HELP PARK DANFORTH PREPARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Park Danforth, a provider of several affordable senior living options, seeks volunteer support with holiday decorating. On Thursday, December 8, a group of volunteers are needed to help fluff the branches of artificial trees and greet and assist residents that come to decorate them. There may be other opportunities for decorating later in the month. FMI, contact Mandy Yates, yatesm@parkdanforth.com.

WRAP GIFTS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB MEMBERS

Local Boys and Girls Clubs seek volunteer support to prepare for two of their annual Holiday Parties during the busy holiday season. On Tuesday, December 13 from 6-8pm a group of volunteers is needed to wrap, label, and set up 60-80 gifts for members of the Riverton Park Clubhouse. On Wednesday, December 14, from 10am-12pm, volunteers are needed to assist with wrapping and labeling of 50 gifts for Sagamore Village Clubhouse members. Volunteers will enjoy music, warm drinks, and donuts or cookies while helping at either clubhouse. To volunteer, contact Tiffanie Panagakos, tpanagakos@bgcmaine.org or (207) 749-4160, by Friday, December 2.

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER FABULOUS FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAY!

On Saturday, November 19, over 60 people gathered with their families at United Way of Greater Portland and the Westbrook Community Center to participate in volunteer projects and give back to their community. Family Volunteer Day is powered by generationOn and sponsored by The Walt Disney Company and is held nationally on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Volunteers of all ages created 50 centerpieces for Wayside Food Program’s Annual Community Thanksgiving, decorated nearly 40 placemats for Southern Maine Agency on Aging’s Community Cafe participants, created appreciation collages for teachers, and illustrated pages for dual language picture books for English Language Learners in the Westbrook. Click here for more pictures!
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS
One-time / Special Event Volunteer & Donation Opportunities

SAVE THE DATE: VOLUNTEER WITH THE PROJECT HEAT TELETHON

Want to help keep your neighbors warm this winter and get 30 seconds of fame? Join WCSH6 on Thursday, January 19, as they host their annual Project Heat Telethon to raise money for Keep ME Warm, Maine’s emergency heating assistance fund. Volunteers are needed to answer phones and process donation information in 4-hour shifts, from 5am-8pm at WCSH6’s office, One Congress Square in Portland, at the corner of High & Congress Streets. (Volunteers will be asked to arrive 30 minutes prior to their shift for training.) FMI, contact Kim Charland, kimberly.charland@wcsh6.com.

BE A GUEST CHEF AT THE RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Enjoy cooking? Serve as a guest chef and prepare a home-cooked meal for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Volunteers provide ingredients and cook a meal for 20-25 guests in the House’s well-equipped kitchen. This is a great service project for a work place, church, family, youth organization, or a group of friends. Please note: group size is limited to 8 participants. Click here FMI or contact Ray Ruby, hmportland@rmhcmaine.org.

THE OPPORTUNITY ALLIANCE’S HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE

Each year The Opportunity Alliance (TOA) reaches out to the community for help with their annual Holiday Gift Drive. Individuals and local businesses sponsor children or individuals in need for the holidays. TOA will provide a detailed wish list OR will accept financial contributions to fill clients’ needs. Gifts should be delivered to TOA’s Family Center at 50 Lydia Lane in South Portland on weekdays between 9am-5pm. The deadline to drop off gifts is Friday, December 9 so TOA staff time have time to distribute gifts before the holidays. To sponsor a client or FMI, contact Kelsea Dunham at kelsea.dunham@opportunityalliance.org or (207) 523-5063.

HELP KEEP PATHS STUDENTS WARM THIS WINTER

Portland Arts and Technology High School’s clothing closet currently seeks donations of new or gently used women’s clothing in all sizes, as well as men’s and women’s winter coats, mittens, gloves, and hats. FMI or to donate, please contact Tina Mikkelsen, mikket@portlandschools.org.

WARM CLOTHES FOR EAST END COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Winter is coming and so is East End Community School’s annual need for winter clothes. Needs span from winter coats, snow boots, snow pants, mittens and hats to wool or warm socks and other warm clothing. All children’s and adult sizes are needed. If interested in hosting a clothing drive to benefit the school community, please contact Susan Wiggin, wiggis@portlandschools.org.

KEEP ME WARM

Did you know? 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. Your support can help our friends and neighbors stay safe and warm in their homes this winter. Those needing fuel assistance should call 2-1-1 Maine by dialing 2-1-1.
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Ongoing / Regularly-Scheduled Volunteer Opportunities

HELP CREATE ASSETS, SAVINGS, AND HOPE WITH CASH GREATER PORTLAND

Join the volunteers who brought over $1.14 million in tax refunds to Greater Portland households last year. Roles are available for intake and asset guides, tax preparers, schedulers, and greeters. No experience necessary. Free training and IRS certification will be provided. Contact Ali AL Dhamen at ali.alldhamen@goodwillnne.org or (207) 699-0753 FMI.

PROVIDE ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR MULTICULTURAL STUDENTS

Nurture young minds and break the cycle of poverty! Portland Housing Authority (PHA) knows young learners need support and guidance in order to develop their skills and build confidence for educational achievement. However, language barriers prevent many parents from being able to provide homework help at home. PHA’s study centers connect students with volunteers who donate two hours a week, providing the homework assistance and aspirational support that students need. PHA offers an orientation, frequent check-ins, and the support of two on-site coordinators to make the volunteer experience as smooth as possible. FMI, contact Azia Gilbert at vista.youth@porthouse.org.

SHARE SKILLS WITH “FIRST INNINGS” STUDENTS

Portland’s Lyseth Elementary School seeks volunteers to help with “First Innings,” a before-school recreational program from 8:15-8:45 am on weekdays. This program offers students opportunities to experience many different activities, including ultimate frisbee, hula hooping, nature journals, arts & crafts, checkers, knitting, etc. Community members interested in sharing a special talent with young children (ages 5-10) should consider volunteering. The commitment can be as little as one morning per week for a three month session. FMI, contact Anne Marie DiMillo at (207) 874-8215 or dimila@portlandschools.org.

HELP REFUGEE & IMMIGRANT CHILDREN AFTER SCHOOL

The Intercultural Community Center (ICC) in Westbrook seeks dedicated volunteers to support students in their Power School Afterschool Program, which provides academic enrichment for children of immigrant and refugee families in the Greater Portland area. Volunteers support students in grades 3-8, helping them with homework in groups or one-on-one as they gain English language fluency and comprehension skills. Power School is held Monday–Thursday from 4-6pm. FMI about volunteering, click here or contact Karen Collins at karencollins101@gmail.com.

MENTOR A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

The Portland Mentoring Alliance is recruiting volunteers to serve as mentors to high school students for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year. Many students who request a mentor are immigrants or refugees and especially benefit from having a native born English-speaking adult assist them during this important time in their lives. The commitment is a minimum of one hour a week during the school year. The program focuses on academic success, post-secondary planning, and socialization as experienced in a one-on-one mentoring relationship. FMI and an application, contact Glenn Nerbak, Nerbak@me.com or call (207) 842-5358.
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
Ongoing/Regularly-Scheduled Volunteer Opportunities

**BECOME A GIRL SCOUT TROOP LEADER**
Be a role model for girls and help them discover their own potential! Work together with other trained adult volunteers to plan troop meetings and activities that bring the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to life while girls discover and try new things, connect with their peers, and take action in their community. To learn more or to volunteer today, click here.

**LIKE TO SEW? SHARE YOUR SKILLS!**
Morrison Center is looking for a volunteer(s) to work on various sewing projects with adults who attend their Adult Community Support Programs. Morrison Center has three different locations - Scarborough, Portland, and Wells - and welcomes volunteers in any or all locations during their program hours on weekdays. If interested or to learn more, please contact Meghan at (207) 883-6680 x1102 or msmith@morrison-maine.org.

**HELP STUDENTS AIM HIGH**
The LearningWorks AIMS HIGH program places teams of dedicated AmeriCorps members in Portland, Windham, Saco, and Biddeford elementary schools to support student academic achievement and social and emotional learning through tutoring, mentoring and extended learning. LearningWorks knows providing targeted academic support to students who most need it can help them achieve their full potential. AIMS HIGH members come from and reflect the diversity of the communities that they serve in and are invested in creating a lasting impact on the lives of each student by engaging their entire community in the learning process. Service roles range from 7 hours per week up to full time service. FMI, click here or contact Ethan Schechter at eschechter@learningworks.me or (207) 517-3130.

---

**United We Thrive Awards**

United Way of Greater Portland will recognize organizations and individuals committed to making a difference in the community at an event in April 2017.

The annual celebration, “United We Thrive,” will show appreciation to the individuals, volunteers, organizations, and community partners that impact Greater Portland and help our community Thrive through their involved with United Way.

Please consider nominating a person or organization for one or more of the awards below. Click here for more information and to view the nomination forms.

**Individual Awards**
- Meg Baxter Give Award
- Bert Andrews Volunteer Award
- UNITED We Thrive Advocacy Award

**Organization Awards**
- UNITED We Thrive Give Award
- UNITED We Thrive Advocacy Award
- UNITED We Thrive Volunteer Award
- UNITED We Thrive Spirit Award

*Organization awards will be divided into categories based on number of employees: Up to 99 employees, 100-249 employees, and 250 or more employees.

**Deadline:**
Please email nomination forms and photos (and any questions) to awards@unitedwaygp.org by December 30.
MORRISON CENTER’S HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR AND POINSETTIA & WREATH SALE

Morrison Center will hold its 8th Annual Holiday Craft Fair and Poinsettia & Wreath Sale on Saturday, December 3 from 9am–2pm. This festive, family-friendly event is free and open to the public. Enjoy 40+ local crafters, a visit from Santa, raffle, bake sale, homemade lunch, and much more! The greenhouses will be open and stocked with poinsettias, wreaths, and other plants. Morrison Center is located at 60 Chamberlain Road in Scarborough. FMI, please call Meghan at (207) 883-6680 x1102.

INTERNATIONAL ARTISAN FAIR AT PARTNERS FOR WORLD HEALTH

Shop for gifts from around the world on Saturday, December 3 from 10am-4pm at Partners for World Health, 2112 Broadway West in South Portland. A large collection of international craft items and local artisan crafts will be offered, including tiles and porcelain from Turkey, pottery from Peru, scarves from Bangladesh, jewelry from all over the world, area rugs from Asia, baskets and leather boxes from Senegal, and much more! Stop by to shop, visit their Medical Supply Distribution Center, and learn more! FMI, call (207) 774-5555.

RUTH’S REUSABLE RESOURCES HOLIDAY INDOOR “YARD” SALES

Ruth’s Reusable Resources will be holding two indoor “yard” sales this holiday season, on Saturdays, December 3 and 10, both from 9am-2pm at their facility at 39 Blueberry Road in Portland. The sales will feature holiday decorations, stocking stuffers, gift items, boxes, bins, and bobbles too! Please bring cash for purchases. FMI, call (207) 699-5565.

MARK-A-THON IS BACK!

Fear not fans, The Center for Grieving Children’s partnership with Mark Curdo, former 94.3 WCYY DJ, continues for another year of Mark-A-Thon thanks to the generosity of Mark, 94.3 WCYY, and Shipyard Brewing! Turn the dial to 94.3 WCYY beginning at noon on Monday, December 5 and listen as Mark plays listeners’ favorite songs from today and yester-year. Call in and make a pledge! For a donation to the Center, Mark will take requests for ANY song—Adele to Zeppelin! Mark is committed to 5 full days on air, sharing personal stories from Center families, volunteers, and staff, as well as hosting special guests and a great online auction.

GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION SERIES

Partners for World Health (PWH) is committed to offering education opportunities for Mainers to learn about issues in global healthcare delivery. Host speakers have spent time in other countries working to improve the quality of and/or access to healthcare. Join PWH on Tuesday, December 6 from 6-8pm at 2112 Broadway West in South Portland for their latest educational event. Board-certified emergency room physician at Mass General Hospital, John Moussally, MD, will speak about Bangladesh and an organization he started called TraumaLink. FMI, call PWH at (207) 774-5555.
FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

**“A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS” PERFORMED BY A COMPANY OF GIRLS (ACOG)**

Don’t miss this holiday favorite! A Company of Girls’ Fledgling girls will be performing “A Charlie Brown Christmas” accompanied by a live jazz trio on **Thursday, December 8** and **Friday, December 9** at 7pm at Mayo Street Arts in Portland. Based on the classic television special, “A Charlie Brown Christmas” is now a live stage play which includes the music of Vince Guaraldi. Tickets are $10 with a suggested donation price of $20 for adults in honor of ACOG’s 20th anniversary. Purchase tickets online [here](#). FMI, call (207) 747-8241 or email susan@acompanyofgirls.org.

**HANNAFORD ASSOCIATES’ HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR**

Support United Way while finding the perfect gift at Hannaford Associates’ 33rd Annual Holiday Craft Fair! The fair will take place on **Saturday, December 10** from 9am-3pm at Keeley Banquet Center, 178 Warren Ave in Portland. All proceeds from table rentals, raffle ticket sales, and special Hannaford bags will be donated to United Way. Refreshments will be available. FMI, please contact Liz Meserve at (207) 885-2506 or Elizabeth.Meserve@delhaize.com.

**RIDE THE POLAR EXPRESS™ THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!**

The Polar Express™ returns to the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum (MNGRR) in Portland for another season of memories! Guests on board this magical train meet the Conductor, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies served by chefs, and listen to a reading of the enchanting story as they journey to the “North Pole.” Santa greets children aboard the train while passengers sing along to carols as they travel back to the train station. Trains depart Portland for the North Pole on select dates through **Friday, December 23**. All tickets for the Polar Express™ are sold through PortTix online [here](#) or by calling their box office at (207) 842-0800.

**SUBWAY RESTAURANTS SUPPORT THE BARBARA BUSH CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL**

Help Subway help kids through the month of December by making a $1 donation to The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital during a visit to Subway. All donors will receive a $1 off coupon for their next foot long sub purchase, all while supporting sick and injured children at Maine’s only children’s hospital. FMI, contact Kate Richardson, Richak4@mmc.org.

**SAVE THE DATE: SALSA FIESTA**

Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic (PRHDR) will be hosting Salsa Fiesta on **Saturday, February 4** from 7-10pm at Avant Ballroom in Westbrook. The event will feature Portland’s local Cuban band, Primo Cubano, salsa lesson and performance, silent auction, photo booth, light refreshments, and bar. Proceeds will support PRHDR and the organization’s effort to promote access to continuous care and health education in the Dominican Republic. Tickets will soon be available on [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com) or by visiting their website at [www.prhdr.org](http://www.prhdr.org). Interested volunteers are also welcome to visit their website for more information.
UNSURE ABOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) OR HOW TO APPLY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE? NEED TO KNOW HOW IT AFFECTS YOU? THE OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR 2017 COVERAGE BEGINS ON NOVEMBER 1, 2016 AND ENDS JANUARY 31, 2017. MEET WITH A HEALTH INSURANCE CERTIFIED ASSISTER AT THE PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY’S MAIN LIBRARY ON FRIDAYS FROM 10AM UNTIL NOON DURING THIS OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD. FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACA HERE. NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY. THIS FREE PUBLIC SERVICE IS OFFERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GREATER PORTLAND HEALTH.

STAY WARM WITH HOME HEATING SAFETY

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), half of all home heating fires occur in December, January, and February. So now is the time to make sure your home heating device is safe, before the weather turns bitter cold. Follow these USFA heating tips to maintain a fire safe home this winter.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from all heat sources, including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters, or candles.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

For more information on how to keep specific heating devices safe, such as a furnace, space heater, kerosene heater, fireplace, or wood stove, visit the USFA’s Heating Fire Safety page.

For more ways to give back, search the Volunteer Greater Portland website! volunteer.unitedwaygp.org