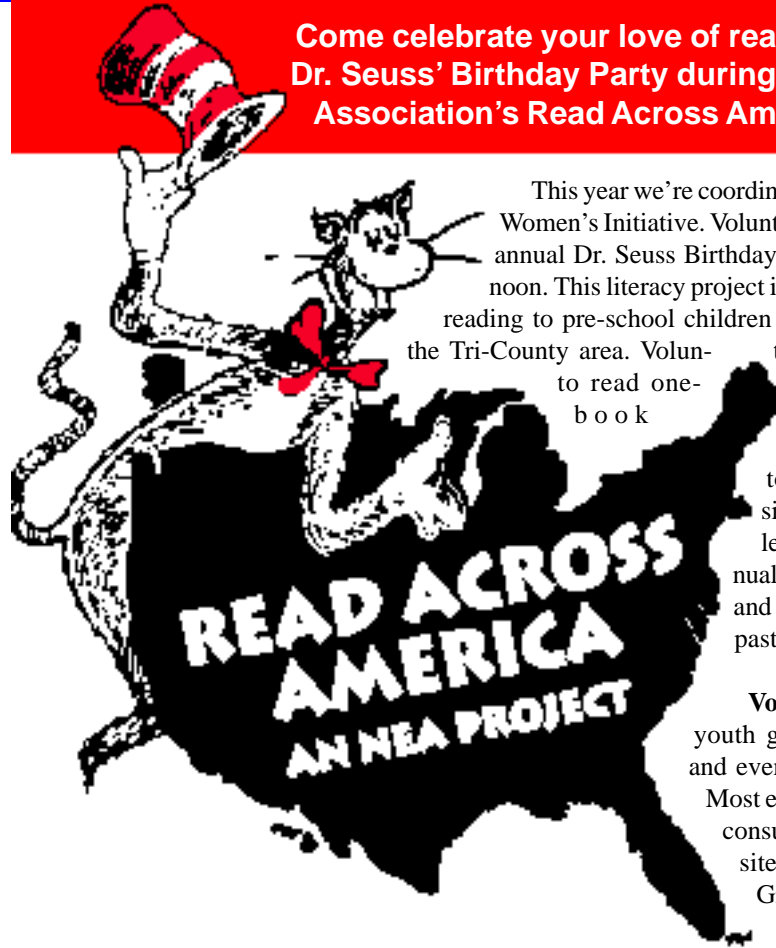
Come celebrate your love of reading at VI's 6th annual Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party during the National Education Association's Read Across America Days -- March 2-4

Drop-Off Sites for New Books

Kanter Associates:
100 Galleria Office Centre, Suite 401, Southfield - Twelve Mile and Telegraph

VI Office:
6960 Orchard Lake Road, Ste. 204-207, West Bloomfield - Just North of Jack Cauley Chevrolet - Phone: (248) 932-2580

We'll Pick 'Em Up: If your place of business or school would like to collect pre-school books to donate to Head Start students, please let us know when to pick up your collections.



This year we're coordinating our efforts with the United Way Women's Initiative. Volunteer Impact invites you to join our 6th annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Party March 2-4 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. This literacy project is designed to bring the excitement of reading to pre-school children at Head Start programs throughout the Tri-County area. Volunteers are asked to bring a new book on-one to a child, and present the book to the child to take home. We are looking for people who would like to serve as project coordinators for sites. VI provides a simple craft and lesson plan for the day. This is an annual signature event for Volunteer Impact, and one of the year's most anticipated by past volunteers.

Volunteer: We invite corporate teams, youth groups, school groups, individuals, and even good-hearted grinsches to partake. Most events are on Friday, March 3. Please consult our online calendar for a list of sites. Individuals may sign up online. Groups should contact our office.

Collect Books: VI is collecting pre-school books to give to Head Start Children throughout the Metropolitan Detroit Area. This is a great project for office groups, school clubs, and church groups.

Be a Project Coordinator: Please call or e-mail the VI office if you are interested in being a project coordinator for a site. We will provide you with all the materials you will need.

Adopt-a-Mom: Coming May 6 Bringing Mother's Day to a homeless shelter



The Adopt-A-Shelter project has been such a resounding success that two of Volunteer Impact's project coordinators decided to reach out a little further. Raising children in this day and age is difficult at best, raising your child(ren) in a shelter is heart-breaking.

On Saturday, May 6 (in anticipation of Mother's Day) we are hosting an Adopt-A-Mom event for the ladies at Genesis II House. Genesis II House is a transitional living environment that focuses on education, job training and ending the cycle of homelessness. There are approximately 60 women liv-

ing there, and we want to adopt each one of them!

We are coordinating a Mothers Day party for the women and children at Genesis II House. Volunteers are needed to collect new health and beauty aids for the women before the event, and to help the children (and ladies) craft Mother's Day cards and picture frames on the project date. If you are available to volunteer, and/or donate new/unused items from the list below, please contact Julie Kroflich at (248) 478-5168, or e-mail juliekroflich@yahoo.com.

Suggested items include: bathrobes, slippers, towel sets, soap & bath gel, deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, and manicure sets. Please no perfume or mouthwash.





Volunteer Opportunities for February 2006

ONGOING EVENTS

Motown Winter Blast

COME BE PART OF THE FUN!!! The open shifts are as follows: Friday, Feb 3 -- 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. (anyone closing may have to stay later) Saturday, Feb 4 -- 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. (anyone closing may have to stay later.) Volunteers must be 18 years of age due to the sale of alcohol. Call the office if you'd like to volunteer, for more information visit www.motownwinterblast.com.

If you're at the Motown Winter Blast and you're feeling a little thirsty, come help VI by buying a drink from us and help VI in the process. We will be in a trailer on Monroe Street in the heart of Greektown across from Fishbones. Come say hello, and buy a beer or a pop. Have fun and we hope to see you there, this Thursday through Sunday, February 2-5.

Arts and Scraps

Volunteers needed on ongoing basis. Warehouse volunteers usually come in groups and perform duties such as sorting materials and putting together project kits. When we go to events, projects are preassembled and volunteers can help assist there too...groups and individuals welcome! Requirements for volunteers...enjoy working with children and availability to volunteer a 3 or 4 hour shift. We welcome mature young people and/or those accompanied by an adult. We also like to engage seniors, retirees. Volunteers can visit our website...www.artsandscraps.org to learn more and view events where volunteers are requested. They may contact me at artsandscraps@hotmail.com to sign up.

St. Leo's Soup Kitchen, 4860 15th Street, Detroit.

Any T, W, TH, F or S: People needed 9am-1pm daily to help prepare and clean up the noontime meal for 200 people. Under 17 needs to be accompanied by an adult. 10-15 people needed daily. If interested, contact Joseph Micallef (313) 897-6565 or Daretta Williams: daretta2450@yahoo.com

The Children's Center, 79 W. Alexandrine, Detroit

Tutoring clients in a variety of subjects. Training and screening. Also need a tutor-liaison for M, T, W, TH, 4-6p.m. Contact: Amy Devone 313 262-1220 if interested. People needed: 3 or more per day. Ages: 18-50+

Volunteer Impact Office Assistance, 6960 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 240, West Bloomfield

Volunteers are needed any M,T,W,Th or F to help staff the Volunteer Impact Office to answer phone, monitor VI calendar, help register volunteers and activities and general office assistance. Volunteer an hour or few days...whatever you can do to help would be great! Contact VI at volunteer_impact@yahoo.com or (248) 932-2580.

Feb 1 Wed

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
10:00a -12:00p Lighthouse of Oakland County
Volunteers needed to package fruits & Veggies when they are delivered to Lighthouse on the first Wednesday of each month. Three-four people needed 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 or kenn1st@comcast.net
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center
4:00p -12:00p MOTOWN WINTER BLAST

Feb 2 Thu

9:00 a-12:00p Hadassah Doll-Making Project, West Bloomfield
Make cute dolls to distribute to children in area hospitals.

Contact person: Eleanor Smith 248-626-0762 or Greater Detroit Hadassah Office 248-683-5030

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center
4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring
4:00p -12:00a MOTOWN WINTER BLAST
8:00p -11:00p Arts and Scraps-Motown Winter Blast at the Ford Tent
Arts and Scraps will be hosting in the Ford Tent from 8:00pm-11:00pm Contact Mary at artsandscraps@hotmail.com to sign up.

Feb 3 Fri

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
12:00p -12:00a MOTOWN WINTER BLAST
8:00p -11:00p Arts and Scraps-Motown Winter Blast at the Ford Tent. Contact Mary at artsandscraps@hotmail.com

Feb 4 Sat

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
12:00p -12:00a WINTER MOTOWN BLAST
8:00p -11:00p Arts and Scraps-Motown Winter Blast at the Ford Tent. Contact Mary at artsandscraps@hotmail.com

Feb 5 Sun

5:00p -12:00a MOTOWN WINTER BLAST

Feb 6 Mon

4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

Feb 7 Tue

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center
4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring
6:30p -8:00p Volunteer Impact Youth Board
The Volunteer Impact Youth Board is open to high school students in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties.

Volunteer Opportunities for February 2006



Feb 7 Tue (cont.)

We meet the first Tues. of every month in the cafe at the Southfield Public Library. Youth Board members receive community service for their participation. They help determine youth-friendly projects for area high school students, perform community service projects together, and develop leadership skills while meeting and working with youth from all over the Metro Detroit community.

Feb 8 Wed

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

Feb 9 Thu

9:00 a-12:00p Hadassah Doll-Making Project, West Bloomfield
Make cute dolls to distribute to children in area hospitals.
Contact person: Eleanor Smith 248-626-0762 or Greater Detroit Hadassah Office 248-683-5030
9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center
4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring

Feb 10 Fri

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen

Feb 11 Sat

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -4:00p Arts and Scraps

Feb 13 Mon

4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

Feb 14 Tue

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center
4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring

Feb 15 Wed

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

Feb 16 Thu

9:00 a-12:00p Hadassah Doll-Making Project, West Bloomfield
Make cute dolls to distribute to children in area hospitals.
Contact person: Eleanor Smith 248-626-0762 or Greater Detroit Hadassah Office 248-683-5030
9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center
4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring

Feb 17 Fri

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen

Feb 18 Sat

9:00 -12:00 or 12:00-3:00p Food Bank of Oakland County
Pack food boxes. 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
9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -4:00p Arts and Scraps

Feb 19 Sun

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

Feb 20 Mon

4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

Feb 21 Tue

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center
4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring

Feb 22 Wed

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

Feb 23 Thu

9:00 a-12:00p Hadassah Doll-Making Project, West Bloomfield
Make cute dolls to distribute to children in area hospitals.
Contact person: Eleanor Smith 248-626-0762 or Greater Detroit Hadassah Office 248-683-5030
9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center
4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring \

Feb 24 Fri

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen

Feb 25 Sat

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -4:00p Arts and Scraps

Feb 27 Mon

4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

Feb 28 Tue

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center, Detroit
4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring

Mar 1 Wed

9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
10:00a -12:00p Lighthouse of Oakland County-
Packaging fruits and vegetables
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center, Detroit

Mar 2 Thurs

9:00 a-12:00p Hadassah Doll-Making Project, West Bloomfield
Make cute dolls to distribute to children in area hospitals.
Contact person: Eleanor Smith 248-626-0762 or Greater Detroit Hadassah Office 248-683-5030
9:30a - 12:00p Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party
9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center, Detroit
4:00p -6:00p Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring

Mar 3 Fri

9:30a - 12:00p Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party
9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen

Mar 4 Sat

9:30a - 12:00p Dr. Seuss' Birthday Party, Time to Help Project with Mitch Albom (tbd)
9:00a -1:00p St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
11:00a -4:00p Arts and Scraps



100+ Club

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LLP

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*We honor and thank the above
donors who have made contri-
butions to Volunteer Impact of
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Tributes

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

*To the Cohen family, in loving memory of Shirley Cohen Wayburn
To the Hessler family, in loving memory of Sadelle Hessler
To the Schwartz family, in loving memory of Edward Schwartz
by the Fisher family.*

Please call us at (248) 932-2580 to discuss your needs for corporate giving. Help VI make an IMPACT!

Tributes are a wonderful way to honor the life of someone special, or mark an important milestone in life such as graduation. These generous gifts also help Volunteer Impact to provide hands-on volunteers 365 days a year to over 350 agencies at no cost to the agency. Special golden tributes are available for holiday donations.

Online giving is also available. If you prefer to make a gift as a memorial or tribute and wish an acknowledgment to be sent to another party, please call the Volunteer Impact office or 248 559-4950, or e-mail us at volunteer_impact@yahoo.com, and we will be happy to help you with this process.

Ten Suggestions to Help VI Make an IMPACT:

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 VI Events	\$250.00
Supply a pizza lunch for homeless children at a VI event	\$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 Honorary or Memorial Tribute (\$10 min)	\$10.00

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E-mail address _____

Required for confirmation of donation. If you wish to receive e-mail from us, register online

Name _____ Company/Group _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to Volunteer Impact or charge my tax deductible donation of \$ _____

To my: VISA MASTERCARD Card No. _____ Security Code _____

Authorized Signature _____ Expiration Date _____

Volunteer Impact, 6960 Orchard Lake Rd., Suite 204, West Bloomfield, MI 48322, online giving at <http://volunteerimpact.org>