

Vancouver Housing Authority

Vancouver Housing Authority
Community Involvement and Education Program
2500 Main Street, Ste 100
Vancouver, WA 98660-2697

Phone: 360-993-9556
E-mail: bfahnbulleh@vhausa.com

"Our mission is to provide opportunities to people 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."

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.VHAUSA.COM

Bridgette's Picks— For all the wonderful effort you all have made last quarter, I could not say it better than the page below....

From a resident: "Thank you for everything you have been sending us [...] My son just started Clark (College) and my wife just got a part-time job and [my daughter] and I are trying to do our thing." - Edward



Community Involvement & Educational Opportunity News

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Volunteering: What to Expect

Volunteering vocabulary:

- *Organization = Place where you volunteer*
- *Volunteer Coordinator = Hiring Manager*
- *Orientation = Training*
- *Service provider = Gives help to people with specific needs*
- *Virtual volunteering = home/computer-based volunteering*

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The drive to be a volunteer is a wonderful thing! But don't let your excitement interfere with the realities of volunteering. Sometimes a person can get so enthusiastic about the desire to do good works that they might skip a few steps and expect to be put to work right after walking in. So, here are a few pointers to help you along the way:

1. Call ahead. If you have a place in mind where you want to volunteer, call to find out about their process, and what they need help with. Some places need you to have a background check or other screening before you start (especially if you work with kids or elders.) Some places want you to have certain skills.

Which leads us to...

2. Know yourself. Can you fill their needs? Are you better behind-the-scenes? Or are you used to the front lines, working with people? Do you have computer or other special skills? Do you have something questionable in your past (and can you explain it?) Once you've got a clear picture, just like with other jobs, you can...

3. Sell yourself. When you walk in to apply, dress appropriately. When you talk to the volunteer coordinator, let them know why/how you are the right person to help. Fill out your application/background check completely (don't forget to sign it!), and don't expect to be 'hired'

immediately. Then, just like a 'regular' job, when you start, there's...

4. Training. Don't skip those training sessions. It could affect your ability to volunteer. Some training might seem like a repeat to you, but is needed for insurance reasons. Sometimes the training is new to you, and will make your volunteer work much easier— don't forget, just like all of your volunteer experiences, it can be put on your job résumé!

Now that you know more of what to expect, **happy volunteering!**



What is Community Involvement?

For the purposes of the VHA, Community Involvement can mean lots of things, even more than just volunteering at a community agency. You probably already do a lot of them.

Are you working with DVR or WorkSource to try to get a job? That counts! Just get

your advisor to sign off on your log sheet that you've been doing their activities.

Do you take your neighbor to the doctor's, or grocery shopping? Do you rake leaves or pickup litter around your neighborhood? Do you clean at your church? That counts! A neighbor can sign your log.

Do you have a self-help group meeting that you attend, like AA, or Smoking Cessation, a parents' group, or other community group you are involved with? That counts! The group leader can sign your log.

Now that you see how easy it can be, get out and *get involved!*

