

A Handbook of
Volunteer Opportunities for
High School
Students in Darien
2005/2006



The Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County is a United Way agency
62 Palmer's Hill Road, Stamford, CT 06902
Tel: 203-348-7714 Fax: 203-967-9507 www.ucanhelp.org

VOLUNTEERING

“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.”

~ Winston Churchill

Thank you for your interest in volunteering. Sharing your time and talents is a valuable contribution to your community. We hope you get as much from your volunteer experience as those you serve.

Benefits of Volunteering

- Feels good
- Learn a new skill
- Meet interesting people
- Gain a new perspective on things
- Be a part of a team
- Caring is contagious
- It is FUN!

Seeking a Volunteer Position

- Phone the nonprofit agency and ask to speak with the volunteer coordinator.
- Let the volunteer coordinator know how you found out about their volunteer opportunity.
- Describe your interest in volunteering and your availability (schedule).
- Give a brief description of your skills, work history or previous volunteer experience.
- Ask to meet with the volunteer coordinator to learn more about the volunteer position.

Volunteer Tips

- Nonprofits rely on their volunteers. Please let your agency contact know if you are unable to volunteer or if your schedule changes.
- No task is meaningless. Tasks such as stuffing envelopes or making photocopies are a big help to staff members. Your willingness to help with any task is much appreciated.
- Please be open to training.
- Please be prepared to observe confidentiality rules.
- Have FUN!

OPPORTUNITIES WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Boys & Girls Club of Stamford: 347 Stillwater Avenue, Stamford

Contact: Melissa Baxendale: 324-0594

Volunteers are welcome to help the children with homework assistance, tutoring, and assisting with arts and crafts, music, technology, games and team sports. In addition, individuals can volunteer to be Youth Development Specialists and take responsibility for assisting with the administration of programs for a group of young people to foster the mission of inspiring and enabling them to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Bruce Museum: 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich

Contact: Gloria Fitzsimons: 869-6786 Ext. 317

There are many fun and stimulating ways to participate at the Bruce Museum. Youth volunteers help children with arts and crafts at special family events. They learn to conduct gallery tours as junior educators or—in summer—assist the Seaside Center Naturalist at Greenwich Point.

Challenger League: Darien

Contact: Lynn Gagliardi: 656-1612 or Betsy Santos-Buch 655-5090

Volunteer opportunities in the Challenger League are for buddies. Buddies must be in grades 9 through 12. The winter program runs from January through April, every Saturday at Town Hall from 10:00 am to 11:00am. Spring program runs during the Little League season, which is late April through mid-June. Spring practices are every Saturday, games every Sunday. Practice is 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Games are 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Buddies are paired with special needs children who are interested in learning how to play baseball. They work one on one with a particular child.

Darien Historical Society, Inc.: 45 Old Kings Highway, North, Darien

Contact: Susan Bhirud: 655-9233

The Society presents after-school workshops once a month (October—April) for elementary school children. High school students act as assistants.

Darien Nature Center: 120 Brookside Road, Darien

Contact: Lynn Hamlen: 655-7459 Ext. 26

Students can train to become counselors in the Nature Center's summer nature programs.

The Depot: P.O. Box 2381, Darien

Contact: Janice Wiltshire: 655-0812

Volunteers can help with the numerous events and programs at the Depot Teen Center including Band Nights and Celebrity Chef Nights.

Domestic Violence Crisis Center of Norwalk/Stamford:

5 Eversley Avenue, Norwalk and 141 Franklin Street, Stamford

Contact: Susan Delaney: 965-0049

The Crisis Center would like volunteers to work with children in the office while mothers are receiving group services, attending counseling sessions, doctor's appointments, and going for job interviews. Volunteers should be willing to commit to two hours a week and enjoy working with children. Volunteers will receive a 20-hour certification training program which is required by the state of Connecticut. The DVCC provides this training twice a year in the fall and spring.

Family & Children's Agency, Inc., Junior Project Friendship Program:

9 Mott Avenue, Norwalk

Contact: Sheri Richards: 299-1532 Ext. 302

This is a great opportunity for teens to mentor a child. The program matches children ages 6 to 12 with high school juniors and seniors who spend two to three hours each week with the child they are mentoring. Activities range from going to the movies, playing in the park, baking cookies to just walking and talking. The teens do need to have a drivers license to participate. The program nurtures a child's self-esteem, promotes caring for others and expands horizons. Mentors have the chance to be positive role models and make a real difference in the life of a child.

George Washington Carver Center: 7 Academy Street, Norwalk

Contact: Shannon Sullivan: 838-4305

Help at the Carver Center's CASPER Club with after-school activities. Help elementary school children with homework. Recreational activities and arts and crafts. If you are computer savvy, there is a real need for tutoring in the Computer Lab where you can share your skills with young students. Help is needed Monday through Friday from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. The Center also has special events throughout the year. Call to find out dates and times.

Kids in Crisis: One Salem Street, Cos Cob

Contact: Jamie Dorman 622-6556 or email jdorman@kidsincrisis.org

Volunteer as part of Kids in Crisis' Youth Corps, whose mission is to involve youth in decision making and community leadership roles for the betterment of young people in lower Fairfield County. Serve as high school liaisons to help represent Kids in Crisis within your high school and be an advocate for children and their families. Help develop programming and events for children. Volunteers must attend two meetings a month.

Liberation Programs.: Stamford

Contact: Ann Isaacson: 851-2077 x105

Volunteers are needed to help provide child care for infants and children at Families in Recovery Program at 141 Franklin Street while mothers are in counseling sessions: mornings, afternoons and early evenings. Plan and execute a holiday party for 8 mothers and 10 children at the Families in Recovery Program. Prepare simple refreshments for a Sunday afternoon gathering of residents and their families at Liberation House on Main Street.

St. Luke's LifeWorks: 141 Franklin St., Stamford

Contact: Wally Frey: 388-0175 or wfrey@stlukeslifeworks.org

Students age 15 and up can serve as monitors at the "Bright Space" children's recreation area.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children: 303 West Avenue, Norwalk

Contact: Melissa McAteer: 899-0606 Ext. 240

Do you enjoy sailing boats and making kites with children while meeting new people? Stepping Stones Museum for Children could use your help with a variety of programs and projects including arts and crafts activities, birthday parties, special events like family sleepovers and much more. In return, Stepping Stones volunteers obtain valuable job skills, college and employment recommendations and the knowledge that they've made a difference in their community. Join the 100+ Stepping Stones youth volunteers who provide a lifetime of memories for children.

The Yerwood Center: 90 Fairfield Avenue, Stamford

Contact: Shalida Johnson: 327-2790

The Yerwood Scholars Program, an after school program for children in grades kindergarten through fifth, is looking for volunteers to help with homework assignments or to help supervise recreational time in the gymnasium. The Center also encourages student volunteers to come up with specific projects that they would like to do with the children. The Yerwood Center has various computer literacy programs for adults and children. High school students with a particular interest in this area are encouraged to volunteer in the computer lab teaching computer classes or repairing computers.

OPPORTUNITIES HELPING IN SOCIAL SERVICES**American Red Cross Darien Chapter: 39 Leroy Avenue, Darien**

Contact: Patty Burke: 655-2586

The Darien Red Cross Action Team or RCAT is open to all high school students. The group learns valuable disaster preparedness and health and safety skills while providing help to the local chapter, national and international programs of the American Red Cross.

CERT—Community Emergency Response Team

Contact: Steve Frank

The CERT program helps train and equip citizens to be prepared to help themselves and their neighbors in the event of a disaster, crisis or common emergency.

ARI of Connecticut: 174 Richmond Hill, Stamford

Contact: Gerard Gasparino: 324-9258 Ext. 3023

Great opportunity to work with adults with disabilities helping out with: bingo/karaoke/social nights, Fridays 6—8 pm; basketball, Monday nights 7—8 pm and arts and crafts, Monday afternoons 3:30—5 pm.

Broad River Homes: 108 New Canaan Avenue, Norwalk

Contact: Laura Froelich: 846-3700

Volunteers are needed to conduct card games one night a week on a weekly basis on Monday, Wednesday or Friday night from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Center for Hope: 590 Post Road, Darien

Contact: Gloria Veeder 655-4693

Luminary assistance—packaging, delivering and picking up in December. Assist at the May luncheon by modeling, helping backstage and addressing invitations.

Darien Fire Department: Post Road, Darien

Contact: Lt. Shane Smith: 515-5593 or 655-1216

Noroton Fire Department: 1873 Post Road, Darien

Contact: Mike Vitti: 655-0653

There are many volunteer opportunities for youth at the Darien Fire Department. Students as young as 16 can join the Department as junior probationary members and begin fire fighting training to become state certified. The Department provides leadership training and exercises in team building. Youth are actively involved in fund raising and outreach programs via public education about fire prevention. It's not all work—the Department sponsors its own baseball team as well.

Darien Senior Center: 30 Edgerton Street, Darien

Contact: Nancy Zengo: 655-1705

The Senior Center welcomes student visitors at any time of the year. Share your stories and skills with the residents. Help with running an activity. Play an instrument and lead a singing group. During the summer, help is needed with lunch serving and grounds maintenance.

Darien Youth Options, Liberation Programs, Darien Town Hall

Contact: Meaghan Gorman: 655-8973

The Youth Options Drug Prevention Programs are looking for teenage volunteers who would be interested and willing to participate in panel discussions, role-playing and kid-tokid outreach within the Darien and New Canaan communities. Some Saturday mornings would be required.

FamilyCenters, Inc.

Friendly Connections Program: 20 Bridge Street, Greenwich

Contact: Lisa Jameson: 661-8841

Looking for a convenient and rewarding way to volunteer? Friendly Connections needs your help! We are looking for volunteers to make telephone calls to local senior participants for a friendly chat. Morning, afternoon, and evening times are available and consist of about 5 to 15 calls. A one-hour training is provided.

The Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County: 461 Glenbrook Road, Stamford

Contact: Kate Lombardo: 358-8898

Students are needed to host food drives at their schools and to help stack shelves with food in the warehouse.

Friendly Visitors Program of the Department of Social Services Darien

Contact: Inta Adams: 656-7321 iadams@ci.darien.ct.us

Friendly Visitors make a huge difference in someone's life. Volunteers are needed to visit an hour each week with a senior citizen who may be lonely, homebound, or in need of companionship. Volunteer must be a good listener, dependable, patient and care about the elderly. A six-month commitment is desirable. Volunteer will have an interview and submit references and will have an orientation session. Ongoing support is provided by the DSS.

Liberation Programs: 159 Colonial Road, Stamford

Contact: Ann Isaacson: 851-2077 X105

Organize a school-wide drive to collect winter coats/parkas for children age 2 to 16, books for children from infant to age 16, non-perishable foods for Thanksgiving/Holiday baskets and stocking stuffers for residential clients for the holidays, i.e., toothpaste, tooth brushes, shampoo, hats, scarves, gloves, etc.

Meals on Wheels Stamford/Darien: 945 Summer Street, Stamford

Contact: Grace Mall: 323-3294

Volunteers are needed to deliver meals on Saturday, Sunday and holiday mornings. Volunteer would commit to two hours starting at 10:30 am. Volunteers drive their own vehicles. Reliability is important. It helps to go with a partner which eliminates the need to find a parking space.

Midnight Run at United Methodist Church of New Canaan: 165 South Ave., New Canaan

Contact: Donna James: 972-7179

The United Methodist Church along with other organizations sponsor Midnight Run. First clothing is sorted and packed, food prepared and toiletries are bagged for the trip into New York City on the first Tuesday of every other month. These items are then delivered to those in need. While most people are asleep the volunteers of the Midnight run go that extra step to help the homeless in the "Big Apple."

New Covenant House of Hospitality: 90 Fairfield Avenue, Stamford

Contact: Deborah Arrieta: 964-8228

Volunteers are needed to help serve and clean up after the meals are finished. Lunch hours are from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. Monday to Sunday, and dinner is served from Monday to Saturday at 4:45 pm to 5:30 pm. Help is also needed cleaning inside and outside the premises. Please call in advance to arrange for volunteer supervision.

Norwalk Emergency Shelter: 4 Merritt Street, Norwalk

Contact: Carole Antonetz: 866-1057

Help is needed at Manna House Soup Kitchen with meal servings. Volunteers sort food, and help with cleaning up. Call for days and hours. The Shelter operates "Once and Again" clothing room where volunteers can help sort clothing and help clients shop. Students can help with babysitting while moms attend meetings. There are numerous one-time projects that a group could undertake on behalf of the Shelter. Call for more information.

Person to Person: 1864 Post Road, Darien

Contact: Judy Kilmartin: 655-0048

Students are welcome to join the Youth Group which helps Person to Person on Thursdays from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon. Volunteers can help with a variety of tasks including sorting donated clothes, making up food bags for clients, greeting clients and inputting client information into the data base. Volunteers are expected to commit to at least 10 weeks' work. Students are also actively involved in the annual "Hair Affair" fund raiser, which is held each spring. Drivers are also needed for the furniture program.

St. Luke's LifeWorks: 141 Franklin Street, Stamford

Contact: Wally Frey: 388-0175 or email Wally at wfrey@stlukeslifeworks.org

A small group of volunteers can prepare a weekend breakfast or lunch (purchase, prepare, serve and clean up) for residents of The Women's Housing Program (the women's shelter for lower Fairfield County) on Woodland Place. We welcome individuals or groups bringing their own thoughts and creative ideas to support and assist in all our program areas.

Special Olympics of Connecticut

Contact: Jeff Reinhart 203-380-9990

Become a Unified Partner with a Special Olympics Program where disabled athletes play on the same team with non-disabled partners. There are a number of different unified sports including tennis, bowling and power lifting. Help at our biggest event, May 20th at Trumbull High School, the annual Regional Games. Approximately 700 athletes compete in Track & Field, Aquatics, Tennis and Gymnastics. Volunteers are needed to help organize and run the games.

Waveny Care Center: 3 Farm Road, New Canaan

Contact: Sandra Malloy: 594-5334

Waveny has numerous volunteer opportunities. Volunteers can help by assisting with the serving of meals to residents; assist at the nurse's station; work in the special care unit with residents with cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer's disease; visit with residents and assist with activities such as card games, reviewing the latest news, leading an exercise program, or playing the piano. Help residents learn to use email and to correspond with their friends and family.

YWCA of Darien/Norwalk: 49 Old Kings Highway North

Contact: Brenda O'Mahoney: 655-2535

Better Beginnings volunteers assist on Saturday mornings with prenatal classes at Stamford Hospital. Help with handing out materials and greeting clients. Knowledge of Spanish would be very helpful. Students can help with the delivery of coats during the fall coat drive. Drivers take the collected coats to the Norwalk Shelter. Students can also participate by spearheading coat drives at their schools.

OPPORTUNITIES HELPING WITH OFFICE ADMINISTRATION, THE ARTS, MUSEUMS AND NATURE**American Classical Orchestra: 50 Washington Street, Norwalk**

Contact: Josie Reis: 396-0199

The American Classical Orchestra is looking for volunteers for their Student Guild. Guild members would help with coordinating and assisting with at least one major production annually in Fairfield County. Members work in the box office, selling at the concession stand, work as part of the stage crew, and help with production and event planning tasks. The American Classical Orchestra also puts on Classical Music for Kids Programs which could also include up to two field trip productions during the school year.

Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens: 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford

Contact: Barbara Soebbing: 322-6971

Do you love gardening, working outdoors in beautiful surroundings? Train as a docent and introduce visitors to the Bartlett Arboretum's beautiful grounds. Current tours are on Sundays at 1:30 pm. Volunteers are also welcomed in the greenhouse to help care for their permanent collections and propagate plants for the grounds. A commitment of 2 to 3 hours a week is needed and an interest in horticulture helpful. The Arboretum has numerous opportunities from April through October helping keep the annual and perennial gardens in good shape. Trail maintenance throughout the woodland areas and a Fall clean up from October through November (basically leaf raking) provide outdoor activities for individuals, groups and families.

Bruce Museum: 1 Museum Drive, Greenwich

Contact: Gloria FitzSimons: 869-0376 Ext. 317

There are many fun and stimulating ways to participate at the Bruce Museum. Opportunities include: Museum Store salesperson, display and sell items ranging from toys to art objects; Office Assistant, perform simple office tasks; or maybe even blow leaves from the grounds in the fall.

Connecticut Communities for Drug-Free Youth, Inc.: 83 East Avenue, Norwalk

Contact: Karin Kyles: 838-3224

Connecticut Communities for Drug-Free Youth invites student volunteers to help maintain its library of books, video tapes, audio tapes, posters, and handout materials for use by students and adults.

Darien Arts Center: 2 Renshaw Road, Darien

Contact: Kae Shields: 655-8683

The Arts Center has numerous volunteer opportunities ranging from helping in their office with data entry and general office management to helping with the concerts. Volunteers are needed to help with Connecticut Choraliers, Darien Players and Cabaret events. Assist in set up and with box office and house managing. Assist back stage with props, scenery, costumes and makeup and set construction and lighting. The Center will train interested volunteers.

Darien Book Aid Plan: 1926 Post Road, Darien

Contact: Joanne Leaman: 226-5725

Sort and pack books for peace corps volunteers and other clients, help move books before and after annual book sale. Students of Spanish could translate English children's books into Spanish.

Darien Community Association: 274 Middlesex Road, Darien

Contact: Mary Flynn or Ann Rickards: 655-9050

The DCA Boutique has volunteer opportunities. The duties would entail organizing and sorting items for sale. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Volunteers are also needed at the Darien Community Association for special events held throughout the year. Duties would include collecting tickets and monies at the door and setting up and taking down furnishings, acting as waiters/waitresses for evening events.

Darien Library: 35 Leroy Avenue, Darien

Contact: Judy Sgammato: 655-1234 Ext. 136

The Darien Library has an ongoing need for Adopt-A-Shelf volunteers. As an AAS volunteer, you may choose your favorite area of the library's collection—cookbooks, travel, photography, art, etc.—and put it in order on a regular basis. The AAS volunteers stop by as often as once a week or just once a month, depending on their schedules.

Darien Revitalization: 30 Old Kings Highway S., Darien

Contact: Debbie Parnon: 655-7557

Help with Spring projects around Town. Volunteer as a student ambassador at a new promotional car show event to be held in June.

The Maritime Aquarium: 10 North Water Street, Norwalk

Contact: Donna M. Schlegel: 852-0700 Ext. 2203

The Aquarium welcomes students to its Gallery Guide Program. Students can work on weekends and during school vacations as guides explaining the Aquarium's many exhibits. All volunteers will be interviewed and must attend an in-depth training session. The Aquarium has a few spots open after school hours during the week and placement in the program during the week will depend on scheduling needs. The Aquarium is offering an abbreviated 10-hour training session at the end of June for those students interested in volunteering during the summer months. You must be at least 15 years old to volunteer. Consider joining this fun group of volunteers and learn about our environment and the wonderful creatures we share our planet with.

NEON AIC/PTI Program: 98 S. Main Street, Norwalk

Contact: Verla Michel: 899-2453

The Norwalk Community Service Office assists individuals who are currently in the criminal justice system in locating appropriate nonprofit organizations to complete their community service hours. Volunteers are needed to help make phone calls, take minutes at monthly Advisory Board meetings, gather statistics for monthly reporting and data entry.

Pet Animal Welfare Society—PAWS: 504 Main Avenue, Norwalk

Contact: Lisa DiDonato: 750-9572 Ext. 120

While you have to be at least 18 to volunteer at the shelter there are many other volunteer jobs where you can make a difference. Volunteers are needed to help create donation canisters out of empty coffee tins, decorate them with PAWS info and distribute them to collection centers. Help distribute the PAWS newsletter and PAWS flyers which showcase an animal currently available for adoption. You can help PAWS find a home for these animals by displaying flyers at your school or place of worship. Help is needed maintaining the sites where flyers are on display. The agency maintains a PAWS Poster Patrol at their website. Volunteers are needed to help organize an old bedding, towel and food drive in your school or neighborhood for use in the kennels.

St. Luke's LifeWorks/Bread & Roses: 141 Franklin Street, Stamford

Contact: Wally Frey 388-0175 or email wfrey@stlukeslifeworks.org

Small groups of volunteers can do outdoor clean up and gardening projects in a number of locations in the Stamford area. We welcome individuals or groups bringing their own thoughts and creative ideas to support and assist in all our program areas. Students can hold drives for towels, twin bed sheets and fleece blankets for program residents.

Silver Hill Hospital: 208 Valley Road, New Canaan

Contact: Jan King: 801-2320

Clerical assistance is needed in the Medical library. Help with marketing and database maintenance, mailings, special events and spring grounds clean up.

SoundWaters: 1281 Cove Road, Stamford

Contact: Dianne Selditch: 406-3302

SoundWaters has opportunities for high school students who are interested in working for a non-profit education organization that emphasizes education and respect for the environment, especially the marine environment. Volunteers can help by greeting visitors, answering the phone and explaining exhibits; staffing the marine exhibit room; feeding the fish and cleaning the tanks; helping with the touch tank; and maintaining the learning lab. Volunteers can (with approval of SoundWaters educator) assist educators with programs. Volunteers are needed after school, on weekends and during the summer. The Center is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 am—5 pm and Sundays in April to November from Noon to 5 pm. Volunteers should be interested, reliable and attend training sessions.

Stamford Museum & Nature Center: 39 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford

Contact: Megan McLain: 322-1646 Ext. 223

The Stamford Museum & Nature Center has an ongoing need for volunteers in the areas of carpentry, maintenance, farm and animal care, gardening, clerical work and special events

Stamford Theatre Works: 200 Strawberry Hill Avenue, Stamford

Contact: Larry Frenock or Nikki Rowell: 359-4414

Volunteer ushers are needed for the Theatre's regular season of five plays. Duties include stuffing flyers in programs, taking tickets and helping patrons to their seats and handing out programs, handling the lighting at the beginning and end of intermission, and assisting patrons exiting the show. Join the growing team of ushers and see all the shows. Help out the crew with the play's props, costumes and sets during the production. Great opportunity to experience working in a professional theatre setting.

STAR: 182 Wolfpit Avenue, Norwalk

Contact: Kari Ryan: 846-9581 Ext. 313

Volunteers are needed at the STAR Café located at the Darien Sport Shop. All proceeds of sales will go directly to support STAR's programs and services. Students are welcome to help out waiting on tables and supporting adults with disabilities employed at the café. Volunteers needed from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturdays and holidays, and weekdays during the summer.

Wildlife Orphanage, Inc.: P.O. Box 4706, Stamford

Contact: Cathie Kovacs 888-727-6774

If you would like to help injured and orphaned wildlife but cannot commit to their full-time care, this is the perfect way for you to get involved. Volunteers are needed (18 or older) to help a few hours per week at one of two Stamford locations. Dedicated volunteers in this area enable the Orphanage to adequately care for more animals than otherwise possible. Duties would include cleaning of cages and preparing food.

YMCA of Norwalk: 370 West Avenue, Norwalk

Contact: Patrice Raffington: 866-4425 Ext. 314

The Y has various volunteer opportunities. You can use your communications skills helping to publish and mail the Y's newsletters, and assist with the updating of bulletin boards throughout the building. You can help the program directors with administrative work in the office. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors in the lobby answering questions and helping to direct visitors.

Opportunities Helping with Special Events

American Cancer Society: Wilton

Contact: Carol Frattaroli: 203-563-1530

Volunteers are needed for the planning committee or as team captains for Relay for Life in May. This is an overnight event with teams agreeing to keep one member on the track at all times. Volunteers are also needed for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, the largest one-day walk (5 miles in Westport) for breast cancer in the U.S.

Bartlett Arboretum & Gardens: 151 Brookdale Road, Stamford

Contact: Barbara Soebbing: 322-6971

Help is needed for the Arboretum's Spring Plant sale to be held on May 7th, the Saturday before Mother's Day, and with the Fall Plant sale to be held on September 17. Volunteers are needed on both days from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Summer concerts are held on 4 Sundays in the months of July and August. Call for dates. Volunteers are needed from 5:00 pm for about two hours to help with parking, ticket taking and with beverage sales.

Children's Aid Tag Sale: Middlesex Middle School

Contact: Anne Geissinger: 656-3965

Volunteers are needed to help unload and set up tag sale merchandise on Friday, April 28 in the afternoon and all day Saturday, April 29. Sale takes place on Sunday, April 30 and volunteers would help with sales, loading cars and general support. They will be selling furniture, house wares, children's clothes, sporting goods, toys and a varied assortment of other items. Proceeds benefit Family & Children's Agency in Norwalk. Volunteers could work as few as two hours.

Darien Arts Center: 2 Renshaw Road, Darien

Contact: Kae Shields: 655-8683

Help is needed to arrange for and hang art exhibits at the Darien Library in preparation for the Darien Visual Art Show—date to be determined. Volunteers can help out both before and during the Darien Art show at Town Hall scheduled from Saturday, June 3 through June 10. Volunteers could also help with setting up refreshments for the opening reception on Friday, June 2. On May 28 and May 30 help is needed to receive the art for the show and greet exhibitors. Assist with setting up and taking down of the art work. Help baby sit during the spring Dance Concerts at Darien High School on June 3.

Darien Historical Society, Inc.: 45 Old Kings Highway, North, Darien

Contact: Susan Bhirud: 655-9233

The Society presents after-school workshops once a month (October—April) for elementary school children. High school students are scheduled to act as assistants. Help is needed at the society's Junior Artists Camp, June 14 to June 16 and Colonial Camp, June 20 to June 24. Experience with children is necessary. Camps include crafts, outdoor games and Colonial presentations. Hours are 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Campers range in age from 7 to 11 years old. Assistance is also needed at the Society's Antique Show on September 11 and for the Christmas Open House on December 2 and 3.

Darien Nature Center: 120 Brookside Road, Darien

Contact: Lynn Hamlin: 655-7459 Ext. 26

Volunteers are also needed to help out at the Center's "Down on the Farm" Event. Call for date and time.

Darien Youth Commission: Darien Town Hall

Contact: Alicia Sillars: 656-7326

Help is needed at the following events:

Youth Arts Expo: Early March

Tilley Pond Model Boat Regatta: Mid-May

Family concerts on the Beach: Every Wednesday in June

Halloween Window Painting Contest: October

Tops Events for 6th, 7th and 8th graders: Friday evenings throughout the school year.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society Western CT Chapter: One Selleck St., Norwalk

Contact: Allison St. Germain: 838-1033

The Western CT Chapter raises funds with a variety of events throughout the year to support programs in Fairfield and Litchfield Counties. Volunteers are needed on Sunday, April 2, for the 2006 MS WALK in the towns of Fairfield, Danbury and Litchfield. Help is needed leading up to and on the day of the event. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities: distributing posters and brochures, stuffing goody bags, calling past participants, setting-up at event venue, registering participants, serving as route marshal, and much more. Your help brings us closer to a cure for MS.

The Salvation Army: Darien Town Hall

Contact: Bob Locke: 656-7315

Volunteers are needed for “ringing the bells,” during the holiday season.

Special Olympics Annual Regional Games: Trumbull

Contact: Jeff Reinhart: 203-380-9990

Games to be held at Trumbull High School on May 20. Volunteers are needed to help organize and run the games. See page 9 for more information.

Stamford Museum & Nature Center: 39 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford

Contact: Megan McLain: 322-1646 Ext. 223

The Stamford Museum needs volunteers to help out at the following events held at the Museum:

Spooky Cider Sunday: October 23

Touch a Truck Chowderfest: November 19

Build a Snowman Day: Date to be determined

Winterfest: Date to be determined

Maple Sugar Sunday: Date to be determined

Spring on the Farm: Date to be determined

Stamford Hospital—Bennett Cancer Walk/Run: Czescik Park, Stamford

Contact: Janice Shaskan: 325-7521

Help is needed at the registration table, as course monitors, with handing out refreshments and t-shirt distribution from 8:00 am to 10:00 am on Sunday, June 4.

STAR Walk, Roll & Stroll, Sherwood Island State Park, Westport

Contact: Mike Petell or Rich Johnson: 846-9581

The Walk will be held at Sherwood Island on Sunday, May 7. You can volunteer by walking, forming a team, helping with family activities and helping at registration tables.

St. Luke’s LifeWorks/Bread & Roses: 141 Franklin Street, Stamford

Contact: Wally Frey or Jane Jansen Seymour: 388-0122

Help by collecting, wrapping, decorating, sorting and personalizing nearly 10,000 gifts in December 2006. Organize a toy drive to contribute to a happy holiday for homeless families and children or those affected by AIDS.

YWCA of Darien/Norwalk: 49 Old Kings Highway North

Contact: Brenda O’Mahoney: 655-2535

Students can help with the delivery of coats during the fall coat drive. Drivers take the collected coats to Norwalk Shelter. Students can also participate by spearheading coat drives at their schools.