

Community Involvement & Educational Opportunity News

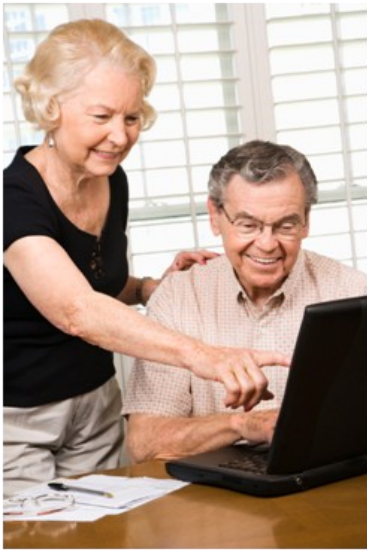


VANCOUVER HOUSING AUTHORITY

Volume 1, Issue 1

April, May, June 2010

55 or better? GOODWILL will pay you to volunteer!



Goodwill Industries pays low-income adults 55 and older to volunteer and learn job skills.

Through the federal *Senior Community Service Employment Program (or SCSEP)*, Goodwill Industries identifies persons age 55 and older who meet specific criteria (such as income requirements), and then assesses their skills and abilities. Goodwill matches these seniors with nonprofit organizations or public agencies in the community for on-the-job training in a professional work environment. The training is paid for by the SCSEP program, and is part of the national Older Americans Act.

For more information, contact
Rebecca Sigler
SCSEP Employment Specialist
(360) 816-2691

Inside this issue:

JOIN AN ESL GROUP IN YOUR AREA	2
FREE CLASSES AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY	2
VOLUNTEER CONNECTIONS MAKES VOLUNTEERING EASY	2
JOB CORPS FOR YOUTH— EARN WHILE YOU LEARN	3
SOCIAL SERVICES FOR RUSSIAN-SPEAKERS	3

Want a free computer? Volunteer with Free Geek, Empower Up and earn one!

At **Free Geek** and **Empower Up**, volunteers are needed to keep electronics out of the landfill. Volunteers test, sort, dismantle and refurbish equipment, but you don't need computer skills to help out; administrative and office help is welcome too. If you need a computer, there are many ways to get one.

At FG, you can get into the Computer Adoption Program. After just 24 hours of volunteering, you become eligible to 'adopt' a refurbished desktop computer system (Hard drive, monitor, keyboard, mouse, and speakers.) The computer is pre-loaded with Linux operating system (which they will teach you to use), and you can surf the Internet, check your email, do word processing, edit photos, and play Solitaire. If you need more for your computer, you can get discounts at the Thrift Store.

Or, you can volunteer and complete the training for the

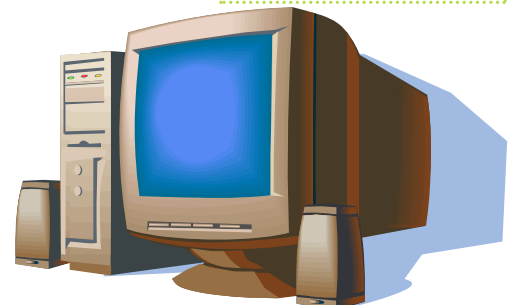
Build Program, where you will learn to build computers. In fact, you will build 6 computers and keep the 6th one!

Young people are welcome to volunteer; under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Volunteers must attend an orientation session, so call for info.

Empower Up (360) 735-0888
5000 E 4th Plain, Ste E101 & F
Donation Center & Thrift Store
Tues– Thurs 9am-5pm

Free Geek (503) 232-9350
1731 SE 10th Ave (Portland)
Donation Center & Thrift Store
Tues– Thurs 11am-7pm

“Computers are magnificent tools for the realization of our dreams, but no machine can replace the human spark of spirit, compassion, love, and understanding.”
Louis Gerstner



Community Involvement & Educational Opportunity

You can make a difference in your community with Volunteer Connections

Someone needs **you!** Regardless of your age, skill level, or experience, Volunteer Connections will find you a volunteer opportunity that matches your interests, abilities, and time availability.

Don't have transportation? Volunteer Connections considers where you live when connecting you to an opportunity, and will connect you to an organization working in your community. There are also opportunities which can be done from home such as preparing mailings, and answering hotline phone calls; ask for details.

Volunteer Connections has agreements with over 250 private and public non-profit organizations that address community issues such as housing, homelessness, education, transportation, health care access, consumer protection, preserving the environment, and agencies that help at-risk children, low-income families and more. Volunteers serve at organizations in Vancouver, Ridgefield and Battle Ground.

For more information, call Bobby (360) 694-6577

Volunteer Connections
Mission statement:
To recognize and utilize the wisdom, experience and talents of volunteers to improve quality of life for themselves and their communities.

"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

'Check out' these FREE classes at your community library

Book a Librarian:

Attend a 45-minute session with a librarian to receive individual instruction on one of our computer class topics or on a research question of your own.

Call your Community Library or (360) 695-1566

Polishing Your Resume:

Does your resume need some buffing and waxing?

Learn about new formats to really make it shine.
Cascade Park Community Lib.
Friday, May 7 from 11am-12pm. Optional computer time from 12-1pm

Creating Your Resume:

Never had a resume? Resume so old you may as well start from scratch? Identify your valuable skills and feature them to impress employers.

Cascade Park Community Lib.
Friday, May 7 from 2-3pm

Getting More Out of Google:

Beyond the search box! Discover some of the many tools and tricks available in Google.
Thursdays, from 2-4 pm
Registration required. Call (360) 695-1566 to register.

Free ESL Groups (Russian)

Кружки будут проводиться в разных местах Выберите наиболее удобное для вас:

Vancouver Community Library

Library Hall,
1007 E. Mill Plain Blvd,
Vancouver 98663
Каждый вторник с 10:00 до 11:30 утра
(Для дошкольников будут проводиться игры)

Cascade Park Community Library

(рядом с Firstenburg Community Center)
600 NE 136th Ave.,
Vancouver, WA 98684
Каждую среду с 7:00 до 8:30 ч.
Вечера
За дополнительной информацией обращайтесь в библиотеку по телефону (360)256-7782

Battle Ground Library

1207 SE 8th Way
Battle Ground, WA 98604
Каждый вторник с 10:00 до 11:30 ч. утра
(занятия по грамматике)
Каждый четверг с 10:00 до 11:30 ч. утра
телефоном:
(360)687-7690 или (360)687-2322



Volume 1, Issue 1

Young people: Get your diploma, free hands-on training in Job Corps

Job Corps is a great, *no-cost* way for low-income young people ages 16-24 to get ready for the working world! Through Job Corps, you can earn a diploma or GED, learn a career, and find and keep a good job.

Teens and young adults have a chance to learn and practice academic, vocational, and self-responsibility skills in a safe, campus-like setting with zero tolerance for violence, drugs or alcohol. Benefits for Job Corps students include housing in a dorm, meals, basic health & dental care, and a twice-monthly living

allowance. Students aren't stuck on campus though... Job Corps students have personal free time and access to organized activities like arts & crafts, sports teams, and trips to the mall!

And Job Corps doesn't just help students get a job. They help graduates find housing and transportation to keep the job.

There are four Job Corps campuses in Washington State, and 122 campuses nationwide. These campuses offer courses (and professional certification) for over 100 high-demand careers including:

- Accounting Services
- Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse
- Computer Networking
- Pharmacy Technician
- Culinary Arts
- "Green" Construction
- Business Technologies

For more information, call **(360) 906-1613** or **(800) 733-JOBS**
Or see the Job Corps website for more info:
www.jobcorps.gov

*"I wanted a better life. They give me the opportunity to have a trade and get my GED. I already finished my training, and I was able to get my driver's license."
-Marie Raphael on Job Corps*



Job Corps student Marie Raphael, (Port au Prince, Haiti, age 20), is studying Accounting at the South Bronx Job Corps Center in New York. She is earning her GED and hopes to earn her Associate's Degree in Accounting once she has completed her Job Corps program.

Opportunity Grant pays for High-wage, High-demand skills training

The Washington State Board for Technical and Community Colleges manages the Opportunity Grant to help low-income adults increase their job skills and become more attractive to employers in high-demand, high-wage occupations.

Through the Opportunity Grant, students will receive funding for up to 45 credits to be used within three years. Student awards may cover tuition and fees, and up to \$1000/year for books and supplies. Students may also receive: tutoring, career

advising, exam/license fees, college success classes, emergency childcare, and emergency transportation.

Students must be Washington residents, meet income guidelines (and fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. Students who are in unsatisfactory academic progress, or who have more than 45 college credits, are not eligible.

Apply for an Opportunity Grant at

Clark College for these approved areas of study: Accounting, Administrative Support, Medical Office/Nursing asst., Computer Tech, Early Childhood Education, Welding.

The Opportunity Grant office is located in Clark College's Gaiser Hall, rm 127.

Call (360) 992-2039 for hours, directions and program details.

Неоплачиваемые трудовые возможности для русско-говорящего населения.

All Agencies have Russian-speaking staff

Russian Oregon Social Services

New Youth Perspectives: Youth mentorship program and parenting workshops.
(360) 694-5624, ext. 17,
or
alexpavlenko@lcsnw.org

Help Hotline

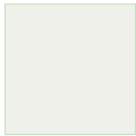
Free consultations for Slavic youth and families with serious problems.
(360) 903-7882

Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization:

Young Women's Equity Project: Helps Slavic women ages 14 to 23 prepare for careers
(503) 253-4042.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest:

Mental health counseling, family therapy, treatment for substance abuse
503-231-7480, ext. 644,
oparker@lcsnw.org

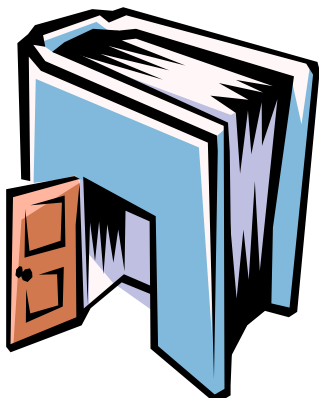


VANCOUVER HOUSING AUTHORITY

2500 Main Street, Suite 100
Vancouver, WA 98660-2697

“Our mission is to provide opportunities to those who experience barriers to housing because of income, disability, or special needs in an environment which preserves personal dignity and in a manner which maintains the public trust. “

Type address here or use Mail Merge (under Tools) to automatically address this publication to multiple recipients.



“Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know.”

The Community Involvement and Education Program

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said,
“You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”

Bridgette's Picks

This is the first quarterly Community Involvement and Educational Opportunity newsletter—our next newsletter will be published in July. My goal in creating this newsletter is to support your efforts finding the opportunities you need to become a valuable part of your community. *I truly believe that by participating you may:*

- ◆ Increase your self-confidence
- ◆ Discover new interests and abilities
- ◆ Get a good job
- ◆ Learn new skills
- ◆ Become self-sufficient

I look forward to hearing about your successes, challenges and surprises. If you have anything you'd like to contribute to the next newsletter, email your article to: bfahnbulleh@vhausa.com or call me at (360) 993-9556. Please call me if you have any questions or need assistance; I want this program to be the first of many steps you take toward achieving your lifelong goals.

Keep on keeping on,
Bridgette Fahnbulleh
Community Involvement and Education Program