



**VOLUNTEER  
• I M P A C T •**

**FEBRUARY 2005**

# Connections

Improving Our Detroit Metropolitan Community Through Hands-On Volunteering

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'"

– Reverend  
Martin Luther King

## *Are You Between Jobs, Working Part Time or Retired?* **VOLUNTEER IMPACT IS THE PLACE TO BE!**

**T**here are countless people who are in transition due to career change, job loss or, in the case of so many, retirement. Whether this applies to you, or you are simply working part-time . . . **Volunteer Impact needs you!** There are numerous scenarios that can leave people with "time on their hands", like a "no-compete contract" for instance. The following interview is with one such person, Kelly Masters Carpenter, who has "given VI 60 days.

Having been a VI member for more than ten years, Masters was first a volunteer, then a Project Coordinator (PC), served on the Board of Directors and as Director of Programming before being recruited away six years ago. Most recently, Masters resigned from her position with Infinity Broadcasting. When Kelly called in December to say, "I've got at least the next 60 days free – to honor my no-compete with Infinity. How can you best use me?" we were thrilled!

**VI:** *What made you think to call VI after your resignation from Infinity?*

**KM:** Well, after making plans to visit family, travel a bit and get some home projects done, what was I going to do with myself for two months? I thought, 'how better to spend my time than to get back to volunteering and do some of what I love to do!' Very often, the hectic demands of life get 'in the way' of doing the things that feed our souls. Volunteering for a good cause is very fulfilling to me.

**VI:** *Many people think they have to make a huge commitment of time to volunteer. With your demanding career choice in media, how have you been able to contribute?*

**KM:** For the past couple of years, I haven't been as personally involved as I would have liked. But everyone can do some little thing to keep VI's good work moving. For example, after you've read this newsletter, post the calendar of volunteer opportunities in the break room at work or on the community bulletin board at your local coffee shop or bookstore. Send VI a monetary donation to support their work. When your single friends or associates complain about how hard it is to meet people, hand them a copy of *Connections* or email them VI's website ([www.volunteerImpact.org](http://www.volunteerImpact.org)). Everybody can do something. (Note: Kelly met her

husband, Mike, at a VI project at Gleaners more than five years ago.)

**VI:** *Because of your years of involvement, you know the needs of VI very well. For someone who doesn't have this history, how would they know what they could contribute?*



**KM:** I think someone should first think about what they like to do, what they find fulfilling. Do you like to interact with people? Great! Become a PC. Being a PC is really easy . . . you field phone calls from interested volunteers for a project you've chosen and lead your team through a successful and meaningful volunteer experience. Maybe you're not a "people person". That's okay too. Perhaps you could assist VI with researching corporate donors, write articles for *Connections*, assist with the database, etc. Do you enjoy planning events? If your friends consider you 'the hostess with the most-ess' Hands On Detroit Day (HODD) is calling your name!

As you know, Hands On Detroit Day '05 is right around the corner. With little more than 3 months until the big day, there is much to do! Ensuring that this amazing 1-day volunteer-a-thon is successful requires quite a bit of work. VI looks to volunteers to assist with project development, corporate involvement, volunteer/group recruitment, project coordination, event management, raising pledges, and so forth. HODD '05 is May 14th. Call VI today to see how you can be involved! (248-559-4950)

**VI:** *For someone who finds themselves between jobs, either forced – or like you – by choice, why should they consider 'working' for VI during their 'sabbatical'?*

**KM:** It's fun, interesting, rewarding and challenging. And, at a time when you may be questioning your worth or value, it's an excellent way to feel good about yourself! Today, more than ever before, highly skilled people (a.k.a. high-powered volunteers) find themselves between jobs. If you have some time on your hands, for whatever reason, please contact Volunteer Impact to put your skills to work for a fabulous cause . . . improving our metropolitan Detroit community through hands-on volunteering.

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#### VOLUNTEER IMPACT, INC.

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## A GREAT TIME TO CELEBRATE VI!



Volunteer Impact is celebrating our 15th birthday. 15 years of helping our community. 15 years of bringing food to the elderly and to the homeless. 15 years of supporting young people and their families – tutoring, teaching, training, mentoring, and helping. 15 years of neighborhood clean-ups, house restoration, painting, and planting flowers, vegetables and gardens. 15 years of making a difference.

The past 15 years have taught us there is no shortage of volunteers in our community. In fact, our membership is at an all time high and growing almost more rapidly than we can count. VI membership is now at more than 14,000. It shows us what can happen when a good organization is able to tap into the needs of the community and provide easy and fulfilling opportunities to help others in need.

There is something for everyone – families, teenagers, singles, and seniors. We make volunteering easy by providing a range of volunteer opportunities that fit any and all interests and time availability. Look at your schedule and find a three-to-four hour opening, and the chances are pretty good we have a project for you.

We hope you join us in celebrating Volunteer Impact's 15-year birthday. There are many ways to mark the occasion. Here are a few:

- If you haven't volunteered for a while, look over our calendar and jump right in. You can find it at [www.volunteerimpact.org](http://www.volunteerimpact.org);
- Train to become a Project Coordinator (PC) and manage a project – we would love to train you (a simple two-hour process);
- How about a donation, or a tribute in honor of someone you know or love – Volunteer Impact needs additional support to continue our work; or,
- Join us to help plan Volunteer Impact's 14th annual Hand On Detroit Day – we promise it will be fun to help, a great way to meet new people and make a difference all at the same time. All while supporting your favorite organization.

As you can see, there are a lot of ways to play a part in Volunteer Impact. Find one that's right for you, or tell us about a project or an event you would like to see. Volunteer Impact is here for you.

*Liz Kanter Groskind*

## YOU ARE INVITED TO DR. SEUSS'S BIRTHDAY PARTY!

**DATE:** Thursday, March 3, 2005

Friday, March 4, 2005

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**LOCATIONS:**

Booth Evangeline Salvation Army  
Hazel Park Head Start  
Starfish Family Services  
Women's Survival Center  
Peggy's Place  
Wayne Family Center

Volunteer Impact invites you to join our 5th annual Dr. Seuss Birthday Party! This literacy project is designed to bring the excitement of reading to pre-school children. Volunteers are asked to bring a new book to read one-on-one to a child, and present the book to the child to take home thus encouraging family members to read to them.



#### How can you get involved?

- Bring a friend or two to read to a child at one of our sites.
- Donate **new pre-school age** books to be read and given to the children.

#### DROP-OFF SITES FOR NEW BOOKS:

**Kanter Associates:** 100 Galleria Office Centre, Suite 401, Southfield (Twelve Mile and Telegraph)

**VI Office:** 23077 Greenfield, Suite LL10, Southfield (Nine Mile and Greenfield)

To RSVP and receive more information please call the Volunteer Impact office at 248-559-4950.

## 14th ANNUAL HANDS ON DETROIT DAY - MAY 14, 2005

### *Help Lift Up an Entire City with Your Bare Hands!*

On Saturday, May 14, 2005 Volunteer Impact will host our 14th Hands On Detroit Day. Join hundreds of volunteers helping thousands while raising funds to support Volunteer Impact's year-round programs. We will be making an impact in the metropolitan area at 15 different work sites. Your opportunities to make a difference are varied. Some of the projects will find volunteers removing graffiti, cleaning parks,

painting schools, planting flowers and trees, and working in community gardens.

#### READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT?

- Call the office at 248-559-4950 and join a HODD committee. Please call the office for the February HODD meeting date.
- Start talking to your family, friends, employers, and co-workers to form teams for HODD.



# Volunteer Opportunities for February 2005

*"Volunteering there's nothing like it! You wake up in the morning with a smile on your face, and go to bed happy."*

– Marc Buoniconti

## 1, 8, 15 & 22 TUESDAYS DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY – CHASE BRANCH

Help students with homework.  
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Call: Dortha Pitts • 313-578-8002

## 1, 8, 15 & 22 TUESDAYS DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY – MARK TWAIN BRANCH

Help students with homework.  
Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Call: Karen Bell Abbott • 313-924-9272

## 3, 10, 17 & 24 THURSDAYS HADASSAH – DOLL MAKING



Make cute and cuddly dolls for distribution to children in local hospitals.  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Location: West Bloomfield  
Volunteers: 5  
Call: Eleanor Smith • 248-626-0762

## 5 SATURDAY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Help construct affordable housing. You must be at least 18 years old. If with an adult 16 and 17 year olds may volunteer. Bring a lunch.  
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Volunteers: 15  
Call: Volunteer Impact • 248-559-4950

## 6 SUNDAY COTS

Prepare and serve lunch.  
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Volunteers: 5  
Call: Gloria Sarver • 586-293-1914

## 6 SUNDAY 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.  
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Ann Arbor  
Volunteers: 8  
Call: Volunteer Impact • 248-559-4950

## 7, 14, 21 & 28 MONDAYS YWCA OF WESTERN WAYNE COUNTY AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Assist with homework and work with the children.  
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Westland  
Volunteers: 4  
Call: Karla Williams • 313-661-4110 ext. 820

## 7, 14, 21 & 28 MONDAYS SOUTHWEST TUTORING PROGRAM

Help elementary and middle school students improve their academic skills.  
Time: 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Call: Grace Colter • 248-735-4430

## 12 SATURDAY HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MACOMB

Help build affordable housing.  
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Location: Eastpointe  
Volunteers: 15  
Call: Mark Surmont • 586-772-4892 2#

## 12 SATURDAY GLEANERS – TAYLOR

Sort and pack food boxes.  
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Taylor  
Volunteers: 15  
Call: Volunteer Impact • 248-559-4950

## 12 SATURDAY KIWANIS NO. 1 CLUB



Sort books for distribution to Detroit Public Schools.  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Volunteers: 20  
Call: Volunteer Impact • 248-559-4950

## 13 SUNDAY CHERRYWOOD NURSING HOME – PET THERAPY

Bring your dog to visit with the residents.  
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Location: Sterling Heights  
Volunteers: 8  
Call: Connie Carr • 586-465-5931  
Email: ccarr@etdinc.com



## 17 THURSDAY ST. LEO'S SOUP KITCHEN

Prepare and serve lunch.  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Volunteers: 8  
Call: Gloria Sarver • 586-293-1914

## 19 SATURDAY FOCUS: HOPE

Sorting and packing food boxes.  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Volunteers: 15  
Call: Volunteer Impact • 248-559-4950

## 19 SATURDAY FOOD BANK OF OAKLAND COUNTY



Packing food boxes.  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Pontiac  
Volunteers: 15  
Call: Volunteer Impact • 248-559-4950

## 19 SATURDAY GLEANERS – DETROIT

Sort and pack food boxes.  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Volunteers: 15  
Call: Volunteer Impact • 248-559-4950

## 19 SATURDAY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

See February 5th for details.  
Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Location: Detroit  
Volunteers: 15  
Call: Volunteer Impact • 248-559-4950

## 20 SUNDAY ARDEN COURT OF BINGHAM FARMS ALZHEIMER'S ASSISTED LIVING

Help residents with simple arts and crafts.  
Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Bingham Farms  
Volunteers: 5  
Call: Janet Evans • 248-644-8100

## MARCH OPPORTUNITIES:

### 3 & 4 THURSDAY & FRIDAY DR. SEUSS BIRTHDAY PARTY


Read one-on-one to children in head start programs.  
Call: Volunteer Impact • 248-559-4950


## COMMUNITY CALENDAR:


**Habitat for Humanity** has on-going projects weekly every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday: 8 am to 4 pm. Sixty volunteers are needed. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old to work on the construction projects.


**Habitat for Humanity Detroit ReStore** needs volunteers to assist customers, and help keep the ReStore running smoothly. Volunteers are needed one day a week twice a month. One-time volunteers are welcome. Great senior volunteer opportunity. Please call Sandra Cobb at 313-521-6691 ext. 107 for more info.

## 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.



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**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVERY PROMPTLY**

## TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

*In Honor Of:* Sarah S. Saltzman

*From:* Amie R. Saltzman

*In Memory Of:* To Greg and Jill Rostker in memory of your Mother, Evelyn Rostker

*From:* Sue and Jeff Goldsmith and family

*In Memory Of:* To Karen and David Gunsberg in memory of Sherry Gunsberg

*From:* Marcy and Rob Fisher and family

## Special Thanks to the following Supporters of Adopt-A-Shelter 2004:

Famous Dave's BBQ, Frank's Creative Catering for donating to Genesis House II, American Coney Island for donating to Doorstep West and Sun Valley Foods for donating to Starfish Family Services.

*There is no fee to volunteer, but you can show your support by sending your tax-deductible gift to help VI's mission to improve our community through hands-on volunteerism.*

**Yes!** I want to support the important work of Volunteer Impact in our community.

I'm sending a gift of: \$500.00 \$250.00 \$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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. \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generous gift! You have made an impact!**