



**15 Years  
Serving the  
Cedar Valley!**

**Volunteer Link**

**Mobilizing people and resources to solve community problems.**

## September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

In honor of the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, the Corporation for National and Community Service is supporting service activities in all fifty states. We are working with nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, government at all levels, businesses, and individuals to reignite the spirit of unity and service that inspired Americans in the days after the September 11, 2001 tragedy.

**Join Thousands of Volunteers on the September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance:** Volunteers across the country will serve on September 11, 2010 by participating in service and remembrance activities. The Corporation for National and Community Service and its partner, MyGoodDeed, are working with nonprofit organizations, faith-based groups, government at all levels, businesses, and individuals to reignite the spirit of unity and service that inspired Americans in the days after the tragedy.

You can participate in hundreds of volunteer service projects being organized for September 10-11, 2010. Projects will mobilize thousands of volunteers through organized service activities in honor and remembrance of 9/11 victims. Events will occur in cities and towns across the country and service opportunities will be posted at [www.911dayofservice.org](http://www.911dayofservice.org).

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**Other news related to the September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance:**

- A new innovative website ([www.911dayofservice.org](http://www.911dayofservice.org)) will be launched to sign up nonprofits, faith-based organizations and employers. The goal of this is to enroll as many as 100,000 organizations between now and the 10th anniversary of 9/11 and connect individuals to volunteer opportunities.
- A first-ever comprehensive 9/11 education resource that includes 18 different lesson plans and supporting elements to help teachers instruct students in age appropriate and constructive ways on the events of 9/11, and inspire them to pay tribute on a voluntary basis through charitable service and good deeds are available online at no cost at [www.911dayofservice.org](http://www.911dayofservice.org) and [www.scholastic.com/911dayofservice](http://www.scholastic.com/911dayofservice).

Television and radio public service announcements, featuring actors Gary Sinise and Denis Leary, can be viewed nationwide this year for the first time thanks to the support of the National Association of Broadcasters, Clear Channel, many of the major networks, and cable channels.

If you are interested in participating in 911 Day of Service & Remembrance, please call the VCCV at (319) 272-2087 or contact Lauren Finke at [Lauren\\_Finke@vccv.org](mailto:Lauren_Finke@vccv.org).

## Featured Board Member: Chelley Pratt

Chelley Pratt is the Director of Human Resources at the Isle Casino Hotel Waterloo. She is originally from Biloxi, MS and graduated from Mississippi State University. She has been in the casino industry for over 12 years finally landing in Waterloo in 2007.

Throughout her career, she has been involved in various aspects of community service and volunteerism from Junior

Achievement to United Way. She is also active in the Waterloo Black Hawks Booster Club recently ending her term as Treasurer.

She and her husband live in Waterloo with their three fur-kids, Hendrix, Winston and Charlotte – all white boxers and all hearing impaired. They all love the area...even the snow!

Chelley is currently serving

the Volunteer Center as the Vice-President and as co-chair for 2011 Appetite for Service.

Thanks for all you do Chelley!



Hands On NETWORK



Funded Partner

## Spotlight Agencies - Exceptional Persons, Inc.



As a leader in human services, Exceptional

Persons, Inc. devotes talents and resources to develop and provide exemplary service for individuals with disabilities, families and children. EPI is a non-profit agency supporting individuals with disabilities and families with child care needs. They foster active community participation of the

individuals and families we serve while respecting and encouraging their preferences and choices.

Exceptional Persons, Inc. needs volunteers to assist as an Activity Volunteer, CHOICE Program Lunch Server, Children's Services, Children's Services Meal Server, and Photographer.

Opportunities exist Monday through Friday with flexible

times as determined by the volunteer opportunity. Volunteers age 18 and older are welcome.



of Northeast Iowa  
Established in Waterloo/Cedar Falls in 1956

## Family and Children's Council



Family & Children's Council (FCC) is a nonprofit organization whose mission

is to prevent child abuse and strengthen families. FCC works toward its mission through prevention education programs in the schools, parent education and support for families and training for professionals and community members.

Consisting of program volunteers, local leaders, Exchange Club members and human service professionals, FCC has proudly served the Black Hawk County Community for more than 25 years. All programs and services provided by Family & Children's Council are free to participants.

Family & Children's Council utilizes volunteers to assist

with the Empowering Dad's Program, Healthy Babies Mentor, Parent Connection, Parent-to-Parent, Park to Park Race, Program Committee Member, Public Relations and Events Committee, and Take Charge of Your Bodies Volunteers.

Opportunity times vary by commitment. Volunteers age 18 and over are welcome.



United We Serve  
SERVE.GOV

Supportive Agencies and Organizations

## Welcome Jean Seeland, New VCCV Program Coordinator

The Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley is pleased to announce that Jean Seeland has joined us as Program Coordinator.

Jean recently retired from Waterloo Community Schools after a remarkable 39 year tenure. Jean is a graduate of UNI with both Bachelors and Master of Arts in Education degrees. She most recently taught at Lou Henry Elementary in Waterloo.

Professionally, Jean has served as a member of the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners, mentors first and second year teachers in the Waterloo Schools, as an officer and member of the National Education Association, Iowa Education Association and Waterloo Education Association.

Within the Cedar Valley, Jean serves on the Grin and Grow Board of Directors, is a Foundation Board Member and Elder at First Presbyterian Church, serves on Cedar Valley's Promise Elementary Task Force and is the Legislative Chair of the League of Women Voters.

Jean has been honored as a McElroy Trust Gold Star Teacher, received the Iowa State Education Association's Charles F. Martin Award and has received a Mayors' Volunteer Award.

Jean shared her thoughts on her new position, "I am very excited about this position. I am a strong believer in volunteerism, educating and working with youth as tomorrow's leader, and the wonderful ethic of giving back to our society. This position combines all of this."

Jean may be reached at 272-2087 or [jean\\_seeland@vccv.org](mailto:jean_seeland@vccv.org).

We welcome you, Jean!



### Consider Donating to the VCCV

Consider including the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley as you plan annual gifting. As a non-profit agency, your gift is tax deductible. Volunteering makes our community a thriving, cohesive city. The VCCV has been a crucial assistant in flood recovery, service-learning, and volunteer management.

### Welcome Kohl's Cares!

The Volunteer Center welcomes Kohl's Cares as our seventh Business Partner this year! Kohl's Cares is a vigorous benefactor and provider of volunteers. The Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley welcomes them as our most recent Business Partner!



### Join the VCCV as a Business Partner

At the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley, we believe corporate initiatives that give back to the communities in which they operate and where their employees work and live, are reinforced by their alignment with an excellent volunteer and philanthropy program. The Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley is the primary resource for workplace-based volunteering and for engaging more companies and employees effectively in volunteer service. We help businesses develop and manage effective employee volunteer programs that meet

company priorities, address employee interests and meet real community needs. Throughout the Cedar Valley, we are working with our corporate partners to improve lives and create positive change in local communities.



## Date Change for National Volunteer Week

In recent weeks, we have received significant feedback from affiliates about the official dates for 2011 National Volunteer Week. As a result, we have changed the dates: National Volunteer Week 2011 will take place April 10 - 16, 2011, in order to avoid conflicts with religious holidays. HandsOn Network will continue producing resource guides for recognizing volunteers and equipping organizations with the valuable tools they need to make their work successful.



## Get HandsOn Challenge!

The HandsOn Challenge is part of a three year initiative to help more people become more engaged in volunteering and helping them do it better.

The goal is to mobilize 500,000 leaders to get 2 million acts of service accomplished. These acts of service will focus on the economy, environment, education and emergency preparedness

The HandsOn Challenge includes three "Games" that ensure service is a part of the solution:

- **Service tag** is a national game of tag to get leaders and volunteers to identify needs and spread volunteering by tagging those people during the months of September and October.

- **Follow the leader** encourages organizations and individuals to replicate current projects service projects with social impact.
- **Break the record** by establishing a world record for number of volunteers in one day – Earth Day, on April 22, 2011.

You may begin you game of Service Tag by accessing <http://community.handsonnetwork.org/>.



## UNI Volunteer Fair



Preparations are underway for the 2010 UNI Volunteer Fair! The VCCV looks forward to agencies joining us for this collaborative effort between the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley and the UNI American Humanics Student Association. Last year's event attracted more than 40 non-profit agencies from the Cedar Valley area and over 300 students. This year's Volunteer Fair will be held on Thursday, September 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Maucker Union Old Central Ballroom.

The Volunteer Fair is a wonderful opportunity for your organization to connect with students, matching your specific volunteer needs to students' skills and personal interests. Agencies may recruit students for one-time or semester-long volunteer opportunities, internships or employment. This is a great chance for you to take advantage of valuable one-on-one contact with UNI students, faculty and staff.

## Volunteer Tuesdays at UNI

Every Tuesday in September the Volunteer Center of Cedar Valley and the Student Leadership Center at the University of Northern Iowa will take 30 students to a variety of non-profit organizations to spend time volunteering while getting to know the Cedar Valley community. Participating organizations include Cedar Valley Arboretum and Botanic Gardens, Northeast Iowa Food Bank, The Grout Museum District and the Catholic Worker House.

The "Volunteer Van" will leave campus two times each Tuesday during September at 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Each participant will receive a t-shirt and take part in educational and reflection components regarding their service experience. The first group on September 7 is heading to the Cedar Valley Arboretum and Botanic Gardens.

Questions may be directed to Lauren Finke, Executive Director at 272-2087 or [Lauren\\_Finke@vccv.org](mailto:Lauren_Finke@vccv.org).



## Do Something Clubs Need Activities

The 'Do Something Club' (grades 6-8) is dedicated to giving youth the tools and support to bring their unique vision to life. "Do Something" works with young people to shape beliefs and behaviors about participation before negative attitudes and cynicism develop.

The "Do Something Club" will be starting in September and is in need of hands on activities.

'Do Something Club' is looking for projects. Each participating agency needs to provide the supplies for the projects that students will work on. Materials can be picked up and taken to the schools. DSC can sort, package, create, stamp, group, and organize. With each project students are educated about the agency and its purpose in the community. Agency fliers for students are encouraged so they can share their work with teachers and parents.

Questions may be directed to Lauren Finke, Executive Director at 272-2087 or [Lauren\\_Finke@vccv.org](mailto:Lauren_Finke@vccv.org).

Volunteer Center of  
Cedar Valley  
2101 Kimball Avenue •  
Suite 1414  
Waterloo, IA 50702  
Visit us at [www.vccv.org](http://www.vccv.org)!

Phone: 319-272-2087  
Fax: 319-272-2088  
E-mail the Editor:  
[Anne\\_Nass@vccv.org](mailto:Anne_Nass@vccv.org)



**Mobilizing people and  
resources to solve  
community problems.**

**Volunteer Center of Cedar  
Valley Staff**

Lauren Finke  
*Executive Director*

Jean Seeland  
*Program Coordinator*

Anne Nass  
*Communications Coordinator*

**Our Mission**

The mission of the VCCV is to promote and support effective volunteerism; to serve as the resource and coordination center for volunteers and a catalyst in building coalitions and community partnerships.

**Follow us on Twitter at  
[VCCV1Volunteer](#) or on  
Facebook group  
Volunteer Center of  
Cedar Valley!**

**Noteworthy News -**

Iowa is rated 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country, with 38.7% of Iowa residents volunteering in 2009 - up from 5<sup>th</sup> in 2008!

**Volunteer Opportunities**

**One Time Events**

**Park to Park Race  
September 11**  
Family & Children's Council

**Fall Harvest Festival  
September 17-19**  
Cedar Valley Arboretum &  
Botanic Gardens

**Promise Run  
September 18**  
Cedar Falls Lutheran Home

**Long Term**

**Agency Relations Assistant**  
Northeast Iowa Food Bank

**Flood Packer & Mover**  
Our Shepherd's Closet

**Resident Outing Volunteer**  
Parkview Nursing  
& Rehabilitation Center

**Driver**  
Pathways Behavioral Services

**Maintenance Assistant**  
People's Community Health  
Clinic

**Pet Therapy Assistant**  
Pet Pals

**Wheelchair Ramp Builders**  
Positive Steps of Northeast Iowa

**Literacy Support Volunteer**  
Retired Senior Volunteer  
Program

**Volunteer Driver**  
The Salvation Army

**Performance Based Diploma  
Academy Mentor**  
Waterloo Community Schools

**Waterloo Airport Visitor  
Greeter**  
Waterloo Convention & Visitors  
Bureau

**Meals on Wheels**  
Waterloo Senior Center

**Member Agencies**

Allen Hospital  
Alternatives Pregnancy Center  
American Red Cross — Hawkeye Chapter  
Aspire Therapeutic Riding Program  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Birthright  
Boys and Girls Club  
Boy Scouts of America  
Care Initiatives Hospice  
Catholic Worker House  
Cedar Bend Humane Society  
Cedar Falls Historical Society  
Cedar Falls Lutheran Home  
Cedar Falls Public Library  
Cedar Falls Senior Center  
Cedar Falls Tourism and Visitors Bureau  
Cedar Valley Arboretum & Botanic Gardens  
Cedar Valley Volunteer Emergency Club  
Cedar Valley Hospice  
Cedar Valley United Way  
Community United Child Care Centers  
Country View  
Department of Human Services  
Exceptional Persons, Inc.  
Family & Children's Council  
Friends of Heal the Family  
Friends of the Waterloo Public Library  
Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center  
Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western  
Illinois  
Grout Museum District  
Hartman Reserve Nature Center  
Hawkeye Adult Literacy Program  
Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging  
Jesse Cosby Neighborhood Center  
Irish Fest  
Make-A-Wish Foundation of Iowa  
Northeast Iowa Food Bank  
North Star Community Services  
Operation Threshold  
Our Shepherd's Closet  
Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation Center  
Pathways Behavioral Services  
People's Community Health Clinic  
Pet Pals  
Positive Steps of Northeast Iowa  
RSVP  
Salvation Army  
Silos & Smokestacks  
Together for Youth  
Waterloo Community Schools  
Waterloo Convention & Visitors Bureau  
Waterloo Jaycees  
Waterloo Leisure Services  
Waterloo Senior Center  
Waverly Senior Center  
Western Home Communities  
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare  
YMCA  
YWCA