

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY VOLUNTEER

Spring 2010

The MU Volunteers submitted a Simmons grant application for a program called project Night Night. This National program provides comfort totes consisting of a blanket, book and stuffed animal to children in homeless shelters.

The blanket is for comfort and warmth, the book for education and the stuffed animal as someone to tell their deep darkest secrets too.

We did get our grant (which starts July 1) and we are in the process of getting things together so we are ready to go when July rolls around. We have identified two shelters in the area but will be looking for a few more. We would like to cover all the Homeless Shelters in the area that welcome children so if you know of any can you please let us know.

We would like to get as many as possible involved. You should find information on the COS page. You can also give me a call at 85500 or e mail at Kathleen.hawkins@mu.edu.

We need all the items for the totes - books, blankets (crib to a little smaller than twin size), stuffed animals and books. We also need yarn and material because we have people that will be making the blankets.

We are very excited to receive the grant and give a special thank you to Mission & Identity for selecting to receive one of the grants.

Kathy Hawkins (85500)
Chair, MU Volunteers

WHAT YOU CAN DO

People ask on a regular basis what they can do to help those that might need. There are a lot of different areas you can get involved in - some doing very little and some doing a lot. The Volunteer Center of Greater Milwaukee (www.volunteermilwaukee.org) would be your resource in the Milwaukee area for finding

volunteer ideas (usually individual placement). Here are some other suggestions:

Check out chemoangels.com. You can either be an angel to someone undergoing cancer treatment or a senior angel to an elderly individual that lives alone and just needs to know someone cares or a card angel and just send out cards on special occasions. All you really need do is write them on a regular basis and tell them what is happening in your life - they like to hear all about happy things from someone else for a change and provide treats on special occasions. It is a very fun and worthwhile commitment to make.

Ronald McDonald House has a lot of different opportunities either on an individual basis or as a group. Located on Watertown Plank Road across from Children's Hospital, it is a home away from home for those with children undergoing treatment at Children's Hospital. As an individual volunteer they need around to check people into RMH and get them settled in. As a group, you can sponsor and prepare a meal for the families staying there which gives them one less thing to worry about. Or you can do "Lunch 2 Go" where you purchase standard lunch items. The night before you set out the non-refrigerated items on the buffet table. Prepare the sandwiches, label and date them and place in the 3rd floor refrigerator (35-40 people). If you are interested, contact RMH at 414/475-5333.

Many will benefit when you volunteer - the agency, the clients they serve and you. There are a few different things to look at. First, your time - when are you available. Second - Skills/Interests - Why do you want to volunteer and what are you good at doing? Third - Personal considerations - Age, location and situation and Four - Experience - Do you want to work alone or with others in a group. Take these into consideration when deciding what you would like to do.

PENFIELD CHILDREN'S CENTER

Penfield is located on 26th and Wells and is a center for children with special needs. They would welcome you if you would like to volunteer. They are always looking for arts & craft items for children 3 and under.

They recently did some renovations and have a lending library for the families. Books (board books) and stimulation type toys are always needed.

Penfield would be happy to give you other ideas of how you can become involved. You can call 344-7676.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

National Volunteer Week is April 18-24 and Earth Day is April 22. There is no better time than the present to begin volunteering.

THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU THAT VOLUNTEER - YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

On a regular basis, we drop off items to We Care WI to send overseas to the troops from WI. If you have family members serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, please get us the address and we can make sure they received items.

Here is a list of what is always needed: (travel size only) - Deodorant, shave gel, shampoo, hand lotion, razors, bar soap, q-tips, eye drops, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, Carmex spf 15 and medical wipes. Snacks (non-perishable and in original packages) - Pringles or other canned chips, canned dips for chips, crackers, cookies, power and snack bars, chicken or tuna salad kits, microwave popcorn, canned fruit or stew; single bag instant coffee or tea; hard candy, gum, peanuts, PB&J, and canned pasta,

Other -

CD's/DVD's, white socks, small travel games, playing cards, current magazines, crossword and search puzzles, air freshener sheets, books, writing paper and envelopes.

COUPONS

If you would like to cut out your coupons from Sunday's paper and send them over to us - that would be greatly appreciated.

The coupons go over to the USO in Germany where they have a group that sorts them and puts them on the products at the local base and then the military and their families are given the discounts. Coupons can be about 3 months expired because we have to allow for shipping time.

If you have any questions or would like further information on any of the above projects please send off an e mail to: Kathleen.hawkins@marquette.edu.

USO OF WISCONSIN, INC.

Did you know that Milwaukee has been the home of a USO since 1942? The original USO was on 3rd & Wisconsin but closed in the late 1970's and moved to the War Memorial Center at the Lakefront where they continue to provide for those serving in the military or their families.

They are always looking for volunteers to work during the daytime or volunteers for special projects as needed. They do a lot of the deployment events and welcome home events for the units in the area.

They are in need of donations (monetary or otherwise) and could use help.