

# NEWS

## VOLUNTEER CENTER OF BERGEN COUNTY, INC.

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[www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org)

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### **For Immediate Release**

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## Major Broadcast Networks Mobilize to Promote Volunteerism

Volunteer Center of Bergen County local source for opportunities

North Jersey--The four major broadcast networks—ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC—will air an unprecedented week of television October 19-25, as part of the Entertainment Industry Foundation’s (EIF) “iParticipate”, a national initiative to promote community service and volunteering. Storylines in more than 60 shows will feature volunteerism.

EIF is mobilizing the entire entertainment community to promote a new way of thinking about service and seeks to persuade millions more of Americans to volunteer regularly.

The Volunteer Center of Bergen County is the local source for connecting people with meaningful opportunities to serve.

For over 40 years, the Volunteer Center has harnessed the good intentions of people and put them to work in support of the community. The Center began as a clearinghouse, matching prospective volunteers with service agencies that need their help to address serious social needs.

The Center’s Community Referral Service connects thousands of people annually with volunteer opportunities at more than 600 public and private non-profit agencies in and near Bergen County. Individuals and groups of every description, including students, school groups, community, civic and faith-based organizations are referred to volunteer positions that match their interests and talents. The **Guide to Volunteering**, published yearly, is available, which includes a comprehensive directory of volunteer opportunities,

as well as ideas for all sorts of volunteer projects. This information is also posted in searchable form on the website: [www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org).

People age 55 and older can seek volunteer opportunities through the Center's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). This is a federally-sponsored program that links these volunteers with non-profit agencies where their time, interests, talents, knowledge and experience can be effectively utilized to meet important needs in the community.

Visitors to the BergenVolunTEENS page on the Center's website can get ideas about youth volunteer projects, learn about national days of service and search for specific volunteer jobs available in and around Bergen County. The site links to other youth volunteer sites. The address is [www.bergenvolunteers.org/teens](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org/teens).

The Volunteer Center sponsors the **All Wrapped Up** Holiday Giving program, which connects individuals and families in need with generous donors during the holiday season. Anyone who can help a needy child, adult, senior citizen or an entire family with simple gift list requests can register on-line beginning October 19, 2009, at [www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org) and click on Holiday Programs. Each holiday season, more than 4,000 people are helped, and over \$400,000 worth of gifts and donations are collected and distributed to those who need them.

The Volunteer Center also sponsors several of its own service programs, where volunteers are sought and trained to provide services directly to people in need:

**Mentoring Moms** are volunteer women who serve as friends and role models to isolated, overwhelmed mothers in need of guidance in parenting, managing households, providing for their children or overcoming other obstacles. Call (201) 489-9454 Ext. 123, to become a Mentoring Mom volunteer.

**Volunteers in Protective Services (VIPS)** are adult men and women who serve as caring mentors, friends and role models to troubled, abused or neglected children, helping children to see a positive future, breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect. Call (201) 489-9474 for more information about VIPS.

The **Chore Service** provides crews of volunteers who perform minor home repairs that help elderly or disabled persons remain safe in their homes. These minor, yet essential repairs are ones that clients can neither do for themselves nor get anyone else to

do for them, yet can mean the difference between independence and institutionalization. Call (201) 489-7790 for information on becoming a Chore volunteer.

For more information and general referral, call the Volunteer Center of Bergen County at (201) 489-9454, or visit the website [www.bergenvolunteers.org](http://www.bergenvolunteers.org).

Founded by the Junior League in 1966, the Volunteer Center of Bergen County strengthens the community by connecting people with opportunities to serve, operating model volunteer programs, building capacity for effective volunteering, and participating in strategic partnerships that meet community needs.

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