



Working together to make St. Louis Park a better place to work, live and learn!

Did you know that the City and Schools Volunteer V.I.P. Office involves over 1,700 volunteers a year helping in our city and schools with everything from planting flowers in parks to literacy. Volunteers placed through the V.I.P. Office serve in more than 25 programs and special events. Each year, they donate 16,500+ hours. We are amazed and delighted by the people who volunteer for several years or more and by all the new volunteers who enter the program.

The majority of volunteers placed in the schools through the V.I.P. Office are not parents; they are business people, retirees, students, community members and parents who serve in special programs. For volunteers who come through the V.I.P. Office, they are recruited, screened, trained and placed in volunteer positions where they help on a regular schedule.

Every time they volunteer, they increase at least 5 of the 40 Developmental Assets for children:

1. Other adult role models,
2. Caring neighborhood,
3. Community values youth,
4. Caring school climate, and
5. Adult role models.

We also want to acknowledge the hundreds of parents who volunteer in their children's schools without going through the V.I.P. Office

For the city, the V.I.P. Office places volunteers at Westwood Hills Nature Center, City Hall, in the Parks and Gardens, Adopt A Street program and with several large special events like the Westwood Hills Nature Center Halloween Party and Parktacular. City volunteers placed through the V.I.P. Office make a difference by expanding the services the city staff can provide, keeping roads and parks clean, and helping make community events possible.

The dollar value for volunteer service for 2010-2011, as determined by the Independent Sector, is \$21.36 per hour. This rate is based on the hourly earnings for private non-agricultural workers as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That figure is then increased by 12% to estimate fringe benefits to reach the \$23.92 per hour rate. The estimated value of volunteer services channeled through the V.I.P. Office is \$415,777 (1,715 volunteers with a total of 17,382 hours x \$23.92).

Volunteers in our programs range from preschoolers who help in parks with their

parents to our oldest school volunteer who just turned 90. They are long time St. Louis Park residents and people who come to us from their jobs in local corporations as well as surrounding communities. Together they bring a wealth of skill, talent, knowledge and support to their volunteer work. The involvement of these wonderful volunteers helps keep St. Louis Park strong and vibrant.

We are pleased to be able to tell you about a few of our volunteers (we wish we could tell you about every one of them!) and the volunteer programs.

If you would like to become involved as a volunteer for the city or schools please contact the Volunteer Office: 952-928-6025, krzesowiak.sarah@slpschools.org

MISSION

The mission of the V.I.P. program is to promote quality volunteerism in the City of St. Louis Park and in the St. Louis Park School District.

2010-2011 V. I. P. ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Susan Benus
- Kathleen Huyck, Program Assistant
- Joan Monicatti
- Sharyll Smith
- Yvonne Thomas
- Sarah Zubke

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Sarah Krzesowiak  
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SPECIAL EVENTS AND OTHER PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS:

Halloween Parties at Westwood Hills Nature Center and the Recreation Center, DECA High School Business Competition, Parktacular, and many other wonderful activities could not happen without the hundreds of people who volunteer every year. Here are numbers from some of 2010 -2011 events and activities:



High School Student Volunteer as "The Fox" at the 2010 Westwood Hills Nature Center Halloween Party

**Monarch Butterfly Monitors:** Two volunteers were recruited to monitor the life cycle of Monarchs through a program at Westwood Hills Nature Center. They volunteered 16 hours in 2010.

**Early Childhood Screening Volunteers:** 2 volunteers assisted with registration and screening. 70 hours

**High School Media Center Inventory:** In January, 20 volunteers donated 42 hours to help the High School Media Center staff conduct an inventory of over 18,000 items.

**Student Election Judges:** For the major elections every two years, we recruit and place over 45 students who help at election sites around the city. They assist the regular election judges and can often do the heavy lifting and organizing that the older judges find challenging. 360 hours

**Classroom Speakers:** Teachers can request speakers on topics that enrich and reinforce the curriculum. Many of the speakers we place come from our city offices; they tie into the units on our city government and science. For example Scott Anderson from the St. Louis Park water department tells 3rd graders how he works to keep our city water supply clean and safe. 18 speakers gave 57 presentations. 43 hours

**Kids' Place Student Volunteers:** 4 students ages 14 and older volunteered 496 hours in the SLP Community Education Kids Place Program for the summer.

**Judges for the High School DECA Competition:** Volunteers are placed with the high school business program to serve as judges at the West Metro DECA Competition. Volunteer DECA judges role-play various business scenarios with high school students who have prepared business plans and practiced for interviews. This year, 30 volunteers contributed 152 hours.

**Water Testing Volunteers, 2010:** 3 community volunteers take water samples from area lakes every two weeks, April through October, and file reports with the City Environmental Engineer as part of a water quality program. 123 hours.

**The Halloween Party at Westwood Hills Nature Center** involved 215 volunteers last October, including over 125 students from St. Louis Park High School. Volunteers helped with set-up the week before the party and on party nights. They ran games, served treats and acted as costumed characters. Volunteers donated 720 hours. Another 28 volunteers helped at the Recreation Center Goblin March and Boo-Gie Concert donating 73 hours.

Students from the St. Louis Park **High School Community Service Class** volunteer in the elementary schools 2 to 4 times a week.

Every year in June, volunteers make **Parktacular**, our St. Louis Park city celebration, happen. From the parade to the street dance and eco-fair, over 70 volunteers donate 150+ hours.

Student Volunteers from **Breck School and the Pi Beta Phi Alumni Club and Collegians from the U of M:** 25 students from Breck School volunteer every week in our elementary schools and another 21 students from the Pi Beta Phi sorority at the U of M read with Aquila Kids Place students twice a week in February. 46 volunteers donated 382 hours.

**Flower Planting:** Each spring 25-30 volunteers donate over 60 hours planting flowerbeds in neighborhood parks.



PICK-UP THE PARK

Pick-up the Park: In April and May, the V.I.P. recruits over 700 volunteers including classrooms from the schools, businesses, individuals, families and service groups. These volunteers clean the trails, parks and open areas in our community before the busy summer season. In 2010 Pick-up the Park volunteers collected over 120 bags of trash and donated almost 800 hours of service.

Wells Fargo Insurance volunteers, pictured right, at Oak Hill Park, spring 2011

LITERACY 1st:

Volunteers are trained to work with beginning readers. They spend 1-1 1/2 hours a week in a first or second grade classroom helping during literacy time.  
# of volunteers - 31  
# of classrooms - 19  
# of students - 475  
# of hours - 1,255  
Literacy 1st is funded in part by a grant from the St. Louis Park Sunrise Rotary and the Park Nicollet Foundation.



**Rose Bevan**  
Literacy 1st volunteer with her second grade class

**What made you decide to volunteer?**  
I wanted to contribute to my community in a learning environment with children. I have been a Literacy Volunteer in St. Louis Park for several years in one teacher's classroom.

**What is your background?**  
I taught nursery school for 10 years in a

private Christian pre-school program. My second career was working as a dental assistant. Much of my time following my retirement has been spent volunteering at my church and at Jones-Harrison nursing home and more recently in the St. Louis Park school system.

**What do you do as a volunteer?**  
I assist in the 2nd grade classroom by interacting on a one-on-one basis with the children. I read to them, listen to them read and coach them in reading skills. I often discuss what we have read about with them-and I become a friend to them.

**What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?**  
It is just a delight to see the children's excitement when they spend time with one adult, especially after having gotten to know me. They respond in a positive way to the special attention and encouragement they receive from an adult volunteer who takes the time to listen to them and who cares about them.

**What have you learned from this experience?**  
I have learned that I receive much joy when I spend time with the children. They "tell me" in their own way, what words they need to hear from me that will make them feel special.

"My Literacy 1st volunteers are wonderful assets for the children. They are truly warm-hearted souls that have so much to offer our students."  
Gina Swenson,  
1st grade teacher

"Taking just a little bit of one's time makes such a big difference in the day and lives of our children."  
Rose Bevan,  
Literacy volunteer

## ADULT ELL & GED PROGRAMS 2010

The goal of these dedicated volunteers is to provide extra help for adult students who are learning English or working on their GED. The Volunteer Office assists the program with recruitment.

# of volunteers - 52  
# of hours - 2,156

*"Volunteers are a crucial part of my ELL class for adults. Because there is never enough time for students to sufficiently practice speaking English, our weekly volunteers provide lots of additional language practice. They enriched the adult students' learning experience and they give students the wonderful gift of helping them feel welcome in their new country."*

Marilyn Nelson,  
Adult Options Teacher

*"Some other cultures don't seem to have a tradition of volunteering. Many of my students are surprised at what I do, not realizing that I am more than compensated by their growing abilities. A teacher I work with at another school is Asian and has commented that people do not volunteer in her native country, but that she was struck by my volunteering. Now she has become a volunteer docent at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. I thought that was wonderful. The more volunteers the better."*

Sara Yale,  
Adult Options ELL volunteer

## CLASSROOM VIPS

By working in the classroom these volunteers provide enrichment and/or reinforcement of the classroom curriculum. They are in the school once or twice a week helping in the classroom as directed by the teacher.

# of volunteers - 57  
# of students - 1,006  
# of classrooms - 40  
# of hours - 4,185

*"I encourage people of all ages who would like to make a contribution to our school age children's education to volunteer in some capacity. You will make a difference."*

Fred Rose,  
Classroom VIP volunteer



### Sara Yale

*Volunteer with the Adult Options Program (working with adults from other countries who are learning English and adults who are earning a high school diploma)*

#### What made you decide to volunteer?

*Eighteen years ago, when my children were young and I was going to ECFE (Early Childhood Family Education) classes, I saw an ELL (English Language Learner) class in the same building. I was desperate to talk with adults, so I went in and asked if they needed volunteers and they said yes.*

#### What is your background?

*I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with a double major in English and History. I have always had an interest in foreign languages and cultures.*

#### What do you do as a volunteer?

*Whatever I think will help my students find English more accessible. I have focused more on written communication when I have had deaf students, and more on conversation with a student who is nearly blind. With a student who was not literate in her native language, I worked more on alphabet letters and sounds. I generally don't mind looking foolish acting things out.*

#### What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?

*I enjoy it when my students understand a concept and when we find words that are similar in both their language and English. I learn from them as well. It is wonderful to see their confidence grow as they master different things or pass their citizenship exams.*

#### What have you learned from this experience?

*I have learned that parents will give up every familiar thing in their lives in order to give their children the hope of a better future in a new country. I have learned that people have an enormous desire to communicate. I have learned that my students love to be able to be the teachers sometimes. I have learned about 25 words of Russian.*



### Fred Rose

*Classroom VIP volunteer with his 4th grade students*

#### What made you decide to become a school volunteer?

*My wife was volunteering in the schools and she was very enthusiastic about the program. I had some time; I felt that I could help children in the areas of math and reading.*

#### What is your background?

*My background is not teaching or social science. I was a business/marketing major and graduated from the U of M. I served 3 years in the air force and then*

*was employed for 20 years in the wholesale meat business and then 20 years in the financial services industry until I retired. Now I work part-time at the Cub store.*

#### What do you do as a volunteer?

*I do pretty much whatever the teacher asks, as long as it's math or reading related. (And not too difficult for me.)*

#### What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?

*I like being involved in the learning experience of the students and watching their skills improve. In many cases it is dramatic. Often it is merely the one on one relationship that motivates them to learn, that and a little psychology. I have worked with the same teacher for 5 years.*

#### What have you learned from this experience?

*Kids like to learn. Being a 4th grade teacher is one of the hardest things in the world. Children need guidance and encouragement in the home.*

**Other comments:** *The V.I.P. Office has also involved me in the DECA business program and doing "Mock Interviews": role-playing job interviews at the senior high. DECA judging is a wonderful experience. For DECA, I help judge high school students who have prepared presentations on various business plans. What is most impressive is the amount of volunteer participation at the annual west-metro DECA competition.*

## MATH PROGRAM

Volunteers help once a week in math classes in grades 2-12.

# of volunteers - 25  
# of classrooms - 19  
# of students - 475  
# of hours - 651



### Cathleen Miller

*Math volunteer with corporate release time from Michael Foods, Inc.*

#### What made you decide to become a volunteer?

*I was required to do community service time in college and tutor/mentored then and really enjoyed it. Six years ago, when my employer, Michael Foods, Inc., started a program granting employee release time for community service, I took advantage of the opportunity and started volunteering in St. Louis Park Schools.*

#### What is your background?

*I grew up in a smaller town on a farm; it instilled family values and work ethic upon me at a young age. I moved to St. Paul for college and stayed in the metro area after I graduated. I work at Michael Foods Inc. as an accountant.*

#### What do you do as a volunteer?

*Normally I work in small groups with children who are at the same math level. I also try to keep students on task when the teacher is teaching the lesson.*

#### What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?

*I enjoy when a child understands something that they didn't understand initially or were struggling with. When I realize that I helped them it makes me smile.*

#### What have you learned from this experience?

*Different approaches than when I went to school on how math topics are taught.*

*"It has been, all in all, an enjoyable experience and a real eye-opener. The kids are all very different."*

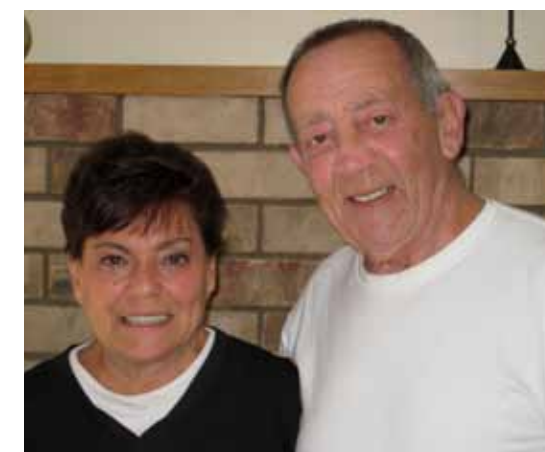
Ron Orinstien,  
High School math volunteer

*"The kindergarten class is very diverse and the children have great respect for each other."*

Marian Orinstien,  
Kindergarten helper

*"Teachers have extraordinary patience; they do a wonderful job. However, even in kindergarten, you can see that teachers cannot fix everything for every child. We will vote for school referendums. Teachers need our support."*

Ron & Marian Orinstien



### Marian and Ron Orinstien

*Kindergarten helper and High School math volunteer*

#### What made you decide to become school volunteers?

**Ron:** *In the army I learned 'never volunteer for anything', but in my career I discovered I was good at helping people learn complex mathematics; I wanted to keep doing that. Also, many of our friends' children went to school in SLP and they all seem to have turned out well.*

**Marian:** *I saw the ad in the Community Education book and, as a recent retiree, I was ready to get involved and give something back to my community.*

#### What is your background?

**Ron:** *I was not a good student in high school. Then I went into the army. With help from the GI Bill, I went to college and turned out to have an aptitude for mathematics. I graduated with a degree in Biostatistics and became a statistician with a corporate career. At one point I taught engineers at Lockheed. After I retired, I went into real estate.*

**Marian:** *I graduated from high school, married Ron and raised 4 children. When they were older I went back to work starting as a lab technician for a food company. Eventually I became the lab supervisor and worked on developing new food flavors and products.*

#### What do you do as a volunteer?

**Ron:** *Once a week I help in a high school algebra class. I'm working with low-average students and many of them have trouble paying attention. They are starting to come to me for help. One young man, who had been avoiding me, asked me for help a few weeks ago. He really concentrated and worked hard on the concepts; it felt very good to work with him. I try to help the students understand math so they can do it themselves.*

**Marian:** *I'm in class one hour a week. I do whatever the kindergarten teacher needs, from supervising small groups playing learning games (the "Lady Bug Game" was very popular!) to sharpening pencils. At Thanksgiving I got to help with peeling and mashing potatoes for a traditional dinner for the class.*

#### What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?

**Ron:** *If I can get through to the kids it is very satisfying.*

**Marian:** *Interacting with kindergartners is the most fun. They are so eager to learn and enthusiastic. I believe I am helping them.*

#### What have you learned from this experience?

**Ron:** *I get to see what teenagers are like these days. I've learned what a tough job teachers have and that if I stick with these kids, eventually they respond.*

**Marian:** *Working with the children is a give and take; I learn from them and they learn from me. I also learned that kindergartners have more technology and resources available to them than when I went to school.*

## READ 180

Volunteers assisted with the Read 180 Program, a specialized program for students who are reading below grade level, by providing needed 1-1 attention and feedback for students.

# of volunteers – 40  
# of classrooms – 13  
# of students – 325  
# of hours -1,333

*“It has been amazing to watch the change in students’ attitudes towards reading since bringing volunteers into Read 180. The volunteers are very encouraging and willing to listen, which provides a safe environment for the students to read out loud and ask questions. The volunteers play a very important role in the classroom.”*

Cory Lorentz,  
Read 180 Teacher

*“I found this experience invaluable. Whether someone is choosing to volunteer simply to be active in their school district or for education purposes as I was, donating time to kids in this way will prove to be its own reward. Everyday that you show up is saying to a child, “I care.” And it doesn’t take long to see how much of an impact that has on the kids.”*

Sarah Brooks,  
Future teacher

## VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON COLLEGE DEGREES IN EDUCATION AND RELATED FIELDS.

Every year the V.I.P. Office places many college students who are hoping to become teachers. They spend time in classrooms observing teachers and helping as needed. They gain valuable experience and are grateful to the wonderful SLP teachers who help them learn about careers in education.

*“About 450 children are checking out and returning over 800 items every week. Thanks to our cheerful, dedicated, reliable, willing to help with anything volunteers, we can keep the media center shelves stocked and organized. We couldn’t do it without them.”*

Cheryl Edwards,  
Media Specialist, and  
Pam Johnson,  
Media Center Assistant



## Sarah Brooks

*Future teacher, pictured with Daniel Perez, a SLP graduate, who is also volunteering at the high school while working on his Master’s Degree in Social Work. Both of them volunteer in Read 180 and observe and assist in other classrooms.*

### What made you decide to volunteer?

*My original decision to apply was because volunteering was a requirement for the graduate studies program I was seeking admission to. But what made SLP schools stand out for me, was that I could be paired with teachers that specialized in the exact fields as my current emphasis.*

### What is your background?

*I received my bachelor’s degree in journalism almost seven years ago and as a working professional, I began to feel I wanted to make a more meaningful impact in my career. I’d always considered teaching in the past, and this program allowed me to get a practical feel for what that experience would be.*

### What do you do as a volunteer?

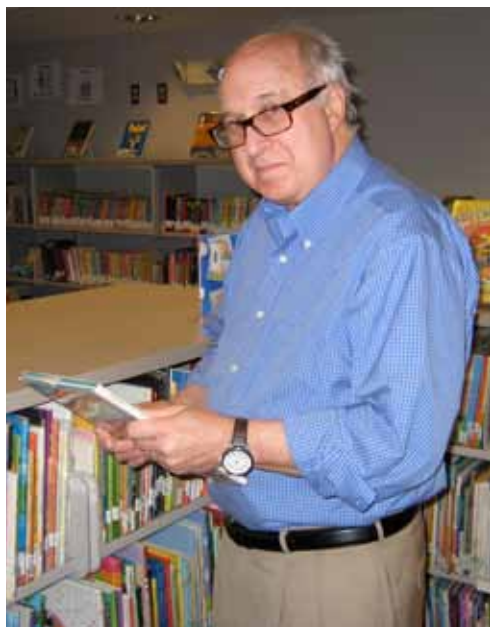
*I observed English, Journalism and Read180 several days a week, where I was allowed to interact directly with students, giving feedback on writing assignments, helping them work through classroom homework and improve their reading skills, as well as teaching mini-lectures. It was both valuable to me as a future educator and fulfilling as someone who wants to give back to the community.*

### What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?

*I loved how supportive and full of advice all the teachers were, not just the ones I worked with in particular. But most of all, I liked working with the kids. With limited interaction with children in my previous career, I think I’d forgotten how funny they are, how smart they are and how inspiring they are. It was a joy to watch them learn and be a part of that process.*

### What have you learned from this experience?

*I learned (in part) what teachers experience day-to-day in the classroom and what some of their challenges are, and the best way to approach those challenges. And I also got a glimpse of what my strengths and challenges are as an instructor, so I know (to a degree) what to nurture and what to work on.*



## Marshall Hambro

*Media Center volunteer*

### What made you decide to become a school a volunteer?

*My wife suggested that I volunteer - and I’m glad I listened to her!*

### What is your background?

*I have a Master’s in Fine Arts in Theater from Brandeis University and have been in several plays and commercials here in the Twin Cities. Until recently, I was a librarian at a Twin Cities law firm. My interests include golf, bird watching and classical music.*

### What do you do as a volunteer?

*I work in both the Read 180 program and the Media Center. At Read 180, I work with fourth, fifth and sixth grade students on reading. We take turns reading from their books, after which there is a quiz. In the Media Center, I mostly shelve books; this frees the media staff*

*to do other work and I know this helps them.*

### What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?

*Seeing the students make progress in their reading, interacting with the students and feeling that I am doing something worthwhile.*

### What have you learned from this experience?

*In read 180, I’ve learned how to interact with fourth to sixth graders and the virtues of patience. I can see how supportive and caring even the administrative/office staff are of the students. I’ve learned that the school media center is a busy place with computers in addition to all the books.*

## ELL (ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS) VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers help students practice their English verbal and written skills. They also assist students in learning about American culture and customs.

# of volunteers - 13  
# of students – 45  
# of hours – 385

*“I highly recommend volunteering even if you have a very limited amount of time. It provides tremendous satisfaction and purpose in life.”*

Barbara Levie,  
ELL volunteer



## Barbara Levie

*ELL Volunteer working with a student*

### What made you decide to become a volunteer?

*I always wanted to volunteer and when I finally had the time to do so I contacted the Volunteer Program for the SLP Schools. I knew I wanted to work with K - 6th grade children and started by volunteering in the Picture Person/Art Appreciation program and later volunteering in the Read 180 program at Cedar Manor and Aquila schools. This year I am tutoring for ELL..*

### What is your background?

*I was raised in St. Louis Park and graduated from SLP High School. I then went onto the University of MN and received a BFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Spent many years working as a producer at an advertising photography studio and now work part-time as a book-keeper. I enjoy bicycling, knitting, fishing and photography.*

### What do you do as a volunteer?

*This year I started volunteering in the ELL program at Aquila School. I meet with 2 students once a week. I spend 30 minutes with each of them assisting with their letter and number recognition. We read together, practice writing and play educational games.*

### What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?

*What I most enjoy about volunteering is the opportunity to be with the students and watch them greatly improve over the school year.*

### What have you learned from this experience?

*I have learned that the “one on one” experience is so valuable; it gives the students time to shine on their own. The extra individual support is very important in building their confidence.*

## PICTURE PERSON/ART APPRECIATION

Trained volunteers teach six art appreciation lessons a year to children in grades K-5. “Styles of Western Art” was the focus of this year’s curriculum. (At PSI the amity scholars teach the lessons. )

# of volunteers - 45  
# of classrooms – 65  
# of students – 1,560  
# of presentations – 390  
# of hours – 1,025

## BRAVO MUSIC APPRECIATION

Classical music is the focus of the BRAVO! Program for grades 1-3. It is structured much like the art appreciation program. A music background is a requirement for BRAVO! volunteers. They are trained and scheduled into assigned classrooms where they teach six lessons a year on classical music and composers.

# of volunteers - 6  
# of classrooms - 10  
# of students - 240  
# of presentations – 60  
# of hours – 150



## Lisa Israel

*Picture Person/Art Appreciation volunteer*

### What made you decide to become a Picture Person/Art Appreciation Volunteer?

*When my son started Kindergarten, I was looking for a way that I could help out. The art appreciation program was perfect for my schedule because the commitment is 20-30 minutes in class every month, plus a few hours of preparation that can be done at home.*

### What is your background?

*I have two children, a boy (5) and a girl (2). I don’t have an art background. I majored in psychology and sociology at the University of Minnesota, and am currently in a Masters program at Hamline.*

### What do you do as a volunteer?

*As an art appreciation volunteer, I bring three or four pieces of art to class each month that are part of the curriculum for this year, “Styles of Western Art.” I briefly introduce the period of art and then engage students in a discussion about what they see in the painting, what the artist was trying to accomplish, what colors, shapes and techniques were used, and how the painting makes them feel. This program was designed and written by Carole Humphrey, who teaches art in our schools, with help from Sarah Krzesowiak, our Volunteer Coordinator. They created it to be taught by trained volunteers. It has been in our schools for over 25 years. So, with a little preparation, it’s easy to do.*

### What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?

*Children gravitate to art naturally, and this year, the curriculum of the art appreciation program exposes them to the idea that there are many different styles of art. I hope to convey the message that there is no one “right” way of expressing yourself artistically. I also enjoy the challenge that comes with making art accessible to young children.*

### What have you learned from this experience?

*The training and curriculum provided are excellent and give lots of good suggestions for engaging students. In preparing for the lesson, I concentrate on how to approach the style and each work in a way that a young child can understand.*

### Other comments:

*Children do not have the same sense of intimidation about art that adults sometimes do. They approach it from their own perspective, and can easily say what they like or do not like about each work. I am having a lot of fun and definitely plan on volunteering again next year.*

## WESTWOOD HILLS NATURE CENTER

Volunteers at Westwood Hills Nature Center assist the staff by helping the naturalists teach visiting classrooms and children's groups, working on maintenance projects, taking care of the captive animals, doing library maintenance, and staffing the front desk between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. 5 days a week. 33 volunteers helped at the Nature Center on a regular basis in 2011.

# of hours, Maintenance and Other: 221  
 # of hours, Bee Keeper: 64  
 # of hours, Library: 7  
 # of hours, Wood Rounds: 84  
 # of hours, Front Desk volunteers: 431  
 # of hours, Naturalist Assistant: 181  
 # of hours, Animal Care: 411  
**Total # of hours: 1399**

*"In a nutshell, volunteers accomplish a huge variety of tasks for the nature center that would otherwise be delayed or not done at all. They also allow us to do our jobs more effectively, and enrich the experience of the visitors in a myriad of ways."*

Mark Zembryki, Naturalist, Westwood Hills Nature Center

*"Randy Moore is an excellent band director. He maintains discipline and he has a thorough knowledge of music. I continue to learn music being in his class. St. Louis Park Jr. High is fortunate to have Randy Moore as their Jr. High band director."*

Jim Stumpf, Jr. High Band volunteer



**Diane Rose (center)**  
*Westwood Hills Nature Center Volunteer, shown with fellow volunteers, Betsy Tarnowski (left), and Fay Kaye, at the annual Westwood Hills Nature Center Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast*

**What made you decide to volunteer?**  
*I saw an ad seeking volunteers in one of the city publications and immediately was intrigued. I love nature and being outdoors, but hadn't spent any time at Westwood Hills Nature Center. When I went out to interview for the volunteer job and got a tour, I was hooked.*

**What is your background?**  
*I am originally from Albuquerque, NM, but have lived in Minnesota for 25 years. I worked as a reporter for eight years, then at a PR agency. For the past 10 years, I have been an independent communications consultant and writer. I specialize in health care and medical technology communications.*

**What do you do as a volunteer?**  
*At Westwood Hills Nature Center, I have been a program assistant, helped care for the center's red-tailed hawk and have been a chaperone for two of the summer environmental learning center trips for sixth to eighth graders. One trip was to Eagle Bluff in southern Minnesota. Last year we went to Wolf Ridge on the North Shore. These adventures included hiking, canoeing, rock climbing and high ropes courses that challenged both the kids and the adults.*

**What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?**  
*I enjoy spending time outdoors and with the great staff at the nature center. I love helping young people learn about and explore nature. It brings out that youthful wonder about nature in me, too.*

**What have you learned from this experience?**  
*I have met some great people and learned a lot about the nature center, which is a wonderful community resource. I also have gained new skills and been challenged to try new things that are sometimes outside my comfort zone.*

**Other comments:**  
*If you have never visited Westwood Hills Nature Center, come out and see us!*



**Jim Stumpf Jr.**  
*High band volunteer*

**What made you decide to apply to become a volunteer?**  
*I had retirement time available. When I saw the flyer on the bulletin board at the Westwood Hills Nature Center, asking for band volunteers, I felt that was a calling for me because music is in my background.*

**What is your background?**  
*I was born in 1922, attended public schools in NE Minneapolis and served in the Coast Guard and Navy from 1941-1946. I graduated from the U of M in 1952, majoring in Political Science, but my part time job was so good, I remained*

*in the electrical business. I began playing the saxophone and the clarinet when I was 12 years old. I have played in several community concert bands and several dance bands as well.*

**What do you do as a volunteer?**  
*I sit in the saxophone section of the Jr. High band. I play my sax with the students. I help them locate the proper fingering on their horn. On some occasions I take 5 or 6 of the section to the "wood shed" where we concentrate on special passages of the song we have been rehearsing.*

**What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?**  
*I enjoy performing the music. It is a learning experience and I am being disciplined along with the students. The kids are a joy to be with. I look forward to each time I spend with these 7th graders.*

**What have you learned from this experience?**  
*I have learned that 7th graders are not the "bad guys" that I had been led to believe. Most of these kids want to learn.*

## CITY HALL FRONT DESK AND SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER/ CLERICAL

Volunteers assist at the City Hall front desk, school media centers or with clerical work  
 # of volunteers – 15  
 # of hours – 349

*"I just like doing something that could improve myself and doing something fulfilling-spending my spare time in a positive way."*  
 Maria Enders,  
 City Hall front desk volunteer

*"Incorporating volunteers into the staff at City Hall has been a wonderful experience. We greatly appreciate the help that each individual gives. Not one volunteer is the same and having so many fresh faced positive individuals spending time at the front desk makes for a pleasant entry into City Hall for the residents of St. Louis Park and all of our other visitors."*

Sarah Sanborn,  
 City Hall Staff

## ADOPT A PARK/GARDEN 2010

Volunteers are assigned to their neighborhood park and/or garden. Their job duties include patrolling and cleaning their park, weeding and tending the garden as well as reporting any damaged equipment, vandalism etc. to the park staff.  
 # of volunteers 103 (37 individuals, 6 couples, 6 families, 6 neighborhood, business or civic groups. Average of 4 per family and 5 per group.)  
 # of parks and/or trail areas – 40  
 # of gardens – 26  
 # of hours – 792

*"Our full-season Adopt a Park and Garden volunteers are a great help to the maintenance staff. They assist us by doing weekly patrols, keeping things neat and weeded and letting us know ASAP if anything needs to be repaired. And each spring, the Pick-up the Park volunteers get our parks and open areas in shape for the summer season. Both these programs have added to the overall quality of our park and trail system."*

Rick Beane,  
 Parks Superintendent

## ADOPT-A-STREET 2010

Fourteen streets are available for adoption by individuals, families or businesses. Volunteers agree to pick up their adopted street at least once a year, but many clean more often.  
 # of streets adopted – 13  
 # of volunteers involved in clean up – 109  
 # of hours -327



**Maria Enders**  
*St. Louis Park City Hall front desk volunteer*

**What made you decide to volunteer with the City of St. Louis Park?**  
*I'm interested for the experience of the receptionist duties so I'll improve my skills in dealing with people and become more familiar with the city, being new here.*

**What is your background?**  
*I worked as a clerk in a business firm for more than 20 years in the city I came from in the Philippines. I am a college graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce-Accounting.*

**Please give a short description of what you do as a volunteer?**  
*I answer the telephone and check entries on the license & permit applications.*

**What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?**  
*Doing the job, the new experience, and meeting new people. Expanding my horizon since I am new here in Minnesota.*

**What have you learned from this experience?**  
*Doing the switchboard phone system. I'm not well versed with it yet. I find the city hall employees and bosses are very nice people.*



**The Benson Family**  
*from the left: Nick, Brad, Peggy, Leo: Adopt a Park volunteers*

**What made you decide to become Adopt a Park volunteers?**  
*Our family wanted to give back to a place (Justad Park) that brings us so much joy. The park is across the alley from our house and we have spent so much time there while the kids have been growing up.*

**What is your background?**  
*Brad and Peggy have lived in St. Louis Park since 1997. We are involved in Cub and Boy Scouts, SLP hockey, baseball, football, lacrosse and basketball. We have been the Justad Park Adopt a Park volunteers since 2005.*

**What do you do as volunteers?**  
*For the Adopt a Park Program, we keep a pulse on the park. We do a big spring clean up in April and do about a 10-minute clean up each week. We inform Rick Beane, SLP Parks Superintendent of any broken or damaged items and if there is any graffiti. Through another program, we are the neighborhood safe house in case of inclement weather.*

**What do you enjoy about your volunteer time?**  
*We are really connected with our neighbors and all the adults and children that use the park. We feel we make a difference.*

**What have you learned from this experience?**  
*If you give kids an opportunity to serve and a task to do, they will run with it whole-heartedly.*



Volunteers in the Park operates through a partnership between the City of St. Louis Park and St. Louis Park Public Schools' Community Education department.



**Jim Lannenber**, shown in his volunteer position at the Westwood Hills Nature Center front desk. Jim started as a school volunteer in 1995!