



Ramsey County Leadership

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“In the Loop” is a monthly publication of Volunteer Services
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Mary Capuzzi, Coordinator

Please notify us at the number or e-mail address noted above if you would like to unsubscribe to our newsletter.

Enhancing the volunteer experience in 2018

Approximately 2,000 volunteers give their time and talents each year to help staff members provide crucial services for residents. This year, the Health and Wellness Service Team is working to improve and standardize the volunteer experience through a variety of initiatives across the service team and county.

In order to respect the investment volunteers make, we owe it to them to make

our volunteer programs the best they can be. And as our need for volunteers grows, providing a good volunteer experience is our best recruitment strategy

Volunteers’ experiences with the county begins at their first contact, continues through their application process, during the hours they serve and until their last communication with us.

Workgroups have been established to move forward in all these areas to make the following improvements :

- ▶ Creating a [new volunteer landing page](#) that is more visually engaging for potential volunteers.

- ▶ Updating all volunteer position descriptions with a standard template and consistent language.
- ▶ Creating a consistent orientation with standard processes and branded materials for all new volunteers across the county.
- ▶ Adopting standard onboarding and service tracking by providing departments with the tools they

need to manage all volunteer information in the Volgistics software.

We look forward to great things ahead in 2018 for our volunteers. ❖



Don't Forget: New Mileage Rate for 2018

The IRS has announced \$.545 as the standard reimbursement rate for business mileage for 2018.

Claims for January 2018 and forward should use the new rate (\$.545 per mile).

Please remember this change when completing your Mileage Reimbursement Forms. ❖

Watch for our next issue and stay *In the Loop*.

Welcome New Volunteers

Please join us in welcoming our new **volunteers**:

Teriann Drobnick—Teriann is volunteering as an Office Assistant with Social Services.

Hannah Kim—Hannah is volunteering as an Office Assistant with Administrative Services.

Merry Snyder—Merry is volunteering as an Office Assistant with Social Services.

Please join us in welcoming our new **intern**:

Brittany Harris, Social Services

We regret and apologize for any omissions or misspellings. ❖

Service Milestones

Day after day our volunteers generously offer the gifts of their time, talent, and compassion. Please join us in recognizing the following volunteers for achieving a service milestone—

50 Hours
Joanna Bosby

300 Hours
Geetha Nathaniel
Dan Roemer

800 Hours
Joel Winikoff

Please accept our most heartfelt thanks to you for your outstanding service and dedication.

We regret and apologize for any omissions or misspellings. ❖

“A heart is not judged by how much you love, but by how much you are loved by others.”

— **Frank Morgan**

The Value of Volunteering

According to the Independent Sector, a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of approximately 550 charities, foundations, and corporate philanthropy programs, the estimated value of a volunteer hour in 2016 is \$24.14.

The hourly value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly wage of all non-management, nonagricultural workers as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, with a 12 % increase to estimate for fringe benefits.

During the months of January through November 2017, RCCHS volunteers and interns provided 14,960 hours of service (this total has been adjusted to include hours reported late.) Using the rate of \$24.14 per hour, these hours have a value of \$361,125.23.

When we add the hours volunteered during December (971.25) **the year to date total becomes 15,931 hours; a value of \$384,571.20.**

Thank you volunteers! ❖

Policy Review

Volunteer Services is committed to coordinating a quality program with well-trained knowledgeable volunteers. Periodic review of policies contributes to this end. In this issue we will review the “**Workplace Violence**” policy.

Ramsey County is committed to prevention of violence in the workplace. Ramsey County will strive to provide a workplace

where employees, customers and others doing business are treated with dignity and respect.

Violence is defined as words and actions that hurt or attempt to hurt or threaten people. It is any action involving the use of physical force, harassment, intimidation, disrespect, or misuse of power and

authority where the impact is to cause pain, fear or injury.

For additional information on this topic, please contact Volunteer Services at 651-266-4090. ❖

“Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone - we find it with another.”

—Thomas Merton

Happy Valentine’s Day!

We love our volunteers, on Valentine’s Day, and throughout the year!

Did you know? The heart is the most common symbol of romantic love. Ancient cultures believed the human soul lived in the heart. Others thought it to be the source

of emotion and intelligence.

Some believed the heart embodied a man's truth, strength and nobility. The heart may be associated with love because the ancient Greeks believed it was the target of Eros, known

as Cupid to the Romans. Anyone shot in the heart by one of Cupid's arrows would fall hopelessly in love. ❖

Go **Red** for Women’s Heart Health

Everyone (men too!) can support the fight against heart disease in women by wearing red on February 2, 2018—National Wear Red Day.

It’s a simple, powerful way to raise awareness of heart disease and stroke. Wear your favorite red clothes or accessory—a red blouse, a red dress pin, a fabulous red handbag —put on red lipstick, or sport a red tie and red socks. Go red in your own fashion to show your support for women and the fight against heart disease.

Why **Go Red**?

- ♥ Heart disease is still the #1 killer of women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year.
- ♥ Heart disease kills more women than men.
- ♥ One woman in three dies of heart disease.
- ♥ Heart disease kills more women than all kinds of cancer combined.
- ♥ Approximately 44 million U.S. women are affected by heart disease.
- ♥ Ninety percent of women

have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease.

- ♥ The symptoms of heart attack can be different in women vs. men, and are often misunderstood – even by some physicians.
- ♥ In the U.S. Cardiovascular disease kills approximately one woman every 60 seconds. ❖

Help Wanted

Mail Room Assistant

Neither rain nor snow, nor sleet can keep the Mail Room Assistant from his/her volunteer duties. Help this large social service agency's mail room operation by processing returned, incoming and out-going mail. Flexible daytime shifts available Monday through Friday.



Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age, be able to respect confidential information, read and write English, possess a cooperative attitude, be willing to learn new skills, and be punctual, dependable and reliable.

Benefits include:

- Orientation and training.
- Limited parking/transportation reimbursement.
- Eligible to receive

two complimentary tickets to the Omnitheater at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

For additional information, contact Ramsey County Volunteer Services at 651-266-4090, or e-mail to: HumanServicesVolunteer@co.ramsey.mn.us. ❖



Ramsey County Volunteer Services Program

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Visit us on the web at: www.ramseycounty.us

Supplementing staff to benefit clients

Please note:

Ramsey County offices will be **closed** on **Monday, February 19** in observance of Presidents Day.