

# VOLUNTEER CONNECTION™

501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization



**“WE HAVE MOVED”**

**NEW ADDRESS—NEW PHONE—NEW E-MAIL**

**VOLUNTEER CONNECTION, INC.  
735 N. WISCONSIN STREET, SUITE 100  
ELKHORN, WI 53121  
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**Spring 2019**

**Newsletter**

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[www.volunteerwalworth.org](http://www.volunteerwalworth.org)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

David Jordan

Linda Vavra

Ralph Williams

John Wright

Patti O'Brien, director



The mission of  
Volunteer Connection is to  
enrich lives by actively  
participating in the  
community through volunteer

Your involvement is  
important to us. Call  
Volunteer Connection with  
ideas, issues, or concerns  
today. We are here to serve  
you.

Hello Friends,

I am excited about 2019. From the support we received from volunteers, members of the community, local media and nonprofits all working together to help us, we arrived at our new home. It all began with:

- \* A newspaper article by Scott Williams in the Lake Geneva Regional News announcing our eviction (Scott saw it from reading the minutes to the Walworth County Board Meeting and took action and wrote an article!)
- \* Sal Dimiceli Sr. from 'The Time Is Now To Help' read the article, called, met with us and offered to replace the funding support no longer offered by Walworth County.
- \* Sarah Boss, director of The Housing Authority, also offered us office space. We happily accepted and are so thankful we did. We have been welcomed with open arms.
- \* On December 18 Dan Nordsieck from United Way, volunteers Richard Deschner, Greg Dourcher, Mike Gasser and a few DPW personnel moved all of Volunteer Connection to The Housing Authority. Dan, Greg, Richard and Mike set the whole office up perfectly.

So many more kind and generous people and organizations were involved-offering advice, wishing us well, donating time and items for our move. We have been so blessed. I feel this is the place for Volunteer Connection to thrive.

Thank you and God Bless You All!

Patti O'Brien, director

**LIVE UNITED™**

We won't always know whose lives we touched  
and made better for our having cared, because actions can sometimes have unforeseen ramifications.  
What is important is that you do care and you act. —Charlotte Lunsford

**262-472-9632**



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR  
PARTICIPATING IN OUR MISSION FOR THE  
TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION AND  
DISTRIBUTION.

U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE



Together we were able to make a difference for 471 children this Christmas! Crews of Volunteers were: scheduling other volunteers for distribution day; gathering toys from area organizations; quilters, knitters and crocheters were lovingly creating things to keep children warm; veterans were encouraging donations, volunteers organizing the VFW and helping distribute toys...the list goes on and on. We were able to team up with members of the Walworth County U.S. Marine Corps Reserves — so many great things. This is a list of sites that collected toys:

**DELAVER**

Ace Hardware  
Adecco  
Anytime Fitness  
Bradleys  
Fleet Farm  
Kunes Country Chevy Cadillac  
Noble Insurance  
Tractor Supply  
Walgreens  
WI School for the Deaf

**WALWORTH**

MuCullough's Pharmacy  
Sentry  
Towne Bank  
**EAST TROY**

Hometown Pharmacy  
Frank's Piggly Wiggly  
Dollar General  
Cousins Subs

**ELKHORN**

Bartz Chiropractic  
Coldwell Banker Leith & Associate  
Frank's Piggly Wiggly  
Jackson's Do It Best Hardware  
Kunes Country Chevy GMDC  
Kunes Country Dodge Jeep  
Plaza Pharmacy  
Walgreens  
Woller True Value  
**WILLIAMS BAY**  
Barrett Library

First National Bank & Trust  
Sherwood Lodge Assisted Living  
Williams Bay

**LAKE GENEVA**

Aurora Rehabilitation  
Clear Water Outdoor  
Geneva Lake Museum  
Grand Geneva  
Harbor Shores  
Lake Lawn Lodge  
MPC  
Public Library  
Walgreens

If I missed someone, I sincerely apologize!

A special thank you goes to  
the Elkhorn VFW and  
Grant McMillin  
for again providing a location  
for us to hold Toys for Tots!

Thanks to two **fabulous** Volunteers,  
Volunteer Connection won first prize at the  
**Heritage Hall Museum** Christmas  
decoration contest for their annual  
Christmas Walk

Rich Kahl  
Terri & Dave Kropetz  
Ann & Grant McMillin  
Mike & Mary VanDenLangenberg  
Ron Weber  
Ed Weidner  
John Wright

To everyone who helped organize,  
donated, picked up, set up, distributed,  
or helped clean up for this event, your  
generosity and giving spirit made the  
Christmas season brighter for so many.

Thank you to **Mariann Hunter and Form  
Wealth Advisors** for their donation of  
file cabinets to our new office.



STATISTICS	Total Served 2018					VOLUNTEERS	
	House-holds	Adults	Children	Individuals	Pounds Non- USDA	Number	Hours
<b>2018 FOOD PANTRYS</b>							
<b>East Troy</b>	712	1,169	680	1,849	49,663	28	3,319
<b>Elkhorn</b>	1,909	2,934	1,581	4,572	73,100	44	2,310
<b>Delavan</b>	2,270	3,631	1,641	5,272	47,519	25	3,378
<b>Lake Geneva</b>	1,634	2,750	1,371	4,121	101,599	33	3,451
<b>Whitewater</b>	2,607	4,930	2,937	7,867	22,093	41	4,384
<b>2018 PANTRY TOTALS</b>	9,132	15,414	8,210	23,681	293,974	171	16,842

### 2019 American Red Cross Blood Drive Dates

Volunteers for blood drives are always needed—  
registration/donor room/canteen.  
Call the Volunteer Connection office if you can help.

#### EAST TROY

East Troy Bible Church

1/21/19  
3/18/19  
5/20/19  
7/15/19  
9/16/19 (tentative)  
11/18/19

#### ELKHORN

Sperinos

2/17/19  
4/24/19  
6/19/19  
8/30/19  
10/30/19  
12/27/19

#### LAKE GENEVA

The Cove

2/8/19  
4/12/19  
6/7/19  
8/9/19  
10/11/19  
12/13/19

#### WHITEWATER

Whitewater Armory

1/18/19  
4/12/19  
7/12/19  
9/20/19

#### DELAHAN/DARIEN

Our Redeemer Lutheran

4/1/19  
6/10/19  
8/19/19  
12/27/19



Received from Jessica Peterson, of the  
American Red Cross Blood Services

### TOTAL PINTS OF BLOOD RECEIVED AT BLOOD DRIVES IN 2018

EAST TROY—327

ELKHORN—338

LAKE GENEVA—249

WHITEWATER—259

TOTAL—1,173

Total of 1,173 blood donations made at these  
blood drives. Each pint of blood can save up  
to three lives, with potentially 3,519 patients  
in need that were helped! That is incredible  
to see the final results. We could not do it  
without VC and VC volunteers. All are the  
best and make each blood drive a warm  
welcoming environment for our donors that  
undoubtedly keeps them coming back.

I am so happy that the volunteers are curious  
of the impact that they all made. Pass our  
thank you on to them and we appreciate their  
continuing support!

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

**WALWORTH COUNTY VETERANS SERVICES**  
**Received an Award of Excellence from the**  
**Walworth County Board of Directors 2/12/2019!**  
**If you are a veteran, you may be eligible for**  
**benefits.**

**Please contact your local Veterans office**  
**262-741-4222**  
**veterans@co.walworth.wi.us**



Unity is strength... when there  
is teamwork and collaboration,  
more can be achieved.  
Mattie J.T. Stepanek

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## LITERACY TUTORS NEEDED

Volunteer tutors teach math, reading and writing to incarcerated adults who are interested in furthering their education.

"Had I not had the extra help with reading and comprehension, I would not have passed the GED" a student said.

The program is in need of volunteers to teach math and reading.



## SAVE THE DATE



**5K RUN/5K WALK  
1-MILE FUN RUN  
Saturday, June 22  
8:15 a.m.**

**Babe Mann Park ~ Elkhorn  
Race Day Registration: 7:15 to 8  
a.m.**

**Pre-Registration: [www.uw-wc.org](http://www.uw-wc.org)**

**Questions?**

**E-mail: [unitedwaywalco@gmail.com](mailto:unitedwaywalco@gmail.com)**

**Volunteers?**

**E-mail: [volunteerwalworth@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerwalworth@gmail.com)**

## TWIN OAKS HOMELESS SHELTER

- ◇ Handyman
- ◇ 1 or 2 times/month take items to the dump with your pickup
- ◇ Two Saturdays 8am to 12pm shift coverage needed
- ◇ Scraping and repainting the shed

## AURORA AT HOME

Becoming a hospice volunteer creates a comforting environment for people, decreasing their anxiety and enhancing their quality of life when a family needs support.

- ◆ Provide a break for a family, so the person is not alone.
  - ◆ Share stories, play games or read.
  - ◆ Veterans for Veterans share military experiences.
  - ◆ Use your skills to make scrapbooks, quilts, birthday cakes, hot/cold packs, creating teddy bears—impact families by creating 'Memory Bears.' Training, patterns and material provided.
  - ◆ Sit with people during their last hours, ensuring no one dies alone.
  - ◆ Assist families with grass cutting, snow removal, yard work, housekeeping.
  - ◆ General office duties like mailings, data entry, copying.
  - ◆ Are you interested in being a team leader or joining a team to organize a one time event like a rummage sale fundraiser or Day of Action? Activities are coming up this summer that need YOU!
  - ◆ Hospice.
  - ◆ Are you a great listener or perhaps enjoy reading to someone? Visit patients within a facility (such as assisted living or nursing homes) and spend time.
- Flexible hours. Training and orientation with experienced volunteers provided.

## OPEN ARMS FREE CLINIC

<b>MEDICAL</b>	◇ Physician	◇ Dental Hygienist
	◇ Physician Assistant	◇ Optometrist
	◇ Pharmacist	◇ Psychiatrist
	◇ Pharmacy Tech	◇ Counselor
	◇ Nurse Practitioner	◇ Chiropractor
	◇ RN	◇ Counselor
	◇ Medical Assist	◇ Chiropractor
	◇ Lab Tech	◇ Physical Therapist
	◇ Dentist	

<b>NON-MEDICAL</b>	• Clerical	• Bookkeeping
	• Intake	• Receptionist
	• Housekeeping	• Case Management
	• Fundraising	• Maintenance
	• Advocacy	• Outreach
	• Interpreter	• Technical



## OLD WORLD WISCONSIN

⇒ Interpreter	⇒ Youth Program Guide
⇒ Exhibit Guide	⇒ Gardener
⇒ Information Guide	⇒ Woodworker
⇒ Greeter	⇒ Sewing
⇒ Museum Store	⇒ Special Events

Volunteering two hours a week can boost your well-being. Research shows this helps combat loneliness, which has been linked to dementia.  
—volunteermatch.org

**262-472-9632**





# AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE FREE INDIVIDUAL TAX PREPARATION

Call for an appointment at the following libraries:

Matheson Memorial, Elkhorn **262-723-2678**

Aram Public, Delavan **262-728-3111**

Lake Geneva Public **262-249-5299**



Your taxes done **FREE OF CHARGE** thanks to AARP and some awesome **VOLUNTEERS** that have gone through extensive IRS training to become IRS certified in tax preparation. They help low-to moderate income taxpayers, especially those age 60 and older, to prepare and file tax returns within the scope of the TAX-AIDE Program. If your tax return has issues that are out of scope of the program or too complex, you may need to seek a paid tax preparer.

## **TAX-AIDE CAN PREPARE**

- \*Form 1040 w/schedules A,B & D
- \*Schedule C with up to \$10,000 in expenses, no employees, no inventory, no loss, no depreciation  
Only 1 Schedule C per taxpayer
- \*1099 Misc with box 7 or box 3 checked
- \*Form 1040 ES
- \*Form 1040X-Amended Returns
- \*Form 1099-C Cancellation of Debt or Credit Card debt cancellation only
- \*Wisconsin Homestead Credit

## **TAX-AIDE CANNOT PREPARE**

- \*Married Filing Separate returns
- \*Taxpayers who became divorced in 2018
- \*Form 2106-Employee Business Expense
- \*Schedule K w/depreciation or deductible exp
- \*Schedule E-Rental Property
- \*Form 3903-Moving Expense
- \*Schedule F-Farm Income
- \*Complicated Schedule D-Capital gain & loss wo/paperwork or w/numerous trades
- \*Part-year residents & out of state residents
- \*Bankruptcies

## **YOU MUST BRING All forms:**

- ◆ Government issued **PHOTO ID**
- ◆ Copy of **2017 tax return** or last one filed
- ◆ Social Security **CARDS** or **ITINs** for yourself and **ALL dependents** you are claiming
- ◆ Check showing routing and account numbers for direct deposit of a refund

## **INCOME**

- ◆ W-2'S each employer
- ◆ 1099 -MISC \*1099-R Pension or Annuity
- ◆ All 1099 forms reporting interest, dividends, sales etc.
- ◆ SSA-1099 Social Security benefits
- ◆ Unemployment compensation

## **PAYMENTS**

- ◆ All forms w/federal & state tax paid
- ◆ Federal & state quarterly estimate tax payments

## **CREDITS**

- ◆ Dependent care provider info (name, employer ID or SS#)
- ◆ Documentation related to continuing education

## **DEDUCTIONS**

- ◆ 1098 Mortgage interest
- ◆ Medical/dental expense receipts & medical insurance paid
- ◆ Contributions to charity
- ◆ Property taxes paid
- ◆ Government Form for any tax refunds you received

## **WISCONSIN HOMESTEAD CREDIT**

Household income must be less than \$24,680 to qualify

- ◆ Copy of 2018 tax bill or 2018 Rent Certificate
- ◆ If under age 62, beginning with 2017, show date disability began and no earned income

## **AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA)**

You must bring documentation to prove you are in compliance with the ACA for any Health Care exemption to be received

- ◆ Prove health care coverage for you, your spouse, and all dependents
- ◆ Form 1095-A if you purchased insurance through the Marketplace/Exchange



Are you organized, computer literate, have your own e-mail address to view and take courses and tests to become a certified volunteer? Consider being a Tax-Aide or Greeter/Facilitator during 2019. It's a fun-loving group of dedicated volunteers who generously give some of their time January through March making a difference for neighbors in our communities. 580 returns were completed in 2017— 3,595 returns since 2010! Great training is available and your team members are available right beside you if you have a question during tax season! I'm giving it a try this year and it's been fun. Patti

Great things are never done by one person. They are done by a team of people.

**262-472-9632**

**BARNYARD BONANZA FLEA MARKET  
WALWORTH COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS**

**&**

**HERITAGE HALL MUSEUM**

**FEBRUARY 23 & MARCH 23, 2019**

8 am to 3 pm

Free admission & parking

Information call 723-3228



**DO YOU RECEIVE MEDICAIDE?**

If you do, you may be eligible to receive Homestyle Direct frozen meals, shipped monthly, direct to your home. Call 866-735-0921 or visit [homestyledirect.com](http://homestyledirect.com)

**FREE—**

**REED PUMP ORGAN  
HINNER  
BEAUTIFUL SHAPE  
Call Sandy 262-215-0311**

**VIP SERVICES, INC.** in Elkhorn

Monday through Friday, one or two hours a week, assist special needs adults with something you like to do or help them learn:

- ⇒ Stamina and fitness
- ⇒ Employment skills like filling out an application, interviewing
- ⇒ Life skills like cooking, gardening, crafts
- ⇒ Hands-on computer skills
- ⇒ Discovery classes
- ⇒ Attend outings with the group

Training and assistance is readily available.

Volunteers are also needed for new RECREATION SUPPORT evenings as well:

Water Aerobics in Delavan  
Sports of Sorts in Elkhorn  
Dance at Elkhorn Library  
Social Voyager playing games & karaoke-Delavan  
High School Football game in East Troy  
Rock Climbing at Grand Geneva  
Cookies and Crafts in Elkhorn



Some ideas from How to Be A Friend To A Friend Who's Sick by Letty Cotton Pogrebin:

Greeting someone with the innocent question "How are you?" can prompt all kinds of unwelcome thoughts. This book advises you to keep it simple "It is good to see you." For sure, do not ask "How are you really?" Most of the time, being ill is not a battle. It is just an unpleasant experience. Some useful dos and don'ts?

- Don't talk about people you know who had something similar and are now fine.
- Don't tell your friend she looks great when it is obvious that she looks anything but.
- Don't say "I know what you're going through" unless you actually do.
- Do make a list of possible chores you could perform: picking up children at school, grocery shopping, mowing the lawn, shoveling. Look and listen to cues from the sick person or their caregiver, as to when it is appropriate to show up and when it is a good time to leave.
- Do realize that in the end you are powerless in the face of your friend's illness, particularly if it is terminal. If you think a terminally ill friend wants to say goodbye, gently open the door to a last conversation and leave it up to the person to either close it or walk through.
- Share a funny DVD to cheer them.
- Take your cues from the sick person.



**TeleCare volunteers made  
14,600 phone calls in 2018**

**262-472-9632**



It's a pretty common mistake to think of volunteering as just something nice that people can do. Sure, it may make them feel great about helping, but what impact does it really have?

Here are just a few things our volunteers with Volunteer Connection Quality of Life program have done:

- ⇒ Replaced a storm door for an elderly veteran in the winter
- ⇒ Repaired a non-working stove for an elderly veteran
- ⇒ Facilitated moving mailboxes up to two separate homes when the resident became disabled
- ⇒ Moved belongings into storage due to evictions X3 (these families would have lost everything had we not assisted)
- ⇒ Moved a recently disabled person from the second floor to the first floor
- ⇒ Cleaned out gutters that were overflowing with debris
- ⇒ Removed a chimney and sealed the area on an old farmhouse that was leaking
- ⇒ Installed insulation, drywall & pipes after they froze in a pump room for a veteran (he had been without water for 9 months)
- ⇒ Cleaned out basements due to flooding
- ⇒ Assembled baby furniture for a family whose apartment burned
- ⇒ Replaced unsafe deck boards of a 98 year old woman
- ⇒ Replaced an entry door & doorframe in subzero weather for a single parent

Many different talents are needed for our Quality of Life program. Consider joining our Quality of Life Team. We need a pool of volunteers to pull from to help our low income seniors, veterans and disabled Walworth County residents. Volunteers need not be available for each event. **We will need help the end of February to move 4 families back into their homes that were displaced due to flooding.**

- ⇒ Assistance with updating our web page
- ⇒ Delivering groceries once a month to shut-ins
- ⇒ Visiting shut-ins weekly or every other week

Flexible days and hours. Thank you for considering assisting with any of these  
Patti-Volunteer Connection



**DISPELLING THE MYTHS: A DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER CASE STUDY**  
**Tuesday, February 19, 2019 11 am—12:30 pm OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**At Community Action—1545 Hobbs Drive, Delavan**

DAIS shelter in Madison will discuss how the DAIS shelter building project positively effected the surrounding community. Sponsored by Walworth County Community Alliance  
Free lunch: To register call UW Extension Office 262-741-4961  
Questions about the New Beginnings Shelter: [newbeginningswalworth@gmail.com](mailto:newbeginningswalworth@gmail.com)  
Heidi Lloyd 262-723-4653

MAY YOU BE PROUD  
OF THE WORK YOU DO  
THE PERSON YOU ARE  
AND THE DIFFERENCE  
YOU MAKE

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sponsors**

