

The Volunteer Gazette

A publication of Volunteers of America Ohio River Valley



Our Mission

Through our ministry of service, we help people who are least served by others meet basic unmet needs to become empowered, self-sustaining contributors.

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High School Action Teams

Cincinnati Reds Players Share Views on Volunteerism

Two Cincinnati Reds players put down their gloves before the Sept. 17 ballgame to talk with high school students about the importance of volunteering and becoming involved in their communities.

Reds players Javier Valentin and David Weathers met with Cincinnati high school Action Team Captains from Elder and Seton High Schools and Action Team Captains from Indianapolis at the Great American Ball Park.

“In life, there is so much more than you and what you want,” Weathers told the students. “That’s what volunteering is all about, forgetting about your own needs and your own self to better someone else’s life.”

The experience of meeting with the Cincinnati Reds players and taking a tour of the ball park was part of an annual Action Team training session conducted by Volunteers of America and the Major League Baseball Players Trust.



Cincinnati Reds Players Javier Valentin and David Weathers talk to students about volunteerism.

“In life, there is so much more than you and what you want. That’s what volunteering is all about, forgetting about your own needs and your own self to better someone else’s life.”

David Weathers, Cincinnati Reds

While at the training, the Action Teams participated in a public speaking course presented by Fran Kick of Kick It In. The students also participated in team building exercises and shared information and ideas on volunteering.

The Action Team program encourages young people throughout the United States to volunteer in their communities. Action Teams, consisting of Major League Baseball players and Team Captains from area high schools, work together in cities nationwide to encourage young people to get involved in their communities by volunteering.

To date, high school Action Teams across the country have inspired more than 12,000 high school students to help more than 55,000 people in need by volunteering in their communities.



New Housing for Developmentally Disabled Adults

Clinton Springs Apartments Now Open

Newly built from the ground up and professionally staffed by employees of Volunteers of America Ohio River Valley, the Clinton Springs Apartments provide independent living in a secure, fully accessible building to individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities (MR/DD).

“Adults with MR/DD are living longer than ever before,” said Chris Lohrman, president and CEO of Volunteers of America Ohio River Valley.

“Due to frailty or chronic illness, aging family members often lose their capacity to provide care or support for their adult children with

MR/DD, and the older adults with MR/DD themselves may outlive their primary family support system,” Lohrman said.

“As adults with MR/DD age, they need a safe place where they receive individualized support and have the ability to live a happy, productive life in the community with friends.”

Clinton Springs Apartments, located at 3816 Reading Road, Cincinnati, consists of three 2-bedrooms and two 1-bedroom apartments.

The residence offers a convenient one floor construction with central air, wheelchair accessibility, laundry facilities, off-street parking, fully equipped kitchens, and 24-hour emergency management and maintenance.

Clinton Springs Apartments is one of 16 residences for adults with MR/DD provided by Volunteers of America Ohio River Valley in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. On a national level, Volunteers of America is the largest provider of supportive housing in the country.

For more information about Clinton Springs Apartments or other residences in Ohio and Northern Kentucky, please call Heidi Thomas at 859-372-5600.



Community Integration Services

Fort Thomas Christian Church Hosts Dinner Party



Members of the Fort Thomas Christian Church in Fort Thomas, Kentucky hosted a dinner party for nine residents who reside in VOAORV's Bordeaux Apartments. The church members served lasagna and salad, along with homemade desserts.

“I love it when they come here,” said Donna, a resident whose apartment was where the dinner was held. “I like company and it means I don't have to cook for myself.”

After dinner, residents shared stories with their hosts about their jobs, their friends, and their families.

Community Correctional Centers

Hope For A Better Life Is Renewed When Father Locates Son

When Emmett was released from prison, he entered VOAORV's McMahon Hall Correctional Center in Dayton, Ohio as a pre-requisite to his being released into the community. Things looked bleak for Emmett. He needed to find work, a place to live, and hope that someone cared enough about him to help.

As all residents who are admitted into treatment, Emmett received an assessment for drug and alcohol as well as an individualized treatment plan. He worked hard to complete all his objectives within his treatment plan so he could be discharged successfully from our program.

Emmett found the help he needed from VOAORV's correctional treatment program, but he desperately wanted to reconcile with the son he had not seen nor heard from in more than 10 years.

After contacting several family members, Emmett finally located his son. They rekindled their broken relationship over telephone conversations as Emmett completed his treatment.

When the day arrived for Emmett to leave McMahon Hall, his son had secured his father a place to live, and Emmett found steady employment.

“This program is a real help and teaches you a lot about yourself, said Emmett. “My life will be better now that I know what I've been missing.”



Awards Luncheon Honors Unsung Heroes

Volunteers of America Ohio River Valley hosted its Second Annual Booth Spirit Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008 at The Cintas Center to honor individuals and organizations that perform outstanding service in building safe and healthy communities. More than 300 guests attended the Luncheon to honor the award recipients.

Receiving awards were:

Corporate: The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, Don Hoffman, president.

Law Enforcement: (1) Capt. Howard Niemeier, Administration Division Commander, Newport Police Department, and (2) Cincinnati Citizens Police Academy for the Hearing Impaired – Officer Kathy Newsom, Capt. Paul Broxterman, Clerk Monica Ervin, Sgt. Thomas Tanner, and Sgt. Lisa Crisafi - Cincinnati Police Department.

Media: David G. Miller, publisher, Loveland Magazine.com.

Community Organization: (1) New Beginnings Community Church of Dayton, KY, Marvin Knobloch, Pastor, and (2) Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati, Bob Moore, Director.

Greater Cincinnati Volunteer: Mrs. Susan Young and Mr. John “Tad” Lawrence.

Mayor’s Choice Award: Mr. Eddie Leonard

Jan Powell, Chairman of VOAORV’s Board of Trustees, said each of the award recipients recognized this year demonstrated continuing and unswerving dedication to making communities healthy and strong.

“The awards come with our deepest gratitude for all they’ve done – and continue to do – for the safety and health of our communities,” Powell said.

Mr. Dan Hurley, Director of Leadership Cincinnati and producer/host of the Sunday morning broadcast “Newsmakers” emceed the luncheon. Cincinnati Police Chief Lt. Col. Tom Streicher was the keynote speaker.



Dan Hurley presents the Media Award to David Miller, publisher of Loveland Magazine.com.

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Mayor Mark Mallory presents Eddie Leonard with the Mayor's Choice Award.



Board member Jon Simons presents Bob Moore the Community Organization Award on behalf of Interfaith Hospitality Network.



Lt. Col. Tom Streicher speaks about community safety.



Susan Young gives her acceptance speech for the Greater Cincinnati Volunteer Award presented by Board Member Dan Wernke.



Capt. Howard Niemeier receives the Law Enforcement Award from Lt. Col. Tom Streicher.



Rev. Marvin Knobloch accepts the Community Organization Award on behalf of New Beginnings Church of Dayton, Ky.

Booth Spirit Awards



Members of the Cincinnati Citizens Police Academy for the Hearing Impaired accept the Law Enforcement Award.



Tad Lawrence gives an acceptance speech for the Greater Cincinnati Volunteer Award.



Don Hoffman accepts the Corporate Award on behalf of The Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati from Mr. Dan Hurley.

2009 Award Nominations

Public Invited to Submit Nominations for 2009 Booth Spirit Awards

Purpose of the Awards

To honor individuals, organizations and businesses who work diligently to help make Greater Cincinnati and/or Northern Kentucky communities a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

Date of Nomination Submissions

Beginning February 1, 2009, and ending April 15, 2009, nominations are open for the Booth Spirit Awards in the following five categories:

- Corporate Representative
- Legal/Law Enforcement Representative
- Media Representative or Outlet
- Greater Cincinnati Volunteer
- Community Organization

Nomination Forms

All award nominations must be submitted with a Booth Spirit Awards Nomination Form, located online at www.voarv.org, or call VOAORV at 513-381-1954 to have a nomination form mailed or emailed to you.



Volunteers of America
Ohio River Valley

www.voarv.org

or call

513-381-1954

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Going for the Medal . . . First Annual Harmony Games

VOAORV held its first annual special olympics Harmony Games on Saturday, October 11, 2008. Thirty-two developmentally disabled adults competed for first, second and third place medals in games that included wheelchair races, beanbag toss, baseball hit, basketball shoot-off, tug-of-war, 50-yard walk, pie eating contest, and Frisbee throw.

A fried chicken luncheon was provided to all attendees by the sponsor of the event, The First Church of Christ in Burlington, Kentucky. After lunch, a dance was held with music provided by Dunsing Entertainment. Items for the games were donated by Wal-Mart Stores. Twenty-seven volunteers gave up their Saturday to help with the event.



Basketball Shoot-off. Tom knew he would win the basketball shoot-off. He is just that good!



Pie Eating Contest. Spectators enjoyed the contest as much as the participants.



Winners Circle. Julia proudly shows her winning medal and ribbon.



Tug of War. Both teams were determined they weren't going down!



Dancing. Game participants and volunteers do the Chicken Dance to the sounds of Dunsing Entertainment.



Volunteers. All of our volunteers worked to make the Harmony Games a success. They set up the event, passed out programs, brought and delivered plates of food, and cleaned up after the event. We are very grateful for all their help!



High School Action Teams
The 2009 Action Team Captains from Seton and Elder High Schools assisted at the registration table and helped participants in the games.



Electric Wheelchair Races. Competitors practiced before the races began so they could outrun their opponents.



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Join Us For Our First Annual
3K Walk

on Saturday, May 16, 2009
at Newport on the Levee!

Details available on our website at
www.voaorv.org or call 513-381-1954.

Proceeds benefit VOAORV's programs for adults with
developmental disabilities.

All schools, church groups and families are welcome to participate!



Volunteers of America

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