

THE NONPROFIT CONNECTION

News from **HandsOn Northwest North Carolina**



Connection OPPORTUNITIES

December 2009- Vol 2, Issue 12

We're happy to share these items of interest from around our local network. Please e-mail us any opportunities you would like to be featured in future editions! (*The Nonprofit Connection* usually goes out during the first ten days of the month.)

Training OPPORTUNITIES

+ Know someone you think might be a good board candidate? Then let them know about [United Way's Project Blueprint!](#) This eight week leadership development program, that involves one long lunch a week from late January to late March, is seeking diverse candidates who exhibit or have the potential for leadership and show an interest in community involvement. Interested candidates should submit [applications](#) by **January 6th to [Noelle Stevenson](#)**. After participants complete Project Blueprint, United Way of Forsyth County and HandsOn NWNC will work to place graduates in volunteer leadership positions within our community.

+ Check out one of the fantastic classes offered by Duke's Nonprofit Management Certificate program this month! HandsOn NWNC encourages you to attend these sessions by offering a **half-scholarship for individual classes**. Topics coming up this month include grant writing, accounting, leadership and neighborhood planning. (I've personally taken the neighborhood

Dear Amy,

The holiday season is in full swing, and many of us are trying to complete end-of-year plans and reports in the midst of a compressed December schedule. Planning for 2010 has begun even as we look back to see what all of us have accomplished, despite a tough economic year.

Thanks to all of you who came out to our Best Practice Breakfast on November 16th. We were honored to partner with [Wake Forest University's Institute for Public Engagement](#) to bring down David Styers from **BoardSource** for this event. We hosted over **80 people for the breakfast** at Benson University Center, and 30 of those stayed for Styers' Leadership in Tough Times workshop. One of the highlights of the breakfast was **the presentation of the [High Five Award to Samaritan Ministries](#)**, who developed an innovative partnership with **Second Harvest Food Bank of NWNC** to meet the new and overwhelming demand for their services. **Mayor Joines** joined us as well to declare November as [Nonprofit Awareness Month](#) in the city of Winston-Salem. All in all, it was a great event that highlighted the important work that nonprofits do in our community, while providing concrete tools and ideas that we can all use to make our organizations more effective.

This month, we're lucky to welcome [Michelle Bennett](#), our **HandsOn Corps Days of Service AmeriCorps VISTA member** to our team. She'll be working closely with WFU, WSSU and many others in the community to launch the [MLK Day of Service](#) in Winston-Salem, as well as pilot projects for the September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance and National Family Volunteer Day. Right now, she's in the midst of planning a large, community-wide service event that will be part of the **Noonday Celebration**. If you want to know how your organization or group can get involved with MLK Day, or if you know people who are interested in volunteering to make it "A Day On, Not a Day Off," please [contact Michelle](#). I know she'll be interested in talking with you about our plans!

Lastly, we're excited that Karl Yena is back on his feet! Together, we've been able to reschedule the **HandsOn**

class, and it was one of the best classes I took in the Duke program!) I've uploaded a short [summary list](#), and you can check out their website for more [information](#) and [registration](#). Don't forget to fill out a [scholarship form](#), too!

✦ **"Accounting Boot Camp 101: A Series on Nonprofit Financial Management," Ardmore Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, March 18th, 8 am-12 pm.** This workshop, sponsored by the N.C. Center for Nonprofits, NCACPA's Not-for-Profit Committee, and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC, will focus on chart of accounts, profit & loss and balance sheets, accounts payables and receivables, budgeting, Form 990, and compliance. It will end with Q&A. **The Boot Camp is \$10 for NC Center Members and \$50 for non-Members.** Space is limited and registration is first-come, first-served. So, even though it's not until March, you might want to think about [registering today](#)--spaces are already filling up!

Funding OPPORTUNITIES

✦ **Home Depot Building Healthy Communities Grants (Deadline: December 15th!)** Grants, up to \$2,500, are now available to registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, public schools or tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. who are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are made in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools or materials. Click [here](#) for more details.

✦ **Know a young person who is Do(ing) Something good for their community? They could win \$100,000 for their project!** Since 1996, Do Something has honored the nation's best young world-changers. Do Something Award Winners represent the pivotal "doers" in their field, cause, or issue and are rewarded with a huge project grant, participation in a special award ceremony, media coverage, and continued support from Do Something. **In 2010, four winners will receive \$10,000 and one Grand Prize winner will receive \$100,000 towards their organization or cause.** The awards ceremony will take place in spring 2010. Learn more [here](#); **deadline is December 15th.**

Employment

Board Leadership Development session for Monday, Dec. 14th at 9 am at Senior Services. Those who were previously registered have already been contacted about the date change. However, due to the change in plans, we will have a few open slots, so please call Kathy at 724-2866 if you're interested in joining us.

2009 has been an exciting year of growth and change for HandsOn NWNC, and we couldn't have done it without the support of our board, our nonprofit partners and our funders. As we plan for the coming year, please let us know what you'd like to see us offer. We want to make sure that we continue to offer compelling programming that makes it easy to make a difference!

Happy Holidays!

Amy Lytle

Executive Director

Remember to Opt-In to Participate in Give A Day, Get a Disney Day Promotion



We had a great group come together last week to learn more about participating in the **"Give a Day. Get a Disney Day"** promotion. GAD, GADD is designed to celebrate and inspire volunteerism, especially among families and young people. Disney Theme Parks is working with HandsOn Network to connect volunteers to needs within local communities, and thanking those who volunteer for an eligible volunteer opportunity by giving them **a free ticket good for one day admission to any Walt Disney World® or Disneyland® theme park.**

Most of the organizations that already list opportunities with HandsOn NWNC should have their information pre-populated in the [vop.handsonnwnnc.org](#) portal, which will be used when volunteers log in to [disney Parks.com](#) to search for valid opportunities. **However, all organizations will need to opt-in at the [vop.handsonnetwork.org](#) site in order for their opportunities to qualify for the promotion.** Once you've opted-in, all of your opportunities listed in our HandsOn NWNC opportunities portal will automatically be uploaded to the VOP site. I've uploaded a [condensed FAQ sheet](#), and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to give us a call. You can also find training materials and view videos that talk you through the opt-in process [online](#).

NEW! All organizations that opt-in will be eligible to win one of three FREE trips to a Disney park! The trip includes round-trip airfare, three nights in a hotel, and a one-day park pass. But you can't win if you don't opt-in!

OPPORTUNITIES

+ One Economy is recruiting Tax Lab Managers! These are temporary, paid contract positions during the upcoming tax season. It's a great opportunity for people looking for temporary work, and a chance to travel with their job. Qualified candidates would train partners and individuals on income tax preparation using the Beehive Tax Tool. Each manager will drive a One Economy van that serves as a mobile computer lab. The van will be driven throughout the country to provide low-income clients with access to the Internet to file their taxes for free this upcoming tax season.

Please view the [full job description](#) for more information. Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their resume and a cover letter via [e-mail](#).

Other OPPORTUNITIES

+ Volunteer to help low-income individuals and families complete their taxes! Last year, the IRS estimates that Forsyth County taxpayers did not receive over \$8,000,000 in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) for which they were eligible - money that did not come back to our community. Potential volunteers can help in two ways: volunteer Tax Assistors prepare basic tax returns, using Tax Wise online software and Intake Coordinators/Greeters welcome clients, help them complete an intake questionnaire and make sure they have all the documents they need. Individuals don't need to be a math person - the software does the math. All that is needed are computer, typing and logical thinking skills. Click [here](#) to gain more information about becoming a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or volunteer or contact [Shirley Abdullah](#) at 722-9400, ext. 450.

+ Got a great tech firm? Let us know! In the next month, we'll be launching a new technology resources page on our website. We want to help nonprofits find reputable technology vendors that have experience working with the unique needs, budget and decision-making processes of nonprofits! Especially for small nonprofits that cannot afford in-house IT help, this list can be a starting place for finding quality help, fast. [E-mail your recommendations to Amy](#) and

You can view some of the TV commercials currently airing to promote this program, by checking out [Disney Park's website](#).

Create a Project In Honor of MLK Day!

As part of our **2010 MLK Day of Service** celebration, HandsOn NWNC is looking to partner with local organizations, civic clubs, churches, neighborhoods and schools to create service opportunities in the spirit of Dr. King's legacy of service. **These projects can take place anytime after the 2010 MLK Day of Service on January 18th and throughout February's Black History Month.** If your organization has an idea for a project that could be completed in that timeframe or know of a group that might want to volunteer for a project, please contact [Michelle](#). We're excited to see what ideas might be out there!



NEWS YOU CAN USE

Mileage Reimbursement Rate Lowered for 2010!

The IRS has lowered the deductible mileage rates for vehicle use, effective **January 1st!** The standard mileage rate for business purposes - including for nonprofit employees - will decrease to **50 cents per mile (from 55 cents)**. The deduction rate for volunteers remains at 14 cents per mile. Unlike the other rates, the volunteer rate can only be changed by an act of Congress (as compared to an IRS policy adjustment.) The NC Center and other national nonprofits continue to advocate for Congress to eliminate this unequal treatment of volunteers.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Complete Salary Survey to Help Us All Out!

Last month, most of you should have received an emailed **salaries and benefits survey for NC nonprofits**, conducted by the NC Center for Nonprofits and Bluewater Nonprofit Solutions.

Even though HandsOn NWNC recently purchased state-wide salary data for use by our network of nonprofits, we believe that the Center's survey, once complete, will provide more comprehensive data that will allow nonprofits to do a much more accurate salary comparison, as required by the new changes to the 990.

Included will be:

thank you for helping out your fellow nonprofits!

HandsOn JOIN / GIVE NOW

HandsOn NWNC invites nonprofits to financially support our mission to build the capacity of local nonprofits and increase volunteerism. In exchange for a minimum \$50 donation, our Supporting Partners receive a variety of discounts on our program offerings and other special opportunities, that can lead to savings as great as **\$800 per year!** Vendors and consultants who work with nonprofits are also encouraged to become Supporting Partners. [Join HandsOn and Become a Supporter](#)

- Information by field, budget size, staff size, and region of the state
- Online and searchable
- Many job titles with descriptions
- Discount if you complete your survey

However, the data will only be as good as the nonprofits that participate! Please complete the survey today, or [log on now](#) to provide your information! (In the meantime, if you'd like to use the data we have, contact [Kathy](#).)

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Accountability Report on State-Funded Nonprofits!

Last month, the **General Assembly's Program Evaluation Division** released its [report](#) on state agency oversight of nonprofit grantees. The report recommends that the General Assembly:

- Require performance-based contracts with reporting requirements comparing nonprofits' actual outputs and outcomes against benchmarks in their contracts;
- Emphasize competitive grants rather than direct appropriations to nonprofits;
- **Allow state agencies to withhold up to 2% of grant awards to fund their oversight of nonprofits;** and
- Automatically stop payments to nonprofits on the Suspension of Funding list.

While most of these changes would provide greater clarity to nonprofits and improve nonprofit accountability, the proposal to let state agencies withhold part of nonprofits' grants would take money away from nonprofits' mission-related work. The NC Center for Nonprofits is working to educate the General Assembly on how nonprofits would be affected if they lost 2% of their state funding--[let them know](#) how you would be affected today!

We Make it Easy to Make a Difference!

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