



Change yourself. Change your world. Volunteer.

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Volunteer Newsletter

January 2008

"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

- Sir Winston Churchill

What's New

California Makes History for Volunteerism

On February 26th, Governor Schwarzenegger took first-in-the-nation action to encourage volunteerism in California. The Governor signed an executive order to establish the new position of secretary of service and volunteering. The executive order will raise the profile of service in the Golden State to a national level, encourage more Californians to become involved with service and volunteerism, help California respond to natural disasters and emergencies, and give California's volunteers a voice at the highest levels of state government.

Sue Carter, VSD's Executive Director, says, "As a hub of CaliforniaVolunteers, Volunteer San Diego is excited and encouraged by the Executive Order creating a Cabinet-level position for volunteering. Volunteers are a vital force to change our community for the better. We look forward to continued partnership with the state to increase and enhance volunteerism." For more information and to read some of the national media coverage our state received, visit this webpage: <http://www.californiavolunteers.org/news.asp>.

Corporate Group Volunteer Events

Did you know that the majority of corporate executives believe their



companies should financially support volunteerism, and that senior management should actively volunteer? Companies engaged in group volunteer projects strengthen their teams by:

- Encouraging and improving **teamwork and collaboration** among employees
- Improving employee **morale**
- Increasing employee **retention**

For more information on corporate group volunteer opportunities [click here](#).

Hot Projects

Carlsbad 5000 and Junior Carlsbad Race

This April 10,000 runners and walkers descend upon Carlsbad to participate in the Carlsbad 5000. This is one of the fastest 5Ks around, home of 16 world records! If you would like to participate in the fun, but don't want to run - volunteer! Volunteers are needed to help staff the the race and the pre-registration party. Signup to volunteer [at the race](#), [at the party](#), or both! Proceeds from the race go to Carlsbad High School, Kids Are Worth a Million, and Volunteer San Diego.

Flex Members

New Flex Projects

Beautified Nature Walks for Teens is Back on the Calendar!

Join a San Diego Natural History Museum scientist or trained volunteer on a different type of nature walk. He/she will explain the interconnected lives of the local flora and fauna, while participants armed with tools (gloves, trash pickers and bags) will remove the littered clues of human presence (e.g., cigarette butts and fast food trash). For more information or to sign up, please [click here](#).

Habitat Restoration at the Tijuana Estuary Volunteers are needed to help restore habitat for the endangered Light-Footed Clapper Rail (Tijuana Estuary's signature bird). Help remove invasive vegetation, replant native plants and clean the beach. This project is great for groups and for the whole family! For more information or to sign up for the next project on March 8th, [click here](#).

Homework Helpers Needs Your Help!

Serra Mesa Homework Helpers has opened up two new evenings! In addition to their regular Wednesday projects, there will be volunteer opportunities available every 1st and 3rd Mondays. Tutoring begins March 17th. No training or tutoring experience necessary. [Click here](#) for more

information or to sign up!

Volunteer Spots Available!

There are plenty of Flex projects that still need volunteers. Whether it's tutoring, serving the hungry, or helping youth and seniors, there's always a place where you can lend a hand. [Click here](#) to see which project fits into your schedule!

Flex Accomplishments

Flex keeps growing and improving the community!

In the month of January, 167 new volunteers joined Flex and attended orientations. Welcome to you all!

Thanks to Flex volunteers like you, here's what we have achieved in January:

2,931 hours of service completed by
936 volunteers attending
78 projects.

Not yet a Flex Member?

Please join us at one of our Flex Orientations! To sign up, visit our [Course Calendar](#).

Be a Leader

Flex Team and Orientation Leaders Needed!

Homework Buddies Need Help

Team leaders are needed at several locations to coordinate tutoring and homework help. Leaders are needed at [Beckworth Homework Buddies](#) on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Mondays of the month, the [College-Rolando Branch](#) of the public library on the 2nd Monday of the month, and at [Malcolm X Homework Helpers](#) on the 4th Monday of every month. Have you volunteered for any of these projects before? Consider becoming a Team Leader!

Childcare Leaders Needed

Team leaders are needed for Childcare at the Women's Resource Center in Oceanside every Wednesday evening (except the 4th of the month). Help brighten the lives of families living in the Transitional Housing Program by providing childcare to children while their mothers attend classes. Activities may include reading, singing, arts & crafts and playing games. For more information on this project [click here](#).

Substitute Orientation Leaders are needed: Please contact Debbie Krakauer at (858) 636-4184 or e-mail dkrakauer@volunteersandiego.org if you are interested.

Interested in Becoming a Team Leader?

Interested in Being a Flex Team Leader? We need more team leaders to open more projects! The next orientation session is scheduled for March 18 at 5:30PM here at Volunteer San Diego. If you are unable to attend an upcoming session, contact [Debbie Krakauer](#) at (858) 636-4184.

Superhero of the Month

This month's Superhero award goes to Kevin Stapleford, a volunteer for Voices for Children.

Kevin has been a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer for 15-year-old Jack for the past five years. Jack has been in foster care since he was 2 years old, and has come to regard Kevin as a role model and a source of stability in his life. In addition to these uplifting effects, Kevin also makes sure that the judge has the most relevant information in order to make sure that Jack's best interests are represented.



Kevin has seen Jack nearly every week since being assigned to his case 5 years ago. He has made many opportunities more accessible to Jack by transporting him to and from a weekly workforce training program and to band practice. Kevin has always encouraged Jack's interest in music, which has helped prevent Jack from expressing his emotions in a more negative way. In addition to his musical pursuits, Kevin has focused on Jack's interests and looked for ways for Jack to channel his energy in successful ways. He has worked with administrators so Jack can have scholarships to drama camps, summer camps and a highly esteemed music camp.

Everything Kevin has done has helped Jack turn his life around and become a successful teenager. Kevin has always believed in Jack, and has helped encourage him to live a life he may not have known existed.

If you would like to nominate a volunteer, please let [us](#) know!

Youth

[Global Youth Service Day](#) (GYSD) is the largest service event in the world, engaging millions of young people ages 5-25! GYSD promotes public awareness and education, highlights the amazing contributions that young people make to their communities, and supports and



encourages youth to begin on a life-long path of service and civic engagement.

Volunteer San Diego will coordinate local and regional celebrations of GYSD during the entire week of April 21 - 27, 2008. We promote a wide variety of projects and events, including an event planned entirely by our **SAVY Leaders**, Volunteer San Diego's Youth Council.

For more information about volunteering and how to get involved, [click here](#). For information about SAVY's Mini-Grant [click here](#).

Support Volunteer San Diego

Check out the latest Volunteer San Diego fashions.

Visit our shop [here](#).

Supporting VSD just got easier!

Now you can raise money for Volunteer San Diego just by searching the Internet at goodsearch.com.

Have an Albertsons Preferred Savings Card?

Sign up your Albertson's card to benefit Volunteer San Diego. Support VSD youth programs with your Albertsons Preferred Savings Card! Register [here](#) & enter our ID# 49001011683.

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