

In the Spot Interest of the Chambers of the State of the

The Chambersburg Area School District is proud of the many ways its students offer their time in service to the community. These include:

- Reading to elementary students for National Smokeout Day.
- Organizing fundraisers to benefit various children's foundations.
- **Traveling** to New Orleans to help rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.
- **Serving** as junior members of local fire companies.
- **Spending** time with senior citizens in nursing homes.
- Mowing neighbors' yards.
- Assembling care packages for men and women of the U.S. military.
- Counseling children at summer camps.
- Caring for animals in rescue shelters.

THE MISSION of the Chambersburg Area School District is to partner with families and the community to prepare all students for success as responsible citizens and life long learners. That partnership most often takes the form of volunteerism, and I see the evidence of this partnership every day in the volunteers who assist in our schools and in the countless hours our students and employees devote to community service.

One of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had was volunteering at a soup kitchen out East. It was an opportunity to meet people I wouldn't have otherwise known, and it was there that I felt the true spirit of giving. My goal as superintendent is to have every student in our district experience that joy of giving to others.

giving." I hope you are as inspired by the examples of volunteerism in this issue of In the Spot-

"...it was there

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light as I am by the efforts I see in our district each day. - Dr. Joseph Padasak Superintendent Chambersburg Area School District www.chambersburg.k12.pa.us = SPRING 2008

CLASSROOM Connections

RETIRED TEACHER CONTINUES TO GIVE

As a retired fourth grade teacher, **ANITA WALTER** knows how hectic the first few weeks of school can be. So last August, she jumped on the phone with Guilford Hills kindergarten teacher Marilyn Griffin and offered to chip in at the school.

Since then, Walter has volunteered in Griffin's kindergarten class nearly every day, working with students individually or in small groups, conducting assessments, and heading up learning activities.

"The best part of it is: I can be working with youngsters, and I don't have to correct tests or prepare lesson plans," she said. "I have all the fun without all the responsibilities."



LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

VELVA JONES is one of the many senior citizens who plays an important role as volunteers in the Chambersburg Area School District.

Jones volunteers one morning a week in the library at Andrew Buchanan Elementary School, shelving books and magazines. The 86-year-old has been a library volunteer since 1995 to keep her body in shape and her mind sharp.

"You need something to look forward to—to be useful in society," she said. "It is important that you do as much as you can to stay active."

Velva Jones walks seven blocks from her home to Andrew Buchanan Elementary School to volunteer in the library because she enjoys staying active and spending time around children.



How to Volunteer

There are countless opportunities to volunteer in the Chambersburg Area School District. Volunteers are needed for:

- Mentors
- Classroom aides
- Library aides
- Tutors
- Ticket takers
- Special events helpers
- **■** Maintenance services assistants
- **Parking lot attendants**
- Guest readers
- Guest speakers
- Bus monitors
- Crossing guards



To volunteer in our elementary schools, contact Catherine Dusman, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Services, at dusmacat@chambersburg. k12.pa.us or 261-3419.

To volunteer in our secondary schools, contact Dr. Eric Michael, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Services, at michaeri@chambersburg. k12.pa.us or 261-3426.



Another way to become involved in our schools is with the Parent Advisory Council, the umbrella organization of PTOs and PTAs in the Chambersburg Area School District. The PAC is a community advocacy group that provides a regular forum for discussion on issues and policies that impact public education. To learn more visit the PAC website at www. chambersburg.k12.pa.us/pac.

In order to safeguard students, the Chambersburg Area School District requires regular volunteers to complete a criminal record check with the Pennsylvania State Police and a child abuse history clearance with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare. Copies of the forms can be obtained at the school where a person is interested in volunteering, and the district pays for both.

Community **LEADERS**

EMPLOYEES REACH OUT

For **MARK SHOAP**, a physical education teacher at Stevens, King Street, Marion, and New Franklin elementary schools, volunteering is all about getting outdoors and combining recreation, exercise, and camaraderie with an opportunity for service.

Shoap volunteers with Mountain Bikers of Michaux to maintain hiking, biking, and horseback riding trails in Michaux State Forest by clearing debris, cutting overgrowth, and digging trenches to minimize erosion.

"Our mission is aimed toward being responsible stewards of the forest," said Shoap. "We're sharing the habitat of plants and animals. I understand the responsibility that we have—the responsibility to give back."

COLLEEN WOY, a Hamilton Heights Elementary School teacher, began volunteering at Chambersburg's Cold Weather Drop-In Shelter earlier this winter after working with students whose families are guests there.

"I saw first-hand the hardships that it places on the students," she explained. "I knew the shelter was where I wanted to spend my time volunteering."

As part of her responsibilities, Woy monitors the premises, checks in the shelter guests, and reviews rules and procedures with them.

"Most of what we do is listen to the guests," she said. "We listen to their stories, their goals, and try to encourage them."

TOP: Mark Shoap's bike club logged 130 hours of volunteer work for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources last year. RIGHT: Colleen Woy volunteers for three-hour shifts at Chambersburg's Cold Weather Drop-In Shelter on Loudon Street.





For the nine members of the Chambersburg Area School Board, serving as the leaders of an 8,500-student school district is about sacrifice.

School board seats are one of the few public offices where an elected official isn't paid. The board members are elected to four-year terms and attend biweekly meetings, sit on district committees, and take part in school functions.

"It's been a very valuable experience," said FRED RICE, the longest tenured board member, now in his 15th year. "I've learned a lot-learned to know a lot of people. To see kids walk across the platform graduation night, that makes the time investment rewarding."

ABOVE: School board member Fred Rice farms 500 acres in Guilford Township and has spent many Sunday evenings preparing for Wednesday board meetings.



ANNE BORYAN is one of the newest school board members, elected last November. Boryan works as the business manager at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Chambersburg and ran for a school board seat believing she could benefit the children of the district.

"I want to be able to make a contribution," she said. "I would encourage anyone in the community to volunteer in

the schools. You certainly don't have to be a board member."

ABOVE: School board member Anne Boryan's mother Emma Gotwals served two terms on the board. "I guess you could say it's in my blood," Boryan said of volunteering as a leader in education.



CASD FOUNDATION

The nonprofit Chambersburg Area School **District Foundation** is led by nine board members who volunteer their time to award scholarships to high school students and approve teachers' grant requests for classroom resources

The Foundation board includes three school board members and six district residents or businesspeople who meet four times per year to manage the foundation's investments and evaluate dozens of grant and scholarship applications totaling tens of thousands of dollars.

"We want to try to help as many students as we can," said foundation president Jim Probst. "We want to get the dollars out there to help them."

Since it was established in 1990, the foundation has awarded more than \$265,000 in grants and scholarships from its \$1 million endowment.

SPORTS STARS Shine

ROLE MODEL COACHES

Volunteers are an integral part of the Chambersburg Area School District athletic program, particularly at the elementary level.

As the athletic coordinator at Falling Spring Elementary School, LUIS MARTINEZ arranges team sign-ups, collects fees, prepares rosters, and recruits coaches for as many as 10 soccer teams and 8 basketball teams per season.

"It can get a little hectic sometimes," admitted Martinez. "But without volunteers, there wouldn't be any sports programs in the schools."

RIGHT: "Coaching is a very rewarding experience, teaching the kids," says Luis Martinez, who coaches his son's soccer team. "We'll start rough, but by the end of the season, they're having a great time."

ERIC MANDELL, a Lincoln Intermediate Unit student support specialist, has coached King Street's Tigers basketball team for nearly 10 years. The team is part of the fourth and fifth grade co-ed basketball league through the Chambersburg Recreation Department and has two practices and one game per week.

"The best part of coaching is making a connection with each student and making them feel as if they're the most important thing to me at that point in time," said Mandell.

RIGHT: Eric Mandell is one of many volunteer athletic coaches in the Chambersburg Area School District.

Tires on the floor

LADY RAIDERS INSPIRE

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For the past two years, the **Shippensburg Uni**versity Lady Raider basketball team has volunteered to read to students at Grandview Elementary School when basketball season isn't in full swing.

"They're such wonderful role models," noted first grade teacher Sue Kauffman, who has followed Lady Raider athletics for many years. "They're good with the kids."

Grandview's students in turn are part of the Lady Raider Fan Club and receive free admission to four basketball games.

RIGHT: "I love being around kids, working with kids," says SU senior and Lady Raider Megan Fogel. "Anything to show them the importance

Chambersburg Students MAKE A DIFFERENCE

TEEN LEADERS

KELSEY HILE has been riding horses since she was 8 years old, and 5 years ago Hile put her equestrian passion to use as a volunteer at the Franklin County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Center on Franklin Farm Lane.

During the spring, summer, and fall, the high school senior grooms horses and assists instructors with lessons. During the winter, she adopts a pair of horses—watering them, cleaning their stalls, and riding them to keep the stalwart animals in shape.

"I think it just gives the kids a sense of happiness to work with the horses," said Hile.

Instead of spending her afternoons in study halls, **STEPHANIE FIKE** is taking part in a pilot volunteer program conceived by CASHS English teacher Cheryl Adamchik that encourages students to give up their free time for community service.

Each day during seventh and eighth periods, the high school senior helps with secretarial work at the Chambersburg Hispanic American Center on South Main Street.

"I like helping people; I always have," said Fike, who takes Advanced Placement Spanish at the high school. "I hope that I will impact someone's life."

The nonprofit center offers housing recommendations, human services referrals, and ESL and citizenship classes to area Hispanic residents who aren't fluent in English and who come from low to moderate income households.

TYLER KAUFFMAN has attended New Guilford Brethren in Christ Church in Chambersburg for most of his life and is a member of the church's property and maintenance committee, helping with landscaping, painting, general repairs, and light construction.

The CASHS senior is also the student representative on the church's board of youth and a sound technician on Sunday mornings and for special events.

"I enjoy the behind the scenes work—making sure the building runs smoothly," he explained. "My parents always taught me to help out whether you're paid or not. Plus you're serving the Lord."



CAREER & ACADEMIC ADVISING PROGRAM CHALLENGES STUDENTS TO GIVE BACK

To promote a sense of volunteerism and connectedness with the community, students at the Chambersburg Area Senior High School will be asked to complete a period of community service during their high school careers beginning this year.

The community service is part of a broader Career and Academic Advising Program being implemented at the senior high school that pairs students with teachers to assist in career exploration and academic planning.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Kelsey Hile volunteers at the Franklin County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Center, where persons with special needs are offered horseback riding lessons on a 25-acre campus. Stephanie Fike asks a question of Diana Martes, Executive Director of the Chambersburg Hispanic American Center. Tyler Kauffman fills many volunteer roles at New Guilford Brethren in Christ Church, including sound technician.

Chambersburg Area School District

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WATCH D.O.G.S — CARING FOR KIDS

Watch D.O.G.S., a safe school initiative of the National Center for Fathering, invites men to volunteer in the classrooms of the Chambersburg Area School District.

"Dogs" stands for "Dads of Good Students," but stepfathers, grandfathers, uncles, older brothers, and other father figures are also getting involved.

Ron Shover is one of two dozen Watch D.O.G.S. at Scotland Elementary School who help on the bus ramp, patrol inside and outside the building, lend a hand during lunch and recess, make rounds to each classroom, and work with students on their lessons.

For Shover, who has two grandchildren at Scotland, the experience has been an eyeopener to all the responsibilities of the faculty and staff, and he enjoys establishing a rapport with the kids.

"When I leave that building, I'm on cloud nine," he said. "It's good-natured and the students really do learn to care for you."