



April 2011
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The VIP Monthly

your news for everything-VIP!



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Welcoming The New Board



* 2011 Board of Directors for VIP

What Do We Do?

Volunteer Illini Projects, Inc. (VIP) is a student-run, student-staffed volunteer organization committed to peace, unity, and change. By working with and within the community, VIP makes a positive impact through service, thereby enriching students' educational experiences and committing students to a lifetime of volunteerism. VIP strives to foster unity and enhance interpersonal connections through mutual understanding and empowerment. The dynamic tradition of past student initiatives and vision for positive social action guides the future of Volunteer Illini Projects, Inc.

A Project For Every Passion

With 16 service projects, we are the *largest student-run, student-staffed volunteer organization in Illinois!* Each project is aligned with a different goal for serving the Champaign-Urbana community, so we are sure you will be able to find something to fit your volunteering desire. Most of the projects have varying time commitments as well, so if you want to donate a lot or just a little time each semester, there is definitely something for you with VIP!

A Bit of Chair-ity

a message from our chair, Ish

Hello, U of I volunteers!

Wow! Can you believe we're halfway through the semester already? As your thoughts turn to the quickly approaching season of spring (warmer weather and longer days? Yes please!), I'd like to encourage you to think of VIP and our need for volunteers like you. Our status as one of the largest student run, student staffed volunteer organizations would be impossible without your hard work! If you've been thinking about getting more involved on campus or thinking about things to do besides classes, VIP is a great place for you to get started. With 16 different service projects, we address a variety of aspects of volunteering, and are certain to have a field that matches your interests. Enjoy spending time with children? Think about joining our Daycare project. Looking for a way to fill that void inside you because your dog is at home, instead of here? Sign up for Animal Allies! Considering a career in health occupations? Look for events within Health Needs! That's only THREE of our projects, and only THREE of the opportunities they provide. You can be certain that you will find a place that matches your interests and goals within Volunteer Illini Projects. For more information and detail on our 16 different projects, please visit www.volunteerilliniprojects.com and sign up for any of the project list-servs!

I look forward to seeing you at an event soon!

-Ish



For more info on any of our Projects, email us at volunteerilliniprojects@gmail.com

Messages and Updates

Hello Everyone!

Thus far with Health Needs, we have done a variety of different projects in the health realm. In February, we aided in the preparations for the American Heart Association's annual Heart and Stroke Ball at the i-Hotel. Also, we have a weekly volunteering event on Tuesdays with the Swann Special Care Center where we interact with the residents and get to do fun activities with them! The Champaign County Christian Health Center is an event that we volunteer at twice a month. It allows us to see how a medical clinic works and how important the generosity of organizations and local physicians really impacts a free medical clinic. All of these events will be a great time, so be sure to email vip.health.need@gmail.com for more information! It has been a great semester so far and we hope to keep having a strong turnout of volunteers!

-Lauren
Health Needs Director



Interested in volunteering from the comfort of your own dorm or apartment? Become a pen pal to an inmate in Illinois. It is completely safe and is a fun and interesting volunteer experience. For more information, email Kailey at VIP.Community.Justice@gmail.com.

-Kailey
Community Justice Director

Best Buddies Picture Updates



Provided By: Claire Downs and Cindy
Donati
Best Buddies Directors

The 411 at VIP



Volunteer Illini Projects

...Peace, unity and change since 1963

CALLING ALL VIPers!

The Sunshine Jubilee will be on **Saturday, April 16th, from 12-3pm in the Illini Grove!** The Jubilee is an end of the year celebration, culminating with the end of National Volunteer Week. We'll have food, games, good times, and awards! Be sure to mark your calendars!

BLOOD/SPECIAL PROJECTS

Join us for our Locks of Love drive! It's on **April 20th from 11am - 3pm in Illini Union Room 314B!** We will be collecting hair donations and offering \$5 non-donation haircuts! (all proceeds will go to Locks of Love). To make appointments for donations or to volunteer, contact [vip.blood@gmail.com!](mailto:vip.blood@gmail.com)

DAYCARE

Did you know that every 10 seconds, a report of child abuse is made?

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. Help VIP Daycare in our efforts to spread the news across campus and the surrounding CU community! For more info on what you can do to help, email [vip.daycare@gmail.com!](mailto:vip.daycare@gmail.com)

The 411 at VIP (contd.)



SENIOR CITIZENS

We have our normal weekly visits to the nursing homes with fun & games on Mondays and Wednesdays, and bingo on Thursdays! Be sure to stop by! For more info, email [vip.senior.citizens@gmail.com!](mailto:vip.senior.citizens@gmail.com)



HEALTH NEEDS

Join us for our weekly volunteering event on Tuesdays with the Swann Special Care Center, where we interact with the residents and get to do fun activities with them! The Champaign County Christian Health Center is also an event that we volunteer at twice a month. For more info, contact [vip.health.need@gmail.com!](mailto:vip.health.need@gmail.com)



SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Illinois Foodbank Fundraiser (canning) on **Thursday, April 14th & Friday, April 15th from 11 pm-1am on Green Street** (co-organized with Hunger & Homelessness)
- Cans Across the Quad on **Wednesday, April 27th all day** (we will be collecting non-perishable donations to the Quad till 2pm). This event is U of I's biggest canned food drive! Please bring your canned donations and volunteer your time for this great cause! We will also be collecting donations before the 27th, so be sure to stop by with any donations in the VIP office (room 285 in the Illini Union, by the RSO office complex)!
- Flower Planting Day on Friday, April 29th from 3-5pm at the Champaign-Urbana Regional Rehab Center (co-organized with the Environmental Project). Come relax with the residents and enjoy making the Center a more beautiful place by planting flower beds!

* For questions or to volunteer at any of these events, please email [vip.special.projects@gmail.com!](mailto:vip.special.projects@gmail.com)

The 411 at VIP (contd.)



HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS



Be sure to stop by and volunteer with us in these events!

- Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) Repack on **Thursday, April 7th from 5:30-7:30 pm**
- Illinois Foodbank Fundraiser (canning) on **Thursday, April 14th & Friday, April 15th from 11 pm-1 am on Green Street** (co-organized with Special Projects)
- Wesley Food Pantry on **Thursday, April 21st**
- Cans Across the Quad on **Wednesday, April 27th all day** (we will be collecting non-perishable donations on the Quad till 2pm)
- Pasta Feed on **Friday, April 29th from 3:30-8:30pm at the ARC**

* For questions or to volunteer at any of these events, please email vip.hunger.homeless@gmail.com!



ARTS OUTREACH

Arts Outreach has weekly Circle of Friends events, where volunteers do arts and crafts with senior citizens. They are always Tuesdays from 4-5:15pm. Join us! For more info, contact vip.arts.outreach@gmail.com!



For more info on any of our Projects and to see an updated list of events, please visit www.volunteerilliniprojects.com

Volunteer Spotlight

Everybody knows that VIP wouldn't be able to be what it is today without the hardwork of **ALL the coordinators and volunteers** involved in each Project. Every week, members of our organization dedicate their time and effort, many times without recognition. So in order to acknowledge our unsung heroes, here's a little token of appreciation and a much deserved "thank you"!

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

CALLING SCOTT SOLOMAN!

Peter Cote, director of Senior Citizens, and the rest of the BOD would like to thank you for your time and dedication to the service project! Peter raved, "He's been coming almost twice a week to events and works great with the seniors." Scott, give yourself a pat on the back!

COORDINATOR OF THE MONTH

*SARAH SCIORTINO,
WHERE YOU AT?*

Sarah went above and beyond this month planning the Polar Plunge and the Buddy Ball. She spent countless hours preparing for both events and made them both an ultimate success. The Best Buddies Polar Plunge team raised over \$5,000 and VIP's Best Buddies came in 3rd for their costumes, which Sarah also made for all 20 plungers. For the Buddy Ball, Sarah came up with fun, Wild Wild West activities and went shopping for all of the supplies. Thanks Sarah for all of your hard work!

OUR BELOVED THOUGHTS

We'd also like to take this portion of the newsletter to send our condolences to those who knew David and Cindy Combs. It has been a sad month as two of their most loved Buddies were in a devastating bike-car accident on March 7th. Cindy passed away and David is currently in critical condition. Please keep them both in your thoughts. David and Cindy have been in Best Buddies for the past 10 years, and have attended every event and were great friends to all. During this hard time, Best Buddies is coming together to celebrate the life of Cindy and hoping for the best for David. The loss of Cindy has left Best Buddies without one of their most cherished members.

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