

Volunteer Alexandria Volunteer Times

Get Ready for the Holidays!

November 2015

**Celebrating
35 Years
of Service**

In This Issue

[Where and How to Give Back for the Holidays](#)

[Family Volunteer Day](#)

[Events and News \(Welcome Rae\)](#)

[Connecting Volunteers with Community Needs](#)

[Training and Networking Opportunities for Nonprofits](#)

[Emergency Preparedness](#)

[RSVP and 55+ Corner](#)

Where and How to Give Back for the Holidays

The holiday season offers great opportunities for families, groups, and individuals, six years and older, to give back to our community and support those who need a little extra help. Volunteer Alexandria partners with numerous organizations to provide those opportunities for you. Click [HERE](#) or visit www.volunteeralexandria.org, enter the word **HOLIDAY** in the search field, and a list of opportunities will be populated. Opportunities such as delivering and picking up toy bins, collecting toys, assisting families with toy shopping, ringing bells, wrapping books, and visiting with home-bound people, are available. There is something for everyone!



[Return to Top](#)

Family Volunteer Day - Get Ready!

Kick off the holiday season by volunteering with your family!

Volunteer Alexandria is hosting a Family Volunteer Day on November



Volunteer Alexandria
HANDS ON NETWORK

123 N. Alfred Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703-836-2176

Upcoming Community Events

November 6 - [Helping Friends of Guest House Benefit](#)

November 7 - [SCAN's Toast to Hope](#)

November 7 - [YoKid's Planks & Pints](#)

November 12 - [Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria - Volunteer Recognition Event](#)

November 14 - [ALIVE's Empty Bowls Event](#)

November 15 - [US National Road Race 12K](#)

November 18 - [Women & Wine](#)

November 22 - [Carpenter's Shelter Run for Shelter](#)

November 16-December 15 - [Holiday Community Toy Drive](#)

December 18 and 19 - [Holiday Community Toy Drive Sorting and Distribution](#)

THIS and THAT

Our online volunteer recruitment and management database is free for all registered nonprofits to use and offers a variety of ways to recruit and manage volunteers.

One feature that we love is the ability to create opportunities that are only available to individuals

21, 2015, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. (the Saturday before Thanksgiving) to start the holiday season with a day of compassion and caring. We are inviting families with kids ages 6-12 to join us in a day of service. A variety of arts and crafts projects will be offered that will benefit children, seniors, and animals. Sign your family up [HERE](#) to attend. Please use the 'Register as a team' function and create a team with all family members attending so that we have an accurate count of attendees!



Family Volunteer Day is powered by generationOn, sponsored by Disney Friends for Change, and hosted by Volunteer Alexandria for YOU in Alexandria.

[Return to Top](#)

Volunteer Alexandria's Events and News

Join Us to Celebrate Your Volunteers

Outstanding volunteers will be celebrated! Join us on Thursday evening from 6:00-8:30 p.m. for wine, beer, and great food provided by Tempo, King Street Blues, Alexandria Cupcake, Bastille, Dishes of India, Wegmans, and Whole Foods Old Town. More than 75 auction items including vacation homes, wine, restaurant gift certificates, paintings and prints, jewelry, and pet items will be available. Click [HERE](#) for the auction list. Tickets are \$20 and can be [purchased here](#).

The 2015 Awardees are: **Eugene Steuerle** is the awardee of the Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Achievement Award for his work with the Alexandria Community Trust. **Susanne Arnold** and **Steve Nearman** are the recipients of the Joan White Grassroots Volunteer Award - Susanne for her work with ALIVE! and St. Rita's Church and School, and Steve for his work with the Child and Family Network Centers. **Isabella Lovain** is the awardee of the Youth Volunteer Service Award for her work with TC Williams and the Alexandria Democratic Committee.



For more details on the awardees, click [HERE](#). To see the fantastic finalists, click [HERE](#).

We Met the Challenge!

with a unique invitation code! This means your nonprofit can host private volunteer events on our website that only your volunteers can sign up for! For more information on how to use this feature, please contact Sami Smyth at ACS@volunteerallexandria.org.

OUTCOMES

ReadyNOVA recently provided Volunteer Alexandria with 500 go-kits and 300 flashlights to distribute to the Alexandria community to encourage Alexandrians to BE PREPARED.

Throughout the month of October, disaster volunteers distributed all 500 go-kits and 300 flashlights at various farmers markets throughout the City and the local Boys and Girls Club.

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Whole Hearted



Heart Beat

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The Goodhart Group
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Heart Warming

Carrie Apfel & Craig Fisher
Diane Charles & Kevin Grim
Federal Professional Solutions
Emily & Brian Jones
Cyndi Lake
Stephanie Landrum
JoAnn Maldonado
Ann & Joseph Shumard
Katharine & Peter Smeallie
Speck-Caudron

This year, more than 125 Alexandria kindergarten and first grade students will have a tutor for the full school year, thanks to the willingness of Alexandrians like YOU to sign up to tutor once or twice a week through the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium. Without your dedication, some students would not have a tutor to help them reach their benchmarks. *"It's amazing that, together, we have met the challenge of providing 125 ACPS kindergartners and first graders with a tutor to read to the children twice a week, but more so, it is just outstanding that they (VolAlex) recruited them by early October"*, says Gwen Mullen, Executive Director, Alexandria Tutoring Consortium. *"This means that by the end of the school year, the children can be tutored more hours, resulting in a greater percentage of them learning the literacy skills they will need to learn to read. We couldn't have done it without them and we hope our partnership continues for years to come."* There is still a need for volunteers to serve as substitutes or fill in as necessary. If you would like more information, please sign up [HERE](#).

Art on the Avenue

On a beautiful fall day, Volunteer Alexandria and 20 volunteers as young as 13, participated in the Art on the Avenue community event. Volunteers assisted attendees in creating more than 250 scarecrows that were then taken home by families.



Meet the Millennials at Volunteer Outreach Event at Potomac Yards

Twenty-seven nonprofit organizations supporting and serving children, youth, adults, and seniors came out to meet the residents at Potomac Yards. This event was hosted by Volunteer Alexandria and sponsored by Potomac Yard TMP with the support of [Pork Barrel BBQ](#), [Sweet Fire Donna's BBQ](#), [Rocklands Barbeque and Grilling Company](#), and [CommonwealthOne Federal Credit Union](#). Thank you all for making this a great event!

Nonprofits that attended remarked that "I thought the event was a great way to meet new people from the city" and that it was a "great idea! Loved being exposed to some new people."



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Meet Rae, our Newest Team Member

Rae Blauman took the position of Graphic Designer & Administrator. Rae has a varied background in design, with experience in fine arts, graphic design, photography, interior design, and architecture. Hailing originally from Seattle, Washington, Rae graduated from Cornish College of the Arts in 2008 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design. She is currently pursuing a Master's of Urban Planning at Virginia Tech's Alexandria campus, where she also provides graphic design support for the Urban Planning department. Rae lives in Alexandria with her two rescue kitties, Gin and Tonic, and is an outspoken advocate for animal rights and welfare. **We are very excited that Rae joined our team!**

[Return to Top](#)

Connecting Volunteers with Opportunities to Give

Volunteer Alexandria, in partnership with the Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services, is implementing the **25th Annual Community Toy Drive** to support more than 300 families and 700 children. **BE PART OF IT** by donating toys. This opportunity is great for any work place, public place, holiday party, etc. **THANK YOU** to the many groups who have placed bins at their businesses, congregations, and organizations. Visit our [website](#) to find a drop-off place near you.

All volunteers, regardless of their skills and experiences, are a valuable asset to our community. They read to children and seniors, take care of animals, remove invasive plants from our parks, deliver meals to home-bound people, teach math and science, serve as tour guides for visitors, answer phones, and much more. **It's easy!** Please let the agency know that you received this opportunity from Volunteer Alexandria, your connection to helping others. For a complete list of ongoing needs in the community, visit our [website](#). Need more help? **Call us at 703-836-2176.**

Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services - Holiday Sharing Family Gift Distribution. Check-in sponsors and organize bundles of gifts so that they can be easily located. Check-out families who come in to pick up bundles. Help load the bundles in the parents' transportation home. Provide transportation for families if needed. Call to remind sponsors who have not brought in scheduled gifts and parents who have not picked up gifts. Spanish speakers encouraged. Sign up [HERE](#).

Alexandria Police Foundation - US 12K National Road Race. Volunteers are needed for various positions with the US 12K National Road Race held in the city of Alexandria on Sunday, November 15, 2015. Sign up [HERE](#).

The Art League - Special Events Volunteer. Volunteers who love social interaction and flexible scheduling will enjoy helping at one of the many special events that take place during the year. Assist with hands-on art activities, greet visitors, bartending (age 21+), and more. Express interest [HERE](#).

The Campagna Center - New Neighbors Childcare Program. Our New Neighbors English Language Learners program is in need of two adults to babysit children whose parents are serviced by the



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program. Volunteers will read to the children, play with the children, and keep them engaged. Express interest [HERE](#).

Neighborhood Health - Pharmacy Volunteer. The Pharmacy Volunteer will be responsible for admin work including: phone calls and assisting in patient case management. To aid in patient case management, volunteers must be proficient Spanish speakers. Express interest [HERE](#).

UpCycle Creative Reuse Center - Public Relations Specialist. A public relations specialist consults and manages UpCycle's marketing plan, updates our social media sites and web-page, and provides press releases to the media and listservs. Express interest [HERE](#).

Volunteer Alexandria - Event Volunteers. 11/12/15. We are looking for volunteers to assist with our event, **Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria**. Volunteers will assist with set up, registration, greeting guests, the silent auction, and more. Volunteers are invited to enjoy the event before or after their shift. Sign up [HERE](#). Bartenders are also needed, sign up [HERE](#).

Welcome to 325 new registered volunteers interested in helping out our communities!

[Return to Top](#)

Information & Training Opportunities for Agencies

Volunteer Alexandria's next roundtable workshop will be in January 2016 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. Stay tuned for details and topic.

Twenty Hats - Led by Elisa Kosarin, a nonprofit professional with 20 years of experience in marketing, development, and volunteer management, Twenty Hats is devoted to helping volunteer managers and other nonprofit professionals master the skills they need to make their jobs easier - and wear those hats with confidence. Check out what they can do for YOU!

The Center for Nonprofit Success is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide the training, knowledge, and resources to help nonprofit leaders succeed. The next session will be on Program Evaluations on November 17, 2015 at the CFED Conference Center at 1200 G Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration Fee: \$135 [Register HERE](#). E-mail Georgette Koshko, gkoshko@cnfps.org with questions.

For training opportunities in Fairfax, click [HERE](#).
[Return to Top](#)

Emergency Preparedness - Training and Opportunities

Shelter Fundamentals Class

On Saturday, October 17, in coordination and collaboration with the American Red Cross, Volunteer Alexandria hosted a Shelter Fundamentals class facilitated by one of our disaster volunteers, Donald White. A total of 17 participants, representing the City of Alexandria, Community Emergency Response team (CERT), George



THANK YOU!

Quick Links

Find a [Volunteer Opportunity](#)



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Ways to Support Volunteer Alexandria

What Can You Do?

- Attend our events.
- Volunteer for our events.
- Volunteer in our office.
- Donate a box of copy paper.
- Become a committee member to help the agency grow.
- Like us on Facebook to boost our visibility.
- Make a financial contribution.

Do you shop at Amazon.com? If so, visit smile.amazon.com, log in and select **Volunteer Alexandria** as your favorite charity. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to us. This is a great way to support Volunteer Alexandria while you shop.

EAT BURGERS and support US while doing so!!! Holy Cow Del Ray proudly contributes 25¢ of every burger sold to us. Mention 69 or Volunteer Alexandria when you purchase your burger.

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Mason University, and Volunteer Alexandria disaster volunteers, received a certificate of completion from the Red Cross. Congratulations to everyone!



American Red Cross Shelter Fundamentals class – Volunteer Alexandria Emergency Response Team
Alexandria Community Emergency Response Team – Saturday, October 17, 2015



Volunteer Alexandria Distributes Free Emergency Go-Kits

Disaster volunteers distributed more than 500 go-kits at the West End and Arlandria Farmers Markets, and at the Dunbar Alexandria-Olympic Boys & Girls Club. More than 160 students, ages 6 and up, received training on how to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Different age groups completed various activities and, at the end, they received a free emergency preparedness go-kit.

Do you want to be part of Volunteer Alexandria's disaster preparedness family? Please [click HERE](#) for more information.

[Return to Top](#)

55+ Corner/RSVP Northern Virginia

Dear Northern Virginia residents age 55 and up. **THIS is your invitation to serve!** Register for a one-time, one-hour RSVP Orientation to learn about current volunteer opportunities, RSVP member benefits, and volunteer policies. Call the RSVP Volunteer Specialist at 703-403-5360 for any details or questions. Click a date below to register online.

Upcoming RSVP NV Orientations:

Thur. Nov. 12, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. (Reston Regional Library - Reston)

RSVP- Northern Virginia is currently in need of volunteers to support our neighbors as they age within our community. Our community is in dire need of support to help our local volunteer transportation programs as they help our home-bound seniors. There are various administration support and volunteer driver positions that can be filled. If you are interested in learning how to help at Mt. Vernon at Home, please click [HERE](#).

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Present A 2015/16 Speaker Series Event

Find Your Passions: Leaving Your Legacy

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
9:30 a.m.-Noon

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria, VA

Do you like working with youth? Are you crazy about animals? Is protecting the environment important to you? Come hear from local non-profits about exploring your passions, find out how you can get involved and the different ways to leave a legacy.

Special Guest David Speck of Speck-Caudron Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors will discuss how to leave a legacy that fits your passion and lifestyle.

Light refreshments will be served. This event is FREE and open to the public!

RSVP online at www.seniorservicesalex.org or call (703) 836 4414 ext. 110.

[Return to Top](#)

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

Office/Special Events Volunteers

Janine Beatty, Charade Ester, Betty Gentile, Michelle LeFrancois, Jennifer Martin, Donna Wilson

Skills-Based Volunteers

Mildy Briones, Katherine Dinkins, Lea Foster, George Frederick, Paula Greer, Jennifer Johnson, Amber Medin, Julie Sun, Taryn Wilkinson

Pro Bono Services

Jennifer Ayers, [JL Ayers Consulting](#)
[Black Rock Group](#)
Sue Browning, [Copy Book Consulting, LLC](#)
Elisa Kosarin, [Twenty Hats](#)

Thank you for all your contributions and commitment to our community!

Marion Brunken
Executive Director