



**VOLUNTEER  
IMPACT**

# Connections

Improving Our Detroit Metropolitan Community Through Hands-On Volunteering

## We're Going Green! Get Outdoors this Fall with the Greening of Detroit!

*It is good to realize that if love and peace can prevail on Earth, and if we can teach our children to honor nature's gifts, the joys and beauties of the outdoors will be here forever.*

– President Jimmy Carter

### Save the Date

**Adopt-a-Shelter  
Dec. 2**



### WHAT'S INSIDE!

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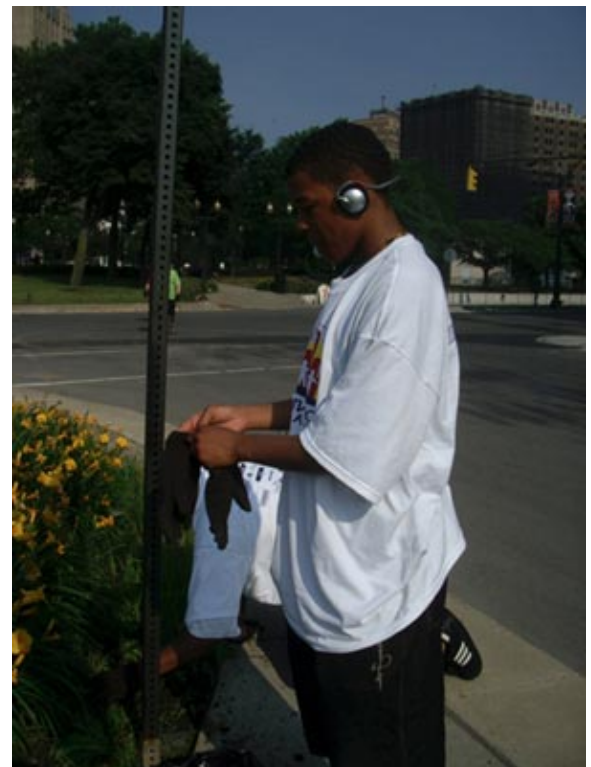
**G**reening of Detroit is a great opportunity to enjoy the oranges and browns of the autumn outdoors while making Detroit a greener place to live and work. These environmental and landscape projects give volunteers an chance to get their hands dirty, planting trees, fixing up children's playgrounds, and making Detroit a more beautiful place! Please note that the Fall Planting Schedule is subject to change. To sign up for a planting, get more info, or get map/directions to sites, contact Monique Torbert at (313) 237-8733 or [volunteer@greeningofdetroit.com](mailto:volunteer@greeningofdetroit.com). Web site: [www.greeningofdetroit.com](http://www.greeningofdetroit.com).

**Saturday, September 30, 2006**  
Greater Corktown Development Corporation Family Landscape Program  
The Greening will be assisting new homeowners in Greater Corktown create a beautiful new landscape for their homes. We would love for 45 individuals to come out and join us with this project. Volunteers should meet at 9am at 3145 Cochrane Detroit, MI, 48216.

**Saturday, October 7, 2006**  
Baldwin & Seyburn Street Tree Replacement Project  
The Greening will be helping Residents & St. Charles Church replace Ash trees. The community has lost many ash trees and we would like for you to help us restore them. We need 75 volunteers to complete this project. Volunteers should meet at 9am at St. Charles Church, 1491 Baldwin St., Detroit 48214.

**Saturday, October 14, 2006**  
Belle Isle Planting  
The Greening of Detroit obtained a grant from the Department of Natural Resources to replace ash trees at one of Detroit's main attractions. This project will consist of planting 11 trees so we will need 30 volunteers to come out and join us. Volunteers should meet at 9am at Woodside Comfort Station please call for further direction.

**Saturday, October 14, 2006**  
Rosemont Acadia Park Planting  
The City of Detroit Recreational Department obtained a DTE Energy Grant to plant trees at Flintstone Park in the Rosemont Acadia neighborhood. The Greening will be working hard with the community to beautify the neighborhood. This will be one of our smaller plantings but we will still provide a big tree planting experience! We will only need 15 volunteers to plant 6 trees. Volunteers should meet at 9am at 14300 Rosemont, 48233.



**Saturday, October 21, 2006**  
Vernor Street Tree & Heidelberg Pocket Park Planting  
The Greening of Detroit, in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), will be planting trees in this neighborhood to replace dead ash trees. We are looking forward to working with 120 volunteers to plant more than 60 trees in this neighborhood. Residents in the community and any volunteers willing to help are more than welcome to join in on a great experience! Volunteers should meet at 9am at 3300 E. Vernor Highway, 48207, Detroit, MI.

**See Page 3 for additional events in October and November**

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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](http://www.volunteerimpact.org)

*From the President:*

# For One More Night



**Nancy Welber Barr**

What an evening. Last Wednesday, September 27, many of us had the privilege to be a part of Mitch Albom's radio show. The charity book launch of for one more day by VI's own, Mitch Albom, was like an evening with Mitch on his radio show, but at the beautiful Fox Theatre. We were mesmerized by the stories of Joe Damars and his father who finally figured out that playing basketball for a living was a pretty good job, the emotion of Tony Bennett as he struggled with his personal issues of forgiveness, the theme of Mitch's new book, and the humor of Hank Azaria, the self-described, not-very-good impressionist who used that "talent" to become many of your favorite voices on The Simpsons. Mitch read from his book, Ken Brown entertained, and Tony Bennett sang, among other songs, Fly Me to the Moon, without a microphone! It was a wonderful night.

One of the most thrilling moments for me, however, was the video conceived and produced by our own Volunteer of the Year, Marci Fitch, as a tribute to the 10th anniversary of the "Time to Help" projects with Mitch Albom. Volunteer Impact volunteers were shown at their best, helping at the Grandale Salvation Army Center by doing extensive clean-up, both indoors and outdoors at Hands on Detroit Day and, later, at a Time to Help project to prepare the Highland Park YWCA to open as a new facility for homeless men for the Detroit Rescue

Mission Ministries. It showed all of us in action and we should all be proud of our achievements as volunteers. We are very proud of Marci and her efforts with this video, which also showcased the SAY Detroit charity to help the homeless, and the book launch. Some of the proceeds from the book preview will be shared with VI. for its programming. We congratulate Mitch on his success with his new book and his 10 years of Time to Help.



Mitch read from his book, Ken Brown entertained, and Tony Bennett sang, among other songs, Fly Me to the Moon, without a microphone! It was a wonderful night.

We are not resting, however, now that one successful event is over. Save the date, Saturday, December 2, for Adopt-a-Shelter. Plans are already underway for our annual holiday parties at shelters across Metro Detroit. We hope you will join us. We are always looking for donations of gifts and cash to help with the event. Look for our wish list in this newsletter. If you or your group or company would like to get involved, please contact us at [www.volunteer\\_impact.org](http://www.volunteer_impact.org) or check our website, [www.volunteerimpact.org](http://www.volunteerimpact.org), to sign up for your favorite venue. We look forward to seeing you on December 2 and at some projects in between. As always, go to our website, sign up and help Revitalize Metro Detroit through Volunteering.




# Let's Get Together!




## *When VI and Focus: HOPE team up, Detroit's a winner*

The Volunteer Impact website at <http://volunteerimpact.org> now allows volunteers to sign up for events, through our automated system, with the most prolific of Detroit's civic service and human rights organizations, Focus: HOPE. This organization has brought hope, relief and assistance to thousands in Detroit for almost 40 years. In anticipation of our partnership, *Connections* was able to speak with Ryan Dinkgrave, the coordinator for Volunteer and Community Outreach for Focus: HOPE, about the opportunities his organization presents for VI volunteers.


▼ *Tell us a little bit about Focus: HOPE — its mission, goals, etc.*

 Focus: HOPE is a civil and human rights organization that was formed by Father William Cunningham (1930-1997) and Eleanor Josaitis in 1968 in reaction to the 1967 Detroit riots. Inspired by the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Fr. Cunningham and Josaitis started the organization in the basement of the Church of the Madonna, where Fr. Cunningham practiced. Originally a volunteer-only organization, Focus: HOPE operated from this basement for its first 15 years, eventually growing out to its current size today of 40 acres and over one million square feet of indoor space. Through education and training, the largest and oldest food program of its kind in the country, community development, community arts, and the efforts of 20,000 volunteers annually, Focus: HOPE pursues its mission of "intelligent and practical action to overcome racism, poverty, and injustice."


▼ *How do we sign up? Where will I find Focus:HOPE events on the VI website?*

 Focus: HOPE is proud to be utilizing various websites and online services to better connect with our volunteers and to identify individuals who may be interested in volunteering with Focus: HOPE. Volunteer Impact is such a site that offers a service where they list our volunteer opportunities on their calendar and interested individuals can fill out a standardized form to contact us about such opportunities.

▼ *What are your expectations for someone who volunteers for a Focus: HOPE event?*

 Focus: HOPE has a long and rich history in southeast Michigan, especially Detroit, as a catalyst for change in the community. As such, it is expected that our volunteers share the same enthusiasm for our mission. Focus: HOPE relies on partnerships as a key component of its success, and one of our most valuable and cherished partnerships is that which we have with our volunteer community.

▼ *What are some of the Focus: HOPE events that will be available on the VI website?*

 We are currently looking for volunteers to participate in a number of holiday programs. Individuals, groups, and families are invited to "adopt" a senior citizen or a family and provide for them a holiday delivery of food, clothing, and gifts. Additionally, Focus: HOPE is seeking donated items and volunteers to deliver these items to homebound seniors as part of our Special Holiday Delivery. *For more information, or to cancel for an event you signed up for, contact Focus: HOPE at (313) 494-5500 and ask to speak to the Volunteer and Community Outreach department.*

## We're Going Green!

### Cont. from Page 1

#### **Saturday, October 21, 2006**

##### Gabriel Richard Park Planting

This park is apart of the Detroit Riverfront Riverwalk which is now a landmark for runners and bikers. The Greening will be working hard to beautify this park so that it can provide a great view for everyone who comes in contact with the area. We would like for 50 volunteers to come out and join us in planting 14 trees. Volunteers should at 9am at location to be determined.

#### **Saturday October 28, 2006**

##### North Rosedale Community Planting

The Emerald Ash Borer has affected millions of ash trees in Michigan. The North Rosedale Community, The City of Detroit, and The Greening has been working very hard together since 2005 removing and replacing ash trees in the neighborhood. We are working even harder this fall to plant 130 street trees. This big event will need 250 individuals that want to take part in a great planting experience. Volunteers should meet at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit MI 48223 at 9:00 am.

#### **Saturday, November 11, 2006**

##### Lumley Street Neighborhood & Priest Elementary Planting

The Greening is working hard with local residents and any volunteers interested are more than welcome to come out and help beautify the school for our children. We will need 75 volunteers to plant 40 beautiful trees around Priest Elementary School. Volunteers should meet at 9am at Priest Elementary, 7840 Wagner, Detroit, 48210 (corner of Lumley and Wagner).

#### **Saturday, November 18, 2006**

##### Memorial Tree Grove Planting at the Delray Neighborhood House

Every year donations come in for individuals being honored, remembered and celebrated. All the donations that come in prior to Memorial Day are used to plant a memorial grove. This year we will be working with People's Community Services to plant more than 20 trees at the newly renovated Delray Neighborhood House and Playground. Volunteers to meet at 9:00 am at 410 Leigh Street, Detroit, 48209



# Volunteer Opportunities for October 2006

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Arts and Scraps

*Recycling for learning and fun. Located at 16135 Harper in Detroit, volunteers are 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](http://www.artsandscraps.org) to learn more and view events where volunteers are requested.

### 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](mailto:volunteer_impact@yahoo.com) or (248) 932-2580.

### New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale

Need 10 volunteers to pack food boxes for distribution Tuesdays, 1-4 p.m., Last two Thursdays of the month 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., and the Saturdays which precede the last two Thursday of the month 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Noon Call Nancy at (313) 383-6577

### Oct 1 - Sun

4:30p -7:30p Ronald McDonald House, Ann Arbor

Bring a dish to serve at a Sunday potluck for families residing in the house while their child is in the hospital. 1600 Washington Heights Ann Arbor, MI. 48104. Call Volunteer Impact (248) 559-4950, leave message for Dolores Oakley. 8 volunteers needed.

### Oct 2 - Mon

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

### Oct 3 - Tue

11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps  
1:00p -4:00p New Hope Food Pantry,

Melvindale, Call Nancy at 313/383-6577

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

### Oct 4 - Wed

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

### Oct 5 - Thu

9:00a -11:00a Hadassah Doll-Making Project  
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps

### Oct 7 - Sat

9:00a Greening of Detroit, Emerald Ash Tree Replacement, St. Charles Church  
The Greening will be helping Residents & St. Charles Church replace Ash trees. 75 volunteers needed. Volunteers should meet at 9am at St. Charles Church, 1491Baldwin St., Detroit 48214. See above

### Deeper Life Outreach Tutoring

After-school homework help Contact Dr. Donald M. Lutas at (313) 896-1843.

### Samaritan Care Hospice

Samaritan Care Hospice is in need of Hospice Volunteers throughout metro Detroit. Volunteers can expect to see their assigned patient once a week while the patient is on our services. They would receive the appropriate training prior to their first assignment (our training consists of 10 hours of hospice specific information - usually consecutive Saturdays from 9-2 in our Southfield office). Volunteers are then free to choose the area in which to see their patients, throughout the metro Detroit area. If interested, please contact Chris Kokenos Volunteer Coordinator at Samaritan Care Hospice: [chriskok@aol.com](mailto:chriskok@aol.com) 1-800-397-9360

### Hadassah Doll-Making Project

Hadassah and community volunteers of all ages are creating very cuddly rag dolls used in "medical play" for sick and/or injured children needing either in-patient or out-patient care. Volunteers trace, cut, pin, sew, stuff, dress and distribute dolls for the children to decorate and keep. Most project tasks do not require specialized sewing skills or training and are held at Hadassah House every Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - noon. Contact Greater Detroit Hadassah Office (248) 683-5030 or Eleanor Smith at (248) 626-0762 or [elephil@comcast.net](mailto:elephil@comcast.net)

### Greening of Detroit Projects

The Fall Planting Schedule is subject to change for all Greening of Detroit projects listed below. It is imperative that Greening has your current information on file when you sign up for a planting. To sign up for a planting, get more info, get map/directions to sites call Monique Torbert at (313) 237-8733 or email [volunteer@greeningofdetroit.com](mailto:volunteer@greeningofdetroit.com). Updated information can be found at [www.greeningofdetroit.com](http://www.greeningofdetroit.com).

for sign-up information.

11:00a -4:00p Arts and Scraps

9:00p -12:00p New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale

### Oct 9 - Mon

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

### Oct 10 - Tue

11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps

1:00p -4:00p New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale

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

### Oct 11 - Wed

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

### Oct 12 - Thu

9:00a -11:00a Hadassah Doll-Making Project

# Volunteer Opportunities for October 2006



## **Oct 12 – Thu, cont.**

11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps  
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

## **Oct 14 – Sat**

9:00a -12:00p New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale  
Replacing 11 ash trees, 30 volunteers needed. Volunteers should meet at 9am at Woodside Comfort Station. See note above regarding registration.

9:00-? Greening of Detroit, Rosemont Acadia Park Planting. 15 volunteers needed to plant 6 trees. Meet at 14300 Rosemont, Detroit 48233. See above for registration information.

11:00a -4:00p Arts and Scrap

## **Oct 16 – Mon**

4:00p -6:00p

## **Oct 17 – Tue**

11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps  
1:00p -4:00p New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale  
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

## **Oct 18 – Wed**

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

## **Oct 19 – Thu**

9:00a -11:00a Hadassah Doll-Making Project  
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps  
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

## **Oct 21 – Sat**

9:00a -3:00p Greening of Detroit, Vernor Street Tree and Heidelberg Pocket Park Planting. The Greening of Detroit, in partnership with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), will be planting trees in this neighborhood to replace dead ash trees. We are looking forward to working with 120 volunteers to plant more than 60 trees in this neighborhood. Residents in the community and any volunteers willing to help are more than welcome to join in on a great experience! Meet at 9am at 3300 E. Vernor Highway, 48207, Detroit See above for registration information.

9:00-2:00p Greening of Detroit, Gabriel Richard Park Planting  
This park is a part of the Detroit Riverfront Riverwalk which is now a landmark for run-

ners and bikers. The Greening will be working hard to beautify this park so that it can provide a great view for everyone who comes in contact with the area. Need 50 volunteers to come out and join us in planting 14 trees. Meeting location to be determined. Please see above for registration information.

11:00a -4:00p Arts and Scraps

## **Oct 23 – Mon**

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

## **Oct 24 – Tue**

11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps  
1:00p -4:00p New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale  
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

## **Oct 25 – Wed**

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

## **Oct 26 – Thu**

9:00a -11:00a Hadassah Doll-Making Project  
10:00a -2:00p New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale  
11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps  
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center,

## **Oct 28 – Sat**

9:00a -3:00 Greening of Detroit, North Rosedale Community. Replace 130 street trees. This big event will need 250 individuals that want to take part in a great planting experience. Volunteers should meet at the North Rosedale Park Community House, 18445 Scarsdale, Detroit MI 48223 at 9:00 am. See above for registration information.

11:00a -4:00p Arts and Scraps

## **Oct 30 – Mon**

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

## **Oct 31 – Tue**

11:00a -6:00p Arts and Scraps  
1:00p -4:00p New Hope Food Pantry, Melvindale  
4:00p -6:00p The Children's Center

## Help a Class

*Long-term volunteer needed at Madison Middle School in Pontiac.*

We need a volunteer 1.5 hours per school day to help get our students to the lunch room, aid with their trays and opening of containers and assist them at lunch as needed. We also need that volunteer to stay in the classroom while the teacher and student teacher change a few of the students. At this time, the volunteer could read a story to the children or some other activity to engage the students. This request is for the semester or the full school year. Contact: Special Education Dept. (248) 857-8121, leave message for Susan Lathers



## Attention AGENCIES



Have you registered your agency online yet? Agencies now have the capacity INPUT their own data. Once you have registered, e-mail us at [volunteer\\_impact@yahoo.com](mailto:volunteer_impact@yahoo.com), and we will adjust your registration to make you an events agent. All you will need is your personal password to input events each month. If you have special needs, please contact us with the information, and we will add the information to our monthly e-mailed newsletter. Volunteer Impact will post short-term volunteer needs for non-profits and community organization except fundraisers for that organization.

**Platinum Donors**  
**(\$5,000 or more)**

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Debbie and Ron Shapiro  
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# Adopt-A-Shelter: Dec. 2

It's not too early to think about your holiday shopping, especially when the holiday is Adopt-a-Shelter, our signature event in early December that brings holiday presents to residents of Detroit's homeless shelters. Residents of the shelters will have an opportunity to shop for their families from the gifts you bring.

Now's the opportunity to set up a drive with your school or community for next month to collect gifts. If you'd like to help us put this year's event together, let us know!



## Wish List for Adopt-a-Shelter

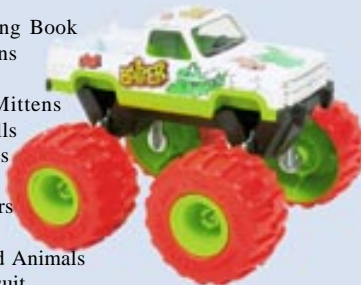
### Infant/Toddler

- 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. 2, 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

## We Have Your Volunteers!

If you know what are some of the Focus HOPE events that will be available on the VI website? To serve the community's needs. Volunteer Impact will post volunteer needs for any non-profit as long as the activity is not long-term or a fund-raiser.

### 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
Provide winter wear for a shelter	\$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

Corporate donors who wish to give a donation in lieu of buying gifts, please contact VI.  
For individual tributes, please attach a list with names and addresses



Volunteer Impact would like to congratulate the Detroit Tigers for a fantastic 2006 season. You have inspired our city both on and off the field. Good luck in the playoffs!



**Yes!** I want to support Volunteer Impact.

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