



Volunteer Illini Projects

...Peace, unity and change since 1963

VIP Board of Directors For 2010

March 17, 2010

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**Kymerly's
Corner**

Meet the VIP Board of Directors!!

Chair: Kymerly Ruhmann

Vice Chairs: Kait Kalata and Catherine Toupin

Treasurer: Brad Beebe

Office Manager: Susan Duback

Animal Allies: Claudia Ortiz **Arts Outreach:** Dan Derrig

Best Buddies: Natalie Sanders and Ismail Umer

Blood: Elle Thermos **Community Justice:** Sarah Glazer

Daycare: Niharika Chaudhary **Environmental:** Michael Bermejo

Health Needs: Katherine Anderson

Hunger & Homelessness: Kasia Komperda

I-Vote: Ashley Kanelos **Recreation:** Sheniece Presley

Senior Citizens: Diana Rechenmacher

Social Empowerment: Megan Wolf

Special Projects: Brian Wlezien **Tutoring:** Elizabeth Curtin

Public Relations: Michele Henhagl and Paige Quinlan

H Volunteers!

I hope everyone's semester is off to a great start! As the semester goes on, sometimes it is easy to get wrapped up in classes and find it difficult to find time to volunteer, especially on a regular basis. No worries, VIP is here for your volunteering needs! With such a wide variety of projects, it is easy to find something to do that is quick, and does not require a large commitment. Each project has a range of events, so it is easy to find something to do that will fit into your schedule. For those of you who find time to make a regular commitment, great job and keep up the great work! Volunteering in the Champaign-Urbana community really allows everyone to make a difference in the community we live in. Whether you are helping to educate children, helping get blood donations, coaching a soccer team, or helping those who are less fortunate, you are making an impact in the community each and every day you take time to volunteer. Volunteer not just because you are making a difference, but because it makes you feel good, too! Keep up the great work and help Volunteer Illini Projects make a difference in your community! Also, mark your calendars now for our annual volunteer appreciation event, Sunshine Jubilee! It will be on Saturday, April 24 from 1-4pm in Illini Grove, and it is a day filled with free food, games, and volunteer awards!!

Sincerely,
Kymerly Ruhmann
Volunteer Illini Projects Chair 2010
volunteerillini@gmail.com

Coordinators of the Month

SENIOR CITIZENS

KRISTEN WEBB

Kirsten has been a great asset to the Senior Citizens Project. She continues to coordinate Thursday evenings by setting up the bingo game, making sure all of the volunteers are doing an activity, and she takes over even when I cannot be there. Kirsten also interacts very well with the senior citizens. Congratulations Kirsten and keep up the good work!

ENVIRONMENTAL

KRISTEN THORPE

Kristen has been what the director of the Orpheum calls a "dynamo". If not for her, this project would not have expanded to the point where we now have FIVE different teaching agencies, and possibly still expanding. She has also been timely in all our meetings and has put in the extra time, effort, and work to make sure this is a successful project. She has helped developed the Stuffbusters curriculum as well as alter it for the different ages we teach to. Like I said, a "dynamo".

PUBLIC RELATIONS

ZAREEN ABBAS

Zareen is quite a crafty girl and is always on her game. Her creative touch added a lot to the recent display cases. She's been responsible and is always ready to help. She's contributed a lot the public relations project. Keep up all of the good work, Zareen.

Thanks Zareen!

Project Updates

Environmental

The Environmental Project is currently working on **Stuffbusters Teaching Opportunities**

If you are interested in the environment or plan on teaching kids in the future, this is a great opportunity for you! We will help kids learn about consumerism and where the products we buy come from! This will help kids learn early on about responsible consumerism and the impacts on the environment! If you are interested in volunteering at one of our many teaching projects, contact Michael at vip.environmental@gmail.com. This program is developed by the Orpheum Children's Science Museum and is funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Blood

The spring semester has gotten off to a great start. We have already held two blood drives, and our next one is coming up! In January we donated with American Red Cross and collected a total of 23 units. In February we donated with Community Blood Services of Illinois and collected a total of 66 units! Our next drive will be held through the American Red Cross on Wednesday, March 17th and Thursday, March 18th from 11am-3pm in Illini Union Room A.

Thanks!

Questions! Feel free to email us at vip.blood@gmail.com

Community Justice

Community Justice has been very active with both Pen Pals for Prisoners and Books to Prisoners. Sarah is looking for help with both of these great volunteer opportunities .

Pen Pals for Prisoners requires that the volunteer writes one anonymous letter a month to a prisoner. It's really a unique and fun experience.

Books to Prisoners asks that volunteers sorts and package prisoner's book requests. We work on this every Tuesday and Saturday.

If you have any questions or interested in volunteering, e-mail Sarah at

vip.community.justice@gmail.com

Best Buddies

On March 3rd, Best Buddies successfully held a day to Spread the Word to End the Word. Setting up tables across campus, volunteers got people to pledge to stop using the r-word. Wanna get more involved with best buddies?

Email them at illinibestbuddies@gmail.com



Day Care

VIP Day Care has had a great start into the semester. Day Care has some new enthusiastic coordinators who are thrilled to work with our agencies and volunteers. We began volunteering at four agencies- Crisis Nursery, Center for Women in Transition, Marilyn Queller Child Care Center, and Campus Cooperative. One of our events during Feb was setting up and decorating for "Sock hop", the yearly dance at Yankee Ridge Elementary School. Our volunteers had a fun time setting up with some help from kids at Yankee Ridge School. Day Care is hoping to have a semester filled with fun volunteering activities. We really appreciate the work of our volunteers, Thank you all for your effort and time :)

Health Needs

Here's a good idea of what to expect from VIP Health Needs this semester, there are still several more opportunities for both weekly and one-time volunteering that are TBA, including work with the Muscular Dystrophy Association, American Red Cross, and Women in Transition. We will send all updates about volunteer opportunities by email.

- **Artists Against AIDS:** Health Needs will help set up a sale and exhibition hosted by the Greater Community AIDS Project. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go toward AIDS outreach programs. The benefit itself goes from April 22-26, but Health Needs will send volunteers either the weekend of the 10th or the 17th to assist with set-up.
- **Rock Out Against Rape (ROAR):** This benefit concert is to raise funds for the agency and promote awareness about sexual violence. It will be held either April 30 or May 1 as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM).
- **Take Back the Night (TBTN):** This rally and march against sexual violence are scheduled for April 22, and are also part of SAAM.

Questions?

Please email us at: Vip.health.need@gmail.com

**Get in Contact with the
VIP Board of Directors!!**

Animal Allies: Claudia Ortiz

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Arts Outreach: Dan Derrig

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Best Buddies: Natalie Sanders and
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Recreation: Sheniece Presley

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Senior Citizens: Diana Rechenmacher

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A Brief VIP History:

In 1963, a group of fifty University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign students collaborated to provide tutoring services to the schools in the Urbana-Champaign area. Students began taking note of the need for volunteer services in all other aspects of the community, which led to the formation of the Illini House, forerunner of Volunteer Illini Projects. Services expanded rapidly — by 1965, VIP became incorporated as a not-for-profit organization. Since then, the number of student volunteers has risen to more than 2,000! In 2005, over 15,000 hours of volunteer work were contributed. As the largest student-staffed student-run organization in the state, Volunteer Illini Projects volunteers work to improve the partnership between students and the local community.

Social Empowerment: Megan Wolf

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Special Projects: Brian Wlezien

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Tutoring: Elizabeth Curtin

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