



Volunteers Make a Difference Everyday

The Franklin Volunteer Network is convened by the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area. Participants include, but are not limited to: Mt. Blue RSD #9, University of Maine at Farmington, SeniorsPlus, Community Concepts, Literacy Volunteers, Franklin County Animal Shelter, Western Maine Community Action, AmeriCorps*VISTA, Abused Women's Advocacy Project (AWAP), HealthReach RSVP, Farmington Rotary, LEAP, and Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES).

This highly collaborative group seeks to promote volunteerism in Greater Franklin County, inventory opportunities and make them very accessible, and provide training opportunities for those who informally manage volunteers, as well as those whose professional responsibilities include volunteer management. Please visit us on our facebook page or the United Way's website to view, past meeting minutes, other current volunteer opportunities, and upcoming events.

The Franklin Volunteer Network, which received start-up support from the Maine Commission for Community Service and the Maine Community Foundation, encourages community members to take advantage of the following opportunities:

Current Volunteering Opportunities in Greater Franklin County

American Red Cross – United Valley Chapter

The American Red Cross is always looking for volunteers to join their Disaster Action Teams. Volunteers provide critical services to those who have been a victim of fire or other disaster. Training is provided.

Contact: Eric Lynes, (207) 795-4004

A Program for Grieving Children & Teens Volunteer

A Program for Grieving Children and Teens is a support system for children and teenagers ages three to 18 who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, grandparent, relative or friend. Classes are held periodically at Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington. A Program for Grieving Children and Teens is sponsored by Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice. Volunteers are sought to conduct classes.

Contact: Pedro Rojas, (207) 777-7740

Area Food Banks, Volunteer

There are ten area food banks located throughout Great Franklin County. Potential tasks that may be asked of volunteers include filling shelves with food, unloading food and placing it in storage, organizing foods by type, etc. Volunteers should check with their local food bank for volunteer opportunities. For a complete list of area food banks, contact the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area or visit www.uwtva.org.

Contact: United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, (207) 778-5048

Community Concepts, Inc., Volunteer Driver

Community Concepts, Inc.'s volunteer drivers provide transportation to citizens of Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties. They provide rides to medical appointments, child development programs and other critical destinations. They offer a vital service to the community, enhancing the quality of life for those who have no other means of transportation. Each year, volunteers donated more than 600,000 hours to the transportation program and drive over 13 million miles! Mileage reimbursement is offered.

Contact: Koriene Low, (207) 779-0594

Farmington Historical Society, Titcomb House, Volunteer

The Titcomb House is an 1840's Gothic revival cottage. There are a number of artifacts of the Titcomb family including an antique doll collection.

Contact: Farmington Historical Society, (207) 778-2835

Franklin County Animal Shelter, Volunteer

The Animal Shelter has numerous opportunities for volunteers, whether it is for a day or on a weekly basis. Some areas that need volunteer help are brushing cats, walking dogs on an outdoor trail, taking animals to public settings, helping to keep a clean environment, and assisting staff with office management. Training will be provided for volunteer interests in volunteering on a regular basis.

Contact: Jessie Geis, (207) 778-2638

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Visitor Center Volunteer

Come share your love of Franklin County. Volunteers are needed for greeting visitors to the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center in Farmington and the Information Center in Carrabassett Valley. The chamber is committed to promoting all of Franklin County and needs help to keep the visitor centers open daily. Duties include answering telephone, greeting visitors, and general office work.

Contact: Lorna Nichols or Michelle Pelletier, (207) 778-4215

Franklin County Children's Task Force, Clothing Exchange Coordinator

The Task Force seeks a volunteer responsible for upkeep of clothing exchange program which consists of sorting through and organizing children's clothing sizes newborn to 4T. Volunteer will be responsible for identifying age appropriate clothing, as well as additional supplies and donations. Volunteer will also be responsible for outreach involving needed items for families and community members involved in programming. Must be able to identify clothing sizes by labels, be neat and orderly as well as respectful to families using the clothing exchange.

Contact: Renee Blanchet, (207) 778-6960

Franklin Memorial Hospital

The gift of your time can help so many! Call FMH at 779-2552. Volunteers are ordinary people, just like you, with a desire to help others, a professional attitude and a willingness to learn new things. The following items are just a few of the tasks that need volunteer support: Information at Escort desk; Flower delivery; Daily mail distribution; Clerical; Gift Shop, Blood Drives; Special Projects; Bulk Mailings

Contact: Charlie Woodcock, (207) 779-2552

Friends Together, Volunteer

Friends Together is looking for volunteers to assist with building and grounds care. Tasks include cleaning brush, and painting, among others. The office is open on Mondays thru Thursdays in the afternoon.

Contact: Irene Herbert, (207) 897-1010

Healthy Community Coalition, Volunteer

The Hope Harvest Garden is a 60 x 110 foot garden plot, located on a sunny southern exposure on the grounds at Franklin Memorial Hospital. It is a collaboration between Healthy Community Coalition, University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners, Franklin Memorial Hospital, Western Maine Community Action, and local groups and businesses. In a given year, an average of 175 volunteers are involved in growing more than 2,200 pounds of chemical-free produce that is donated to area food pantries. The goal is to raise awareness of food pantries' needs, increase access to fresh produce by pantry clients, and use the garden as a learning tool for the community. Volunteers are needed for all phases of gardening - planning, cultivating seedlings, preparing the soil, planting, weeding and harvesting produce.

Contact: Lorri Brown, (207) 779-2929

HealthReach RSVP, Volunteer

Health Reach Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) helps retired people, over the age 55, make productive and personally rewarding contributions to communities, including Greater Franklin County, through volunteer services with non-profit agencies and organizations that make a difference. Volunteer placements are available all year. Signature Programs include the Born to Read Program, Matter of Balance Program. Mileage reimbursement is available.

Contact: Linda Rood, (207) 778-0427

HealthReach RSVP, Volunteer for Bone Builder Coach

RSVP is looking for a skilled volunteer in an osteoporosis prevention program. The Bone Builder Coach will coach older adults to conduct exercise sessions that are designed to prevent or reverse osteoporosis. As a coach, participants need to recognize individual differences in health, fitness, and exercise ability, follow through with the program design, share wellness materials with volunteers, be a role model and support participants in the program. Volunteers must be 55 years or older, complete needed training, perform necessary exercise movements, have good motivational and public speaking skills, and provide a doctors' statement of activity clearance.

Contact: Linda Rood, (207) 778-0427

High Peaks Alliance and Sandy River Land Trust, Help Build the Fly Rod Crosby Trail

Work is in progress to build the Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby Trail. When completed, the trail will stretch from Strong to Oquossoc and will feature local cultural and historic points of interest. Volunteer work includes moving branches, small rocks and brush, and digging hill-side and other construction work that will define the trail corridor.

Contact: Ben Godsoe, (207) 578-0309

Jay Fire Association, Volunteer at the Jay Fireman's Museum

The Jay Fireman's Museum is home to numerous firefighting artifacts. Among some artifacts are a horse drawn hand pumper wagon, a restored 1936 fire truck, and a hand pulled two-wheeled hose cart. Volunteers are needed for special events and the museum's open house.

Contact: Jay Fire Association, (207) 987-3953

Jay Historical Society, Holmes-Crafts Homestead, Volunteer

The Holmes-Crafts Homestead is a federal style home that was built in the 1820s. The Jay Historical Society manages the property, holds tours by appointment, and hosts an annual open house. Among the items on display are a country store, old tools, granite based items, and Jay furnishings.

Contact: Jay Historical Society, (207) 897-4876

LEAP, Inc., (Life Enrichment Advancing People), Volunteer

LEAP Inc. is looking for volunteers to help with its "growing" Stone Soup Gardens project. Volunteers are welcome to help plant harvest, or prepare new raised bed gardens that are on a beautiful 40-acre parcel of land off Rt. 2 in Farmington Falls. Volunteer are also needed to help develop walking trails or maintain ones on the property. LEAP, Inc. is a private non-profit organization devoted to supporting people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities to be actively involved in their home communities. Stone Soup Gardens is accessible to those with disabilities.

Contact: Meloney Richmond, (207) 778-3443

LEAP, Inc., Office Support Volunteer

LEAP is currently searching for someone who would like to help in its main office. Volunteers would be working in a social environment and would be part of a team working to support the mission of LEAP: empowering individuals with disabilities to live a joyful life. Tasks include answering telephones, typing, copying, collating and bulk mailing.

Contact: Contact: Meloney Richmond, (207) 788-3443

Literacy Volunteers of Franklin and Somerset Counties, Tutor

Literacy Volunteers provides free reading/writing service to individuals with low level literacy skills. Trained volunteer tutors serve Franklin and Somerset Counties and Livermore Falls, Livermore and Jay areas. Literacy Volunteers tutors take an 18-hour workshop. They are then matched with a student in their area. This service is free, confidential, and on a one-to-one basis. Tutors and students meet at a place of their choice, either in the student's home or a local learning center, or library. Literacy Volunteers has teen tutoring programs in schools in both counties. Literacy Volunteers also visit different nursing homes in the area to read to the patients.

Contact: Dorothy Carter, (207) 778-3460

Literacy Volunteers, Be a Tutor

Literacy Volunteers is seeking volunteers who would like to work in a classroom setting. The students would be sixth grades or advanced readers at a lower grade level. The class would be four to six weeks, one hour a week. The tutors will be training the students to be Tutor of Learning Readers.

Contact: Dorothy Carter, (207) 778-3460

Livermore Falls Treat Memorial Library, Volunteer

The library is looking for volunteers to assist in keeping its collection of books organized as well as to help at events. Events include the Summer Reading Program where volunteers can help children with crafts or assist in the preparation of an Annual Book Sale.

Contact: Myra Rosenbaum, (207) 897-3631

Nordica Homestead Museum, Volunteer

The Nordica Museum is the birthplace of Lillian Nordica. Nordica was a very successful international opera singer from Farmington. The museum is dedicated to her memory and there are several artifacts of her career and life.

Contact: Nordica Homestead Museum, (207) 778-2042

Maine's Paper and Heritage Museum, Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to help maintain an Information Center at the Museum and learn the history of the Maine Paper Industry. Volunteers may become tour guides for visitors and tourists, help in data entry, cataloging artifacts, and information displays. Training sessions are provided and there are several time slots to choose from; as one can volunteer for a few hours or a day. Volunteers of the museum work collaboratively on community engagement with Jay, Livermore, Livermore Falls Chambers of Commerce

Contact: Sherry Judd, info@papermuseumofmaine.org

Mt. Blue School District, Be a Mentor

Mt. Blue RSD needs mentors to be a non-judgmental friend to students. Mentors meet once a week, usually at lunch, with their student. After lunch, mentors often play games, help with homework or go out to the playground. It's a wonderful opportunity to share your life experience with a student. Mentors undergo a "mentor training" with the Volunteer Coordinator. They meet with their student only on school grounds during school hours. Background information and references are required.

Contact: Pauline Rodrigue, (207) 778-3707

Mt. Blue School District, Help in a classroom or at a special event

Help in classrooms or at special events by being an extra set of hands, eyes and ears. If you love energy and the unexpected, this is a wonderful place to volunteer. Volunteers do need to do a brief orientation with the volunteer coordinator, otherwise there are no limitations.

Contact: Pauline Rodrigue, (207) 778-3707

Red School House Museum, Volunteer

The Red School House in Farmington was built in 1852 and held classes until 1958. The School House now serves as a museum filled with original books, desks, and other memorabilia.

Contact: Red School Museum, (207) 778-2835

SeniorsPlus, Volunteer Driver

SeniorsPlus provides meals all year to seniors throughout Greater Franklin County. It delivers thousands of meals per year to approximately 150 seniors in the region. Mileage reimbursement is available, and the position could be shared.

Contact: SeniorsPlus, (207) 795-4010

Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES), Helpline Volunteer

Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES) provides a free 24/7 helpline for survivors of recent or past sexual assault, as well as family, friends and others who need support and information regarding the assault of their loved ones. Volunteers are needed to staff the helpline. Extensive training is provided.

Contact: Judy Rawlings, (207) 778-9522

Touch of Class Thrift Shop, Volunteer

The three Touch of Class thrift shops, two in Farmington and one in Jay, are looking for volunteers to help with the sorting and steaming of clothing donations. Touch of Class works in association with Work First Inc. to help in its mission to promote the fullest development of individuals with disabilities. A definite schedule will be required and a background check will need to be conducted.

Contact: Linda LaRue Keniston, (207) 778-3200 ext. 22

Town of Livermore Falls, Support Public Areas

The Town of Livermore Falls is for looking volunteers to assist in keeping its public areas clean and looking green. Tasks would be painting the skate park, trash pick-up and grounds maintenance. Areas that need some maintenance are parks, cemeteries, and the gazebo. For more information contact the Town Manager.

Contact: James Chaousis, (207) 897-2016

United Methodist Economic Ministry, Volunteer

UMEM is a crisis oriented ministry. This means that UMEM believes that it is sometimes necessary to provide short-term support as part of the empowering of individuals to become self-sufficient. UMEM currently operates a thrift shop, a housing ministry, a food bank and a Warming Center. All hands are needed.

Contact: Crystal Cook, Operations Manager, (207) 678-2611

United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, Volunteer

Located in downtown Farmington, UWTVA is a great place to volunteer, as there is something for everyone to get involved with. You could help with a special event, assist with UWTVA's marketing efforts, or help with the Pantry Project! An orientation is provided as well as a clear outline of project goals and time requirements. Please visit www.uwtva.org/volunteer.

Volunteer with the Community Energy Challenge Continuing Efforts to Winterize Homes

Community Energy Challenge volunteers winterize area homes using interior storm window panels they measure, build, and install. They also provide energy education. These window panels save homeowners money and energy by reducing the heat loss that can occur through glass windows.

Contact: United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, (207) 778-5048 or Nancy Teel, nteel@localnet.com

Washburn-Norlands Living History Center, Catalog Historical Artifacts

Norlands has an extensive collection of items from the 1800s. Most of the Center's artifacts either belong to a Washburn family member or had an association with the family home. The Norlands Living History Center is currently updating its inventory of all items and migrating the information from paper files to an electronic database. A number of items have been moved to a database. The volunteers would be verifying and completing information fields. Norlands will provide the necessary training to get volunteers started.

Contact: Nancy Drinkwine, (207) 897-4366

Washburn-Norlands Living History Center, Be a Tour Guide

At Norlands Living History Center, visitors come to learn about the Washburn political family and to experience 1870s rural Maine. Tours are given at four site buildings (a mansion, library, school house, and meeting house). Norlands' volunteers lead groups of visitors to explore the history of the Washburns and rural Maine through educational programs. Norlands will provide the required training for tour guides and the different programs offered.

Contact: Nancy Drinkwine, (207) 897-4366

Western Maine CASH Coalition Volunteer Tax Preparer

Would you like to help families and individuals find ways to make the most of their money??? Volunteer to prepare taxes through the Western Maine CASH Coalition! You will be helping people in our community get the most out of their tax refund, including the Earned Income Tax Credit. An IRS Tax Certification course is offered to become IRS Certified Volunteer Tax Preparers. Please call 778-5048 for more information.

Western Maine Community Action, Volunteer

Make a positive difference for yourself and others in your community by volunteering with Western Maine Community Action. WMCA has projects, education and outreach opportunities, and special events available throughout Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties. WMCA strives to match your interests with the most appropriate openings. WMCA maintains a listing of current and specific agency opportunities that is available upon request, including Operation Santa Claus and Seeds of Life program.

Contact: Cindy Brophy, (207) 645-3764

Western Maine Transportation Services, Inc., Volunteer Driver

WMTS, the public transportation provider for Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties is recruiting volunteer drivers for transportation programs. Volunteer drivers are paid a mileage reimbursement rate for the distance travelled from the time they leave their residence to the time they return from their trip, in accordance with Maine DHHS guidelines. Also, as a volunteer, this reimbursement is tax-free. Supplemental accident and life insurance coverage is also provided.

For more information, please call WMTS at 1-800-393-9335, option 1

Wilhelm Reich Museum, Volunteer

The museum is looking for volunteers to help digitize its archive. The digital archive could be used in a documentary that the museum is trying to make. Other help the museum is in need of is ground maintenance of its trails which are open to the public year round.

Contact: Wilhelm Reich Museum, (207) 864-3443

Work First, Inc., Volunteer

Work First, Inc. is looking to host a weekly Bingo game at their Rt. 4 location. They are seeking a volunteer (or two if you have a friend who'd like to help) to assist with announcing the numbers during the games. Start date is to be determined, but the anticipated weekly time slot is 10-11:30 a.m.

Contact: Linda LaRue-Keniston, (207) 778-3200, ext. 22

For additional opportunities, visit www.volunteermaine.org