

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



United Way
of Greater Portland

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS

Donation and One-Time/Event Volunteer Opportunities

FEBRUARY
2015

WINTER CLOTHING FOR PORTLAND STUDENTS

Several Portland Schools could use donated mittens, hats, snow pants, and boots for their students. FMI, please contact Kathy Cole, colek@portlandschools.org.

WORK CLOTHES FOR PATHS STUDENTS

Students taking the hands-on classes offered by Portland Arts & Technology High School (PATHS) often need to change into a different set of clothes from the rest of the school day. In order to allow students of all economic backgrounds the opportunity to participate safely, PATHS is starting a school closet stocked with work boots, blue jeans, wool socks, and winter coats in adult sizes (S- XXL). New or gently used items are gladly accepted, and the school can pick up corporate donations. FMI, contact Tina Mikkelsen at MIKKET@portlandschools.org or (207) 874-8165.

REFUGEE AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES' COAT AND BOOT DRIVE

Catholic Charities' Refugee and Immigration Services seeks donations of warm and lightly used winter coats and boots for refugees (adults and children) who have recently arrived in Maine. All donations can be dropped off at 80 Sherman Street in Portland through the winter months. FMI, please contact Karen Balicki, Kbalicki@ccmaine.org or (207) 523-2711.

HOME FIRE PREPAREDNESS CAMPAIGN'S CANVASSING EVENT

The Red Cross has embarked on a campaign working with fire departments and community partners to reduce deaths and serious injuries caused by home fires by 25% over the next 5 years. The campaign involves neighborhood canvassing to check and install smoke alarms, help residents create fire evacuation plans, and provide general fire safety education. On Saturday, February 7 from 9am-2pm, canvassing volunteers will be placed into teams and go door to door in a pre-selected neighborhood to educate residents and install free smoke alarms. The Red Cross will provide free training prior to the event to prepare volunteers. Volunteers may serve as educators, documenters, installers, and general supervisors. Individuals and teams are welcome to apply. FMI or to sign up for this event, contact the Red Cross at (207) 874-1192 or firesafety4me@redcross.org.



HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE MONTH:

- › Portland Empowered: Shared Space Café (Friday, 2/6)
- › Home Fire Preparedness Campaign Canvassing (Saturday, 2/7)
- › Snowman Adventure Race (Sunday, 2/8)
- › Free Tax Prep Resources
- › Recognize Maine Volunteers

FIND A SPECIAL WAY TO SERVE!

Visit Maine's volunteer matching website:

getconnected.volunteermaine.org

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UNITED WAY OF GREATER PORTLAND | WWW.UNITEDWAYGP.ORG

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One-Time/Event Volunteer Opportunities

SNOWMAN ADVENTURE RACE SEEKS SUPER CHILL VOLUNTEERS

The [Snowman Adventure Race Fundraiser](#), a fun mountain bike, run, and sled race (all in costume), will occur in Portland's East End on Sunday, February 8 and support the Portland Gear Hub, a nonprofit shop of Camp Ketcha and the Community Bicycle Center. Volunteers will assist with set up, registration, and parking, and as course marshals during race times. Volunteer shifts may occur within 8:30am and 1:30pm based out of the Cutter Street Parking lot, Eastern Promenade. FMI, please contact Brooke Burkett, bburkett@campketcha.org.

CAN YOU STOP TRAFFIC? VOLUNTEER AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S IRISH ROAD ROVER RACE!

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland is in need of traffic stop volunteers at the 2015 [Irish Road Rover Race](#) on Sunday, March 1 in Portland. This annual race through the Old Port raises critical funds which allow Habitat to keep building homes for Maine families in need. Volunteers are welcome to organize a group of coworkers, church members, or friends to serve as a team. This is also a great opportunity for families with teenagers to make a big impact in their community. Hours are 10am-12:30pm, and volunteers will help with traffic at different points throughout the 5K route. FMI or to sign up, please email volunteer@habitatme.org or call (207) 772-2151.

VOLUNTEER DURING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

The National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter, seeks volunteers (in Portland and Bangor) to help with a variety of activities during MS Awareness Week, March 2-6. The planting of MS orange awareness flags will be a part of the festivities. FMI, contact Shawna Chigro-Rogers, Volunteer Development Associate, shawna.chigro-rogers@nmss.org or (207) 781-5617.

FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ROCK AROUND THE WORLD EVENT

The Multilingual and Multicultural Center at Portland Public Schools, seeks volunteers for its 10th annual fundraiser, Rock Around the World, Friday, March 13. The event includes a live and silent auction, entertainment, and more. Volunteers may help with auction design and set-up, solicitations and donations, and administrative support (light moving, organization, labeling). The Center is also seeking volunteer multicultural/heritage dance groups to perform and share their culture with supporters at the event. FMI, contact Nanette Dyer Blake at blaken@portlandschools.org or (207) 842-4657.

SAVE THE DATE: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE'S HUSKY DAY OF SERVICE

USM is hosting its 6th Annual Husky Day of Service on Friday, April 17. Similar to United Way's Day of Caring, the goal of the event is to build community on campus by bringing students, staff, faculty, and alumni together to give back to the community through service projects in the greater Portland area. Some of this year's volunteer sites include Portland Gear Hub, Preble Street Resource Center, and Garbage to Garden. All are welcome! Please stay tuned FMI about the day. Questions? E-mail Bryn at bryn.gallagher@maine.edu.

VOLUNTEER AT UPCOMING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS WALKS

The National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter, seeks volunteers for MS Walks statewide, including Brewer/Bangor, Brunswick, Camden, Kennebunkport (Saturday, April 18); Augusta (Sunday, April 19); Lewiston, Portland (Saturday, April 25). Volunteers can help with registration, decorating, food concessions, rest stops, medical, photography, cheering, and more. FMI, contact Shawna Chigro-Rogers, shawna.chigro-rogers@nmss.org or (207) 781-5617.

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Ongoing/Regularly Scheduled Volunteer Opportunities

E SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING WITH THE PARKSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

The Parkside Neighborhood Center (PNC) strengthens individuals and families by offering a variety of educational, employment and cultural opportunities. Offerings include free community meals, employment, and education services, after-school programs, an Early Head Start classroom, groups for New Americans, emergency assistance with basic needs, community policing and DHHS child protective services, and a meeting space for neighborhood groups. PNC seeks volunteers to assist with their Night-Light After-School Program and King-Parkside Collaborative (KPAC). The Night Light After-School Program provides childcare and academic assistance for two hours every day after school for youth in grades 1-5. The KPAC (King-Parkside Collaborative) Middle School Program is an after-school program for 6th graders offered Wednesdays at Parkside and Thursdays at King Middle School. Volunteers are needed Monday-Friday to provide individual tutoring/academic support and help with activities and snacks from approximately 3-5:30pm (starting at 2pm on Wednesdays). Please contact Joe Kosnow at (207) 553-5945, joseph.kosnow@opportunityalliance.org if interested.

H MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS ADVOCACY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS OPPORTUNITIES

The National MS Society, Greater New England Chapter, seeks volunteers to advocate for public policies which support programs, funding, services, and laws to improve the quality of life for people with MS and their families. Opportunities include but are not limited to - serving on committees, email/phone campaigns, mailing projects, and/or attending public hearings to take notes. Please contact Shawna Chigro-Rogers, Volunteer Development Associate, shawna.chigro-rogers@nmss.org, (207) 781-5617 to learn more.

H VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES NEEDED FOR CRISIS & SUPPORT LINE

Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM) offers a free, 24-hour, confidential Crisis & Support Line to those affected by sexual violence in York and Cumberland counties. The line is staffed mainly by volunteer advocates who have undergone training to best assist the callers. Advocates listen, provide emotional support, and offer resources to victims/survivors of sexual assault and their concerned others. Spring Advocate Training will be held Tuesday and Thursday, May 5 – 21 from 5-9pm, Saturday, May 9 from 8am-4pm, and Saturday, May 16 from 8am-4pm. An optional Advanced Advocate Training will be held Saturday, May 30 from 8am-4pm. Advanced advocates earn a stipend for their time on call. For more information and to sign up, please call (207) 828-1035 x101.

TAKE THE PORTLAND HISTORY DOCENTS CLASS AND BECOME A DOCENT FOR THE MAINE NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD

The Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum is proud to once again be a part of the Portland History Docents (PHD) Program. Organized by the Portland History Collaborative, the program is a unique, eleven-week educational experience that provides participants with a rich history of Portland and its historic sites and trains them to become volunteer docents for area museums. This year's program will take place from March 5 – April 30. Tuition is \$30 per person; \$20 for students with valid student I.D. Advance Reservations are required. If interested in participating, contact the PHD program at (207) 774-5561 ext. 120 or click [here](#) FMI. Contact Jennifer Halm-Perazone at volunteers@mainenarrowgauge.org or (207) 828-0814 to learn more about the docent role with the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad in particular.

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E MENTOR A YOUNG ADULT REFUGEE OR ASYLEE

Catholic Charities' Refugee and Immigration Services offers a mentoring program for young adult refugees and asylees (ages 18+). The program matches mentees with professional community members in Portland that can help mentees further their academic and professional goals. Mentors and mentees meet for 2 hours a week for 6 months at any public location, and work on everything from English support and GED preparation to college applications, networking in professional fields and re-credentialing of foreign degrees. FMI, contact Chloe Cekada, ccekada@ccmaine.org, (207) 493-8935 or apply to the RIS Mentor position [here](#).

BECOME AN AMERICAN FRIEND TO A NEW MAINER

The American Friends program provides individualized support to refugee families within their first months in the U.S. by matching a volunteer with a recently arrived family. Together they work on becoming acquainted with aspects of American life and learning how to function independently in their new surroundings. Volunteers provide general guidance such as mailing a letter, understanding traffic signals, finding winter clothes, and English improvement. American Friends spend 2 hours a week for six months with a family. FMI, contact Bethany Sack, bethanys@ccmaine.org, (207) 493-8913 or apply to the American Friend position [here](#).

E HELP ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS!

Make IT Happen! is a Multilingual Multicultural Center program that pairs English Language Learners in grades 8-12 with volunteer academic coaches who provide personalized and structured support. Coaching happens at Portland's middle and high schools during the school year. Contact Nanette at blaken@portlandschools.org or (207) 842-4657 FMI about becoming a coach.

HELP CONSTRUCT A HOME FOR A VETERAN

Habitat for Humanity / 7 Rivers Maine has officially "closed in" its veterans' build under construction in Brunswick. Construction volunteers are welcome Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, 8:30am-3:30pm. No experience necessary; training is provided. FMI or to sign up for a volunteer shift, contact Michele Ober at (207) 504-9335 or michele@habitat7rivers.org.

VOLUNTEER AT THE TOPSHAM RESTORE

Habitat for Humanity / 7 Rivers Maine manages a ReStore at 126 Main Street in Topsham. The ReStore runs on volunteer power! Volunteers may help with receiving donated materials (new and gently used building supplies, furniture, and appliances), cleaning, refurbishing, testing, and displaying of materials, and customer service/cash register sales. Volunteer hours are typically 4 hours/week Tuesday – Saturday. The mission of the ReStore is to generate revenue towards Habitat's mission of providing decent, affordable housing for qualified applicants. The ReStore provides low cost materials for the community and keeps good materials out of landfills. FMI, contact Michele Ober at (207) 504-9335 or michele@habitat7rivers.org.

DROP IN TO HELP THE PORTLAND GEAR HUB

Mondays from 2-5pm are drop-in volunteer hours at the Portland Gear Hub, a non-profit retail shop offering gently used outdoor gear to support youth programs of Camp Ketcha and the Community Bicycle Center. Current volunteer projects include tent set-up and check overs, stripping bikes for usable parts & recycling, building storage and display units, sorting, cleaning and organizing parts, and photographing gear. Visit the Portland Gear Hub [website](#) or email Brooke at bburkett@campketcha.org FMI.

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FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

E PORTLAND EMPOWERED: SHARED SPACE CAFÉS

Community members are welcome to join in conversations about high school education with parents of current students and school or district staff at one of two upcoming Shared Space Cafés: Building Bridges between Portland Public High Schools and Communities. Dinner, interpretation, and childcare will be provided. The first event will be held at the East End School on Friday, February 6, from 5:30-7:30pm and the second will be at Riverton School on Friday, March 6, from 5:30-7:30pm with the same theme. FMI, contact Pious Ali, (207) 807-4283 or Emily Thielmann, (207) 780-5868.

HEAR STORIES ABOUT “HOME” AT THE TELLING ROOM’S SLANT EVENT

The Telling Room’s next community storytelling event will be held on Thursday, February 12 at Space Gallery in Portland. The theme for this Slant is “Home” and five storytellers will approach it from different angles. Doors open at 7pm and stories begin at 7:30pm. Attendees should arrive early to get a seat at this free public event.

FS IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS SUCCESS

As part of an ongoing project to create community dialogue on economic opportunity and integration, the World Affairs Council of Maine is partnering with the Maine Immigrants’ Rights Coalition to offer events celebrating immigration. On Wednesday, February 25, from 4-6:30pm at the Rines Auditorium of the Portland Public Library, there will be a panel discussion and dialogue on immigrant small businesses and entrepreneurs as a key component of our region’s economy. Panelists will discuss the challenges faced and opportunities for economic impact. Refreshments and networking will follow the discussion. Visit www.wacmaine.org to register for this and other free events.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY’S IRISH ROAD ROVER RACE

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland is hosting the Irish Road Rover Race on Sunday, March 1 in Portland. This annual race through the Old Port raises funds which allow Habitat to keep building homes for Maine families in need. This fun 5K begins and ends at Brian Boru Pub House. All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland. Registration is \$15 with no shirt and \$17 with a shirt or stein. Click [here](#) to register.

H 10TH ANNUAL CARES FOR KIDS RADIOTHON TO BENEFIT THE BARBARA BUSH CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL

Looking for a great way to promote your company’s philanthropic efforts while engaging your employees in a meaningful community event? Become a sponsor of the 10th Annual Cares for Kids Radiothon, March 12-14. Your company will have the opportunity to support The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center, take advantage of the great publicity that this annual event attracts and invite your employees to join in the fun by becoming phone bank volunteers. To learn more about available sponsorship opportunities, please contact Kate Richardson at richak4@mmc.org today!

E BOWL FOR KIDS’ SAKE

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Maine’s annual Bowl for Kids’ Sake is coming in March and April. It’s great fun for workplace and other teams and helps Big Brothers Big Sisters match positive adult role models to children facing adversity, changing their lives for the better, forever. Captains can register a team for \$25 and choose the time and location that works best. Teams fundraise [online](#), using the easy and secure, “friends-asking-friends” feature. FMI, e-mail sue.rowan@somebigs.org or call (207) 773-5437.

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FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

E SAVE THE DATE! PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS' COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR

Portland Public Schools will be hosting a College and Career Fair on Friday, April 3, from 9:30am-1:30pm at the USM Abromson Center and Sullivan Gym. The goal of the event is for employers and postsecondary education partners to showcase their organizations at the event with interactive displays, information booths, discussions during the informational lunch, and/or by participating in career panel discussions with approximately 500 sophomore and junior students from Casco Bay High School, Portland High School, and Deering High School. Local colleges and employers are welcome to register to exhibit at the fair. FMI, click [here](#) or contact Pam Bessey (pbsessey@jmg.org) or Eric Moynihan (emoynihan@jmg.org).

SAVE THE DATE FOR DINNER WITH SLUGGER!

The Portland Sea Dogs' Welcome Back Dinner will be Wednesday, April 8 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Portland Expo. Tickets go on sale Sunday, February 1 and proceeds benefit The Opportunity Alliance. Don't miss the chance to meet and greet the 2015 Portland Sea Dogs team! The event also includes a ballpark-style dinner, live entertainment, autograph and photo opportunities with the team and Slugger, and the first Sea Dogs biscuits of the season! To purchase tickets online, click [here](#).

H CHOCOLATE LOVERS' FLING TO BENEFIT SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE SERVICES OF SOUTHERN MAINE

Tickets are now on sale for SARSSM's 29th Annual Chocolate Lovers' Fling on Sunday, April 12 from 1-4pm at the Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring Street in Portland. This event is a fun way for supporters to celebrate the amazing work that SARSSM does while indulging in an afternoon of chocolate delights. This year's fling will feature chocolate treats handcrafted in Southern Maine, a silent auction full of fabulous finds, and reserved seating for guests. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased [here](#) or by calling (207) 828-1035 ext. 101.

RAPPEL FOR RIPPLEFFECT!

Join nearly 100 intrepid adventurers who will raise \$1000 or more in pledged funds for Rippleffect and earn a ticket to rappel over the edge of One City Center in downtown Portland on Saturday, May 16. Early Registration is open until Friday, February 13. Email Adam Shepherd, adam@rippleffect.net, to join the wait list or click [here](#) FMI. Proceeds will help Rippleffect provide more scholarship opportunities, grow its community-based programs for schools and youth nonprofits, and provide year-round programs that build confidence and leadership skills, strengthen relationships, and grow participants' appreciation for the outdoors through the exploration of Cow Island, Casco Bay, and the New England wilderness.

SAVE THE DATE DAY OF CARING THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015

United Way of Greater Portland's annual Day of Caring is an exciting day when hundreds of volunteers from our community come together to tackle various projects at local nonprofits.

Company Coordinators will receive Day of Caring pre-registration information soon!

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

RESOURCES

LIVE UNITED HIGHLIGHTS

United Way of Greater Portland has been shining the spotlight on the great folks who support our community through United Way. Check out our latest LIVE UNITED highlight to hear a story from [Kimberly](#), a United Way donor and recipient of services from three United Way-funded agencies.

United Way of Greater Portland is on Pinterest! Another snow day? Stuck inside and looking for something fun (and educational!) to do with your kids? Check out our [boards](#) for arts and crafts projects, literacy activities, volunteering ideas, and other inspiration!

KEEP MAINE WARM (ALL WINTER LONG!)

Thank you to everyone who invested time and energy to help Keep ME Warm during this year's WCSH 6 and WLBZ 2 Project Heat Telethon. In 2015, Project Heat raised enough money for [KeepMeWarm.org](#) to warm more than 600 homes!

Keep ME Warm provides emergency heating assistance through a statewide partnership of Maine's United Ways and Community Action Agencies. Donations are distributed through a formula based on federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) percentages and population, and are used to assist individuals directly, or designated to local organizations that provide emergency fuel assistance, including faith-based programs and nonprofit agencies. Keep ME Warm is the only statewide fuel assistance fundraising effort in the state of Maine. [Your support](#) can help our friends and neighbors stay safe and warm in their homes this winter. Those needing information about fuel assistance should call 2-1-1 Maine by dialing 2-1-1.

ASL TAX DAY

Come get your taxes done by volunteer tax preparers on Saturday, February 28. Interpreters and signing tax preparers will be at the offices of Goodwill Industries of Northern New England, 75 Washington Avenue, all day! There is open sign up for slots at 9am, 10:30am, and 12pm. Bring a Social Security card for you and everyone you claim, W2 forms, letters from SSA, pension info, SSDI info, papers from bank about mortgage and accounts, homeowner, self employed, etc. Learn more here. To sign up for FREE 2014 tax prep, please contact Michelle Ames at mames@mcdmaine.org, (207) 766-7111.

FREE TAX PREP RESOURCES

CA\$H Greater Portland, a United Way led initiative, works to help low- and moderate-income Mainers make the most of their money. CA\$H Greater Portland offers free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers, connects residents to financial education resources, and helps families build assets. For more information about CA\$H, contact CASH@Goodwillnne.org or call (207) 699-0753. To find a nearby CA\$H tax prep site, call 2-1-1. MyFreeTaxes also offers free online tax preparation to those with household incomes of less than \$60,000 at www.MyFreeTaxes.com.

PASSPORT TO WINTER FUN!

The WinterKids Passport offers all Maine 5th, 6th, and 7th graders the opportunity to try a new winter sport at 50 participating areas statewide. Activities include downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, tubing, ice skating, and even dog sledding! The Passport is filled with amazing tickets and discounts, valued at over \$1,800 but offered at just \$25! Passport holders also receive discounts at local winter retailers. Visit www.winterkids.org to order a Passport and find upcoming local events this winter.

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PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

Snowy weather may be visually appealing, but a severe winter storm can knock out the power to your home. Because the length of an outage can vary from a few hours to several days, it's important to plan to get by without utilities for at least three days. With winter in full swing, preparation is necessary to stay safe! Here are some [tips to prepare](#) your family for a black out:

- Build an [emergency supply kit](#)
- Make a [family communications plan](#)
- Keep your car's gas tank at least half full at all times
- Know where the manual release lever of your garage door is located and how to operate it

During a black out, it is important to remember to:

- Use only flashlights or emergency lighting, NEVER use candles due to the risk of fires
- Keep one light on so you'll know when power returns
- Conserve your cell phone battery and only use it for life threatening situations
- Put on layers of warm clothing
- Do not use your oven as a heating source.

Being prepared could make the difference between a minor inconvenience and a major emergency. To learn more about how to manage a power outage this winter, visit [America's PrepareAthon!](#)

HELP RECOGNIZE THE SERVICE OF MAINE VOLUNTEERS!

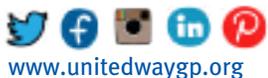
Nominations for the annual Governor's Awards for Service and Volunteerism are due Monday, February 16!

These awards celebrate and honor the exemplary work of Maine's very dedicated citizens.

Awards include:

- › Volunteer of the Year
- › Youth Volunteer of the Year
- › Outstanding National Service Volunteer Award
- › Outstanding Public Sector Volunteer
- › Outstanding Service-learning Practitioner
- › Corporate Volunteerism Award
- › Excellence in Volunteer Administration
- › Small Business Volunteerism Award
- › Outstanding Non-Profit Volunteer Program Award
- › School District Excellence in Service-learning

For more information and to nominate a notable volunteer, [click here](#).



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