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## Volunteer opportunities in 'a new era of responsibility'

By *Glenna Gray*  
*The Citizen*

"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition on the part of every American that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world. Duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task."

**Barack Obama**  
**Inaugural Address**  
**Jan. 20, 2009**

A call to action, a call to give in troubled times, the inaugural speech called us together to change how our country works for all of us.

Here in the Nehalem Bay area, there are many opportunities and ways to **volunteer** your time and energy to do just that.

If you are looking for a way to be of assistance locally, perhaps one of the following opportunities will match your interests. Even a few hours a week make a big difference toward making this a better world.



### **Lower Nehalem Community Trust**

Work parties take place the first Saturday of each month and continue through the fall. Come to Alder Creek Farm on Underhill Lane in Nehalem to help with the removal of invasive species and wetlands restoration. Lunch is provided. Weekly stewardship and restoration group meets every Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Also, the LNCT in conjunction with the Watershed Council, Cart'm, and State Parks is hosting the Estuary Cleanup on March 28 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with a **volunteer** dinner afterward.

Call Kimberly Tanner at (503) 368-3203 with questions.

### **Cart'm Recycling**

Our local, nationally recognized recycling center relies heavily on **volunteers**. The recyclables generated in the area could not be handled by the small staff alone.

Volunteers are always welcome for a variety of jobs from sorting donations to helping organize electrical or hardware components to running the cash register and organizing the store. To sign up, contact Annie Naranjo-Rivera at (503) 368-7754 or e-mail [volunteer@cartm.org](mailto:volunteer@cartm.org).

### **Hoffman Center**

A nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the arts in the Nehalem Bay Area, the Hoffman Center hosts a variety of arts activities. From child and adult art classes to a ceramics studio, through the Writer's Series, jam sessions and beyond, the Hoffman Center is an active arts venue.

Volunteers are needed to help on the capital campaign and construction for the refurbishing of the annex. Janet Maher, Outreach Coordinator,

will be teaching art classes for children starting soon, and needs assistants. In addition, HC is taking art to the elementary school once a week. This summer there will be a need for Art Camp assistants.

Contact Janet at the Hoffman Center, 503-368-3846 (leave a message) to discuss these opportunities.

## **North County Food Bank**

An all-volunteer staff runs the local food bank which is open on Tuesdays in Wheeler next to the Rinehart Clinic.

"We always need **volunteers** to pack boxes, interview potential clients, sort clothing, and many other jobs," said Imie Camelli, president.

Food and clothing donations are welcome. To help, contact Betty Caputo, co-president and **volunteer** coordinator, at (503) 368-4080.

## **NeahCasa**

NeahCasa's stated mission is "To support community and the economic vitality of our area by creating permanently affordable housing for fulltime residents." The local housing trust has two focus areas: affordable housing and emergency housing for students in the Neah-Kah-Nie School District.

They need people to be members, assist with financial guidance to find subsidies, and to educate political entities of the need in this area.

You could also help create the newsletter, approach businesses or donate. To **volunteer** in this area, contact Tom Bender at 503-368-6294.

The Emergency Housing branch is in need of assistance with fundraising to fulfill their goal of helping families with children in the Neah-Kah-Nie School District to maintain housing and have their needs met so that they can learn.

Mike Cook, (503) 368-3048 is the contact person for this project.

## **Manzanita Farmer's Market**

Now in its third year, the MFM relies heavily on **volunteers**. Running from 5 to 8 p.m. every Friday during the summer, the market provides an outlet for local farmers and crafts people. Music and great food prepared on site add to the festive charm of the event.

Workers are needed to help set up the event every Friday and to take down afterwards, help supervise recycling during the evenings. Or you could be a greeter in the Market booth to welcome people, hand out baskets, sell merchandise and answer questions. For more information, contact Craig Mackie at (503) 368-3739.

## **Nehalem Bay House**

This care facility is always in need of **volunteers** to talk and play games with residents, to help with activities, and to act as escorts on outings. If you enjoy helping elderly people, contact Activities Director Michelle Stroyzk at (503) 368-6445.

## **Nehalem Valley Care Center**

Located in Wheeler next to the Rinehart Clinic, the Nehalem Valley Care Center is looking for individuals able to commit specific blocks of time for designated duties related to providing activities and companionship for our residents.

Such activities include reading to groups or individuals, leading group sing-alongs or singing to residents confined to their rooms, conducting or assisting with art/craft-related workshops, playing games in a group setting or one on one, reading newspaper or magazine articles in a group setting and discussing current events, providing music and singing on specific days or for special events, walks inside facility or, weather permitting, outside in designated garden or patio area among others.

To **volunteer**, contact Kathryn Mace, activities director, at (503) 368-5171.

## **Local schools**

If you like working with children, each school in SD #56 can use **volunteers**. **Volunteers** require a background check.

Nehalem Grade School needs **volunteers** to read with students. Call Jackie at (503) 368-5185 to **volunteer**.

Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School. There is a job for almost everyone at the middle school. From reading with students, to group activities, to art projects and teaching, sharing your experience interests and caring are valuable to our children. The Family Resource Center, recycling program, library, special education and regular classroom teachers all have projects for you.

Neah-Kah-Nie High School. Help with paperwork, helping students fill out applications, listening to students read, sharing your interests in athletics, music, art, and knowledge of all areas is extremely valuable as students get ready to move on into the world.

In addition, the local service clubs do amazing work in the area and always welcome new energy. For more information, contact the Kiwanis (Dave Dillon, (503) 368-6153), the Eugene Schmuck Foundation (Volunteer Voordinator Lori Orton, (503) 368-7170), Mudd-Nicks (Jim and Lynn Mudd, (503) 368-5205) or the Rockaway Lions Club (Don Markle, (503) 368-6166).

## **Kiwanis**

Contact: Dave Dillon, President

Kiwanis is an international service organization which is focused on serving the children of the community. The local chapter is called Manza-Whee-Lem, for the three villages and started in 1991. Through raffles supported by local merchants, bingo nights, and a variety of fundraisers, the Kiwanis donates funds to many charitable organizations in the area such as: Healthy Start, Kindergarten books, Science Reading Challenge, Community Action Resource Enterprises (CARE), and the local school's Family Resource Centers. Other services they provide include organizing the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet contest every year for hundreds of kids and helping organize and run the annual Tour of Homes with the Women's Club.

Their meetings are held every second and fourth Wednesday at the Pine Grove. There are currently 18 members, but as Dillon said, "The more people, the better." All of their activities need **volunteers**.

Contact Dillon at (503) 368-6153.

## **Eugene Schmuck Foundation**

Contact Lori Orton

The mission of the Schmuck Foundation is to benefit other non-profits in North Tillamook County. They help support: The Rinehart Clinic, Car'tm, the Hoffman Center, Secret Angels, Senior Meals, the Grub Club, and Hospice. Every year, the group gives 13 scholarships of \$1,500 each to graduating seniors at Neah-Kah-Nie High School.

Their main source of funds comes from the annual Manzanita Open Golf Tournament. They are preparing for that event now, and could use many, many **volunteers** especially the days of the tournament, May 15, 16, and 17. Chores include set up and take down of tents, tending the golf course, running contests, etc. To sign up, contact Lori Orton at (503) 368-7170

## **Manzanita Creative Arts Council**

Contact: Lori Dillon

The MCAC provides both arts and writing scholarships for graduating NKN seniors. They hold a variety of arts related events during the year from the upcoming Plethora of Plates to the Local Art Show in July at the Pine Grove. The student show where winners of the scholarships are announced will be May 14 this year at the NCRD Gallery. Help is always needed for their many arts related events. Contact Dillon at (503) 368-6153 for more information.

## **Rockaway Lions Club**

Contact: Don Markle

The mission of the Lions is charity. They work to help the community through donations to graduating seniors, Smart Readers, the Rockaway Fire Department, SOLVE Beach Clean-up, Blood Drives, the Sight and Hearing Foundation, Camp Kalalee for Deaf and Hearing Impaired, the Tillamook Women's Resource Center and others. The Leo's Club At NKN High School helps with projects such as collecting old eyeglasses for the Lions to take to Mexico for use by people there. The Lions distributed 43 food baskets to needy families during the holidays, double the number in previous years. To assist with these worthy projects, come to the meetings at 11:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the Rockaway Lion's Building behind the Rockaway City Hall, or contact Don Markle, (503) 368-6166.

## **United Paws**

Contact: Claudia Johnson

United Paws is involved in spay and neuter programs as well as pet adoption assistance. Contact Johnson at (503) 368-4248 to find out how you can help.

*As extensive as this list is, there may be other organizations which need your time and energy. Contact the Citizen to add your organization to the list.*