



Volunteer Illini Projects

...Peace, unity and change since 1963

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VIP Board of Directors

What's New With V.I.P.?

Hello volunteers! Fall is here, and that always means big things for VIP! Lots of volunteer opportunities with all of our projects, and our Board of Director applications are just around the corner! Start thinking about if you would like to apply to be a Director for one of our fabulous 16 projects. Applications will be released on October 4 and will be due by Wednesday, October 13 by 5pm. All positions will be available for application, so you can talk with current directors now about what their specific responsibilities are. Being on the Board of Directors is a great way to learn leadership skills, and also make friends that will last a lifetime. It is invaluable experience, and it allows you to give back to the Champaign-Urbana community in an even bigger way. I know we have a lot of great applicants out there, so be sure to keep an eye out for an e-mail during the first week of October! If you have not received the application via e-mail by October 5, or if you have any questions regarding the application process, please send an e-mail to

volunteerilliniprojects@gmail.com

-Kymberly Ruhmann

Learn more about Volunteer Illini Projects on our brand new website!! Brad Beebe, treasurer, worked hard this summer to ensure that V.I.P. would have a functioning website for the 2010-2011 school year.

Check out the website to find out detailed information about all of our projects volunteer opportunities. You can find contact information for all of our directors as well.

One of the best features of the website is the event calendar. Check out our list of events that you can be involved in. Events range from one time events to weekly commitments. The calendar is a great way to find some awesome volunteer opportunities in the Champaign-Urbana Community.

Visit our website at:

VolunteerIlliniProjects.com

Project Updates

Best Buddies

Best Buddies is one of VIP's projects that pairs students with members of the community with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The volunteers work to build friendships and empower individuals with disabilities. We're always looking for associate members so feel free to fill out an application at bestbuddiesonline.org!

Blood

The Blood Project got off to a great start this semester! Our first blood drive was held the first week in September with Community Blood Services of Illinois. Our combined goal for the 3 days was 90 units, and we shattered our goal by collecting 117 units! Thanks to our volunteers and donors, each of these units represented a life-saving gift to a patient in need.

Hopefully our October drive will see the same results! The dates are Monday, October 18th and Tuesday, October 19th in Illini Union Room A, from 10am-2pm. Come out to donate and/or volunteer so we can shatter another goal and save more lives!

I-Vote

Project I-Vote is working hard to spread the word about our upcoming elections. The elections are on November 2nd for governor, senator, attorney general, secretary of state, and local elections.

Volunteers are currently striving to get the word out about the vote and inform the community about the elections and candidates.

Be sure to read up on the candidates and vote on November 2nd!

Community Justice

The Books to Prisoners Fall Books Sale will be Oct 1-3. Books to Prisoners is a non-profit organization that mails books to individuals incarcerated in Illinois. With the current budget crises, many prisons are cutting their library programs, which means Books to Prisoners is the only way for prisoners to get books. In many cases, books are the only educational and entertainment materials prisoners can receive. Please support Books to Prisoners in making Illinois prisons more humane. The book sale hours are: 4-8 pm on Friday, 8am-5 pm on Saturday, and 10am-2 pm on Sunday. Community Justice is going to help set up on Thursday 9/30, one group going from 5-7 pm and another from 7-9 pm. We will also help with take down on Sunday Oct. 3 from 2-4 pm. If you're interested in volunteering, please email Sarah @ vip.community.justice@gmail.com.

Do you enjoy writing letters? Want to volunteer in a unique and fun way? The Community Justice Prisoner Pen Pal Program is always looking for more volunteers. If you're interested in making a big difference in someone's life, email vip.community.justice@gmail.com for more information.



Project Updates Continued...

Health Needs

Recreation

V.I.P.'s Health Needs will be volunteering at the Champaign County Christian Health Center this semester.

The Champaign County Christian Health Center is a non-profit, volunteer run program that offers assistance to individual's without health care.

Volunteers with Health Needs will be helping out around the center to prepare for the upcoming week. It will be truly a rewarding experience.

This will be a weekly volunteering event that takes place from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Email Katherine for more information at vip.health.need@gmail.com

Environmental

Project Environmental is excited to announce the addition of a new volunteering opportunity. Volunteers will be gardening a Douglas Park. Events this semester will mostly consist of building and construction of foundations. Next semester, volunteers will begin to plant. The first volunteering opportunity is October 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Email Michael at vip.environmental@gmail.com for more information.

Coordinator of the Month

CLAIRE DOWNS from Best Buddies

This summer, Claire interned with Best Buddies and also attended the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in Bloomington. This month, she has gone above and beyond as a volunteer for Best Buddies. She personally recruited and registered 10 buddies for the program, and helped with interviewing new and returning college students to the program. Thanks, Claire!

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

Animal Allies: Claudia Ortiz

vip.animal.allies@gmail.com

Arts Outreach: Dan Derrig

vip.arts.outreach@gmail.com

Best Buddies: Natalie Sanders and
Ismail Umer

illinibestbuddies@gmail.com

Blood: Elle Thermos

vip.blood@gmail.com

Community Justice: Sarah Glazer

Vip.community.justice@gmail.com

Daycare: Niharika Chaudhary

Vip.daycare@gmail.com

Environmental: Michael Bermejo

Vip.environmental@gmail.com

Health Needs: Katherine Anderson

Vip.health.needs@gmail.com

Hunger & Homelessness: Kasia
Komperda

Vip.hunger.homeless@gmail.com

I-Vote: Ashley Kanelos

Vip.ivote@gmail.com

Recreation: Sheniece Presley

Vip.recreation@gmail.com

Senior Citizens: Diana Rechenmacher

Vip.senior.citizens@gmail.com

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: Ayesha Patel

Vip.social.empowerment@gmail.com

Special Projects: Brian Wlezien

Vip.special.projects@gmail.com

Tutoring: Elizabeth Curtin

Vip.tutoring.project@gmail.com

Public Relations: Michele Hanhapl and Paige Quinlan

Vip.public.relations@gmail.com



Produced and Edited by:
Michele Hanhapl and Paige Quinlan