



VOLUNTEERING NEWS

Bridging Volunteers and Agencies

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www.volunteer-referral.org

Winter 2009

Less than a week after all eyes turned to Washington for President Obama's Inauguration, another historic transition took place at the Volunteer Referral Center.

Nancy Carr, beloved founder and leader of VRC for almost 20 years, smoothly passed the presidential torch to fellow board member, Elaine Orr.

Not surprisingly, the two have much in common. Volunteering is a way of life for both. Each enthusiastically lends their energy, expertise and vision to several non-profit organizations - especially the VRC. Thank you, Nancy, for your excellent leadership and welcome, Elaine, as you continue her legacy and lead us forward!

Dear Friends

After 19 ½ years I have retired as President of the Volunteer Referral Center, surprising my husband who had declared that I was aiming to be "President for Life". I must admit I have enjoyed every minute of these past years. As I pass the torch, I know the organization will be in good hands with our new President, Elaine Orr. Her ideas and plans promise to bring new energy and excitement to the Center. With increasing unemployment and so many people looking to do something while looking for jobs, the VRC will become an even more important resource in the community.

I thank all of you who have supported the VRC through the years. I don't know what the Center would have done without such loyal friends. Thank you. I hope you will continue to support us.

The Board and Staff of the VRC are the best! I thank each and every one of you for all you do and have done for the agency and for me. Your support and friendship are very important to me.

I urge all of you to do some volunteer work as volunteering is one of the most rewarding activities there is and besides, it makes you feel good! Remember, the Volunteer Referral Center will help you find the perfect job.

With Best Regards,
Nancy Carr

"I have to say meeting Nancy and becoming involved with the VRC, its volunteers and board members was one of the best things I did when I moved to New York City. I volunteered, learned about my new community and made some wonderful friends - a great beginning for a newcomer to "the big apple."

Arline Brown, VRC board member

The President's Column

It is an honor to be the new President of the Volunteer Referral Center and continue in the extraordinary, highly-regarded path of our past President, Nancy Carr, well-known for her volunteer work in many NYC organizations. Nancy has led VRC from a neighborhood cause to the well-respected, valuable organization of today that serves individuals who wish to volunteer as well as the non-profit agencies we represent. She is the reason I first became involved with VRC.



VRC's terrific transition team:
Nancy Carr (l) and Elaine Orr (r)

In 2004 I moved to NYC from rural Pennsylvania where I was busy as a mother, a volunteer, and an employee, first as a chemist for the GE Space Center in Philadelphia and later as a co-owner of a telecommunications company. Life situations change and I started out for a new adventure with my dog, two turtles, a bed and my computer.

Being new to NYC, I wanted to get involved and meet people. I came to VRC to find a volunteer position and after talking with Nancy I joined the VRC volunteer staff as an evening interviewer. Nancy made me feel like a valued part of a wonderful organization. I soon began to visit non-profit agencies to become more familiar with their missions and to re-emphasize our service to them. I have met so many wonderful people - those who have benefited from our referral service, those who work at non-profit agencies, and those who are part of the Volunteer Referral Center.

Life in NYC has become quite full and rewarding. Learning about volunteer opportunities through the VRC has also led me to volunteer at other organizations including the Central Park Zoo, the American Museum of Natural History, and Mt. Sinai Medical Center.

My new challenge begins this year at the VRC. I plan to continue the work of Nancy and the dedicated Board and staff, to evaluate our effectiveness, and to implement plans to increase our ability to serve our community.

Thank you for this opportunity.
Elaine Orr

VRC invites you to join us
at our spring benefit

Wednesday, April 15
8:00 PM

CHASING MANET

A World Premiere by Tina Howe
Directed by Michael Wilson
Featuring Jane Alexander and Lynn Cohen

A rebellious painter from a distinguished family in Boston (Alexander) and an ebullient Jewish woman with a huge adoring family (Cohen) form an unlikely bond. Inside the confining walls of the Mount Airy Nursing Home, the two plot an escape to Paris aboard the QE2. Can they pull it off? The tension and comedy grow as they struggle to take wing for the last time.

Presented by
Primary Stages
at 59E59Theaters

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Young Professionals Committee

VRC to Capitalize on Obama's Call to Service
Young Professionals Committee is Re-launched for '09

The VRC is excited to announce that the Young Professionals Committee (YPC) is back in action! We've added a new volunteer to our ranks, Nicole Friedman, who is coordinating



Nicole Friedman,
Young Professionals Committee

the re-launch of the YPC. In a recent e-mail to YPC members, Nicole wrote: "We are looking forward to an era of renewed spirit in community-building and volunteerism, and the VRC and the Young Professionals Committee are the perfect resources for you, your friends, family members, and colleagues to keep up-to-date on volunteer activities and networking events in your community. In the coming months, we will be scheduling a number of events to celebrate the re-launch of our Young Professionals Committee and bring together groups of volunteers to pitch in for

a variety of causes around New York City. These activities will be fun and meaningful ways to give back to your community, meet new people, and help fulfill the call to service set forth by President Obama. With your help, we will make 2009 the most successful year yet for the Young Professionals Committee and the causes we care about!" Spring 2009 will be all about focusing on forming a steering committee, reconnecting with past volunteers, recruiting new members through events and online social networking, and increasing young people's direct involvement in the VRC. The YPC will help us foster the spirit of volunteerism that will carry VRC's commitment to service into the future, and beyond. We can't wait to get work!

Volunteerism on the Rise

If January trends continue, 2009 will be a big year for volunteering and the VRC. Whether a result of the economy or President Obama's call to action - or both - interviews are up 30% over the same period last year. As we go to press, February promises to show an even greater increase and demand for VRC services.



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE—VOLUNTEER!

Call 212-889-4805 for an appointment
Or visit our website at www.volunteer-referral.org