

VOLUNTEER VIEWS

VOLUME 2

"A Newsletter written for Volunteers by Volunteers"

JULY, 1991

MEET THE STAFF



Mary Kelly became involved with social justice issues in the Anti-Apartheid movement at the U of I. In realizing the connections between racism in South Africa and racism in the United States, Mary was drawn to community organizing as a way of acting on her beliefs. Mary has been with the Champaign County Health Care Consumers for two years and is currently the organizer for both the Women's Health Task Force and the Low Income Task Force. Mary believes that becoming involved with the Health Care Consumers has allowed her to work with people in a way that can really make a difference in our community.

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WOMEN'S HEALTH TASK FORCE MEETING ON BI-WEEKLY BASIS

by Patricia A. McGinty

■ The Women's Health Task Force has been re-established in order to enable CCHCC to once again address health issues vital to women. At its initial meeting, the task force discussed strategies and issues it wished to include in future dialogue. Included were such issues as reproductive freedom, sexual and domestic violence, and Medicaid/Medicare. It is hoped that by empowering women, they might be prevented from becoming further victimized by the health care industry.

Most recently, discussion has centered upon the updating of CCHCC's Health Resource Directory and the addition of items relevant to assisting women in the choice of a health care provider. CCHCC intern, Lisa Glatz, is directing her energies in assisting to update the directory and has provided an outline of subject matter to facilitate our search for material.

The women learned of efforts to reverse the gag rule recently imposed by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Rust vs. Sullivan. An amendment has been

added to the Title X Reauthorization bill which would reverse present restrictions on counseling. With 40% of its funding dependant upon federal sources, the local chapter of Planned Parenthood faces almost certain closing unless measures are not effective in overturning the gag rule. Currently, Planned Parenthood chapters nationwide will

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suffer the same demise. We hope you will join others in urging congress to support efforts at Title X Reauthorization without restrictions on counseling.

With recognition of the diverse socio-economic, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds inherent to a women's health network, there

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Dear Volunteer:

I've spent the past year working not only as a volunteer coordinator but also as a volunteer. I have been a VISTA volunteer for the Champaign County Health Care Consumers. VISTA is a federally funded volunteer program commonly referred to as "the domestic peace corps". VISTA's work all over the country helping needy Americans achieve a measure of self-reliance. In my case, I chose to help with health care.

Looking back, I've learned quite a bit over the past year. It's been a lesson in health care. It's been a lesson in politics. It's been a lesson in community service.

What's the end result? I leave behind a volunteer program which I hope will grow and benefit the community in my absence. I take with me two important things. First, is a sense of commitment. Whether it be through my career or through volunteer work, community involvement will always be a part of my life. Second, I take with me the memories of the people I have worked with over the past year including staff and volunteers. I extend a warm thanks to each of you for touching my life in a special way and for helping me learn the value of community service.

I will finish with VISTA in about three weeks. All I can really say is if you're looking for a challenge, for something different, for an opportunity to grow as a person . . . give VISTA a try. I highly recommend it.



Lynn Wolff
CCHCC Volunteer Coordinator

Thoughts from a board member . . .

by Jean Weir

■ I have been a member of CCHCC for the past six years and, through their mailings and items in the local paper, thought I knew who they were and what they did. It was not until I became involved with the organization on a volunteer basis that I learned how very little I really knew.

I have become more aware of the existing health care needs in the community and how CCHCC is working to address those needs. I am especially impressed by the staff which consists of a group of

young people who are not only knowledgeable and hardworking, they are totally dedicated to the work they are doing. They have the assistance of a large group of volunteers which has afforded me the opportunity to meet many interesting people and make new friends. Also, this year I have the pleasure of serving on the Board of Directors, another group of hardworking volunteers. All in all, I feel I am receiving much more than I am giving and I am enjoying every moment of it!

Volunteerism . . .

by Maurice Darling

■ No man is an island unto himself - nor is woman! However, he or she thinks they are. It is increasingly observed that most people think at an earlier and earlier age - "I can do as I please, I don't need you", until they have a problem they cannot walk away from. Then, they insist you solve the problem they have gotten themselves into with their uncaring, self-serving attitudes.

The older I get, the more I see the attitude of: "I can do as I please; leave me alone; I don't need your help". This is heard from the very old as often as it is heard from the young. Both young and old, as well as everyone in between, need far more assistance than they are willing to accept.

To be a volunteer in today's world, you often have to have the patience of Jove and the wisdom of Solomon just to put up with all you are called to endure any day of the week. However, volunteerism is not something a person goes into for money. Instead, volunteerism is a state of mind from which you get a feeling of accomplishment for having helped someone in need of your time and talents.

The *bottom line* of all of this is: Do you want to help others? If so, there are plenty of places to go to offer your services, such as the Champaign County Health Care Consumers. We always need help in our everyday activities. If you are interested, please contact us about putting your talents to work with us!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BINGO COORDINATOR:

Energetic and reliable individual needed to assist with planning bingo fundraiser. Help with publicity, order supplies, organize bingo packets, and recruit volunteers to work day of event.

VISTA VOLUNTEERS:

Organize senior citizens, women, and low-income residents around consumer health issues. VISTA's work full-time and receive a yearly stipend of \$6,000 and health benefits. The stipend does not reduce government benefits which volunteers are currently receiving.

DATA ENTRY:

Experienced individual needed to assist with database management. Data input might include newspaper articles, accounting transactions, and prospect lists. Flexible schedule.

For more opportunities or information about volunteering, please contact Lynn Wolff at 352-6533.

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

TASK FORCE

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remains a plethora of items to cover in the future. Among subject matter we will be addressing, is improvement of pre-natal care, treatment of differently-abled women, and non-allopathic options yet to be opened to women in the community. The next meeting will provide input and ideas upon entitling of the upcoming Health Resource Directory, from the viewpoint of women.

We encourage you to become a part of the Women's Health Task Force and add yet another dimension to its already diverse membership.

For further information, Call Mary Kelly at CCHCC. Her number is 352-6533.



CCHCC volunteers Maurice Verplank, Dorothy Utley, and Leonard Wirges were recently honored at the Annual United Way Recognition Breakfast.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wednesday, July 10** **LOW INCOME TASK FORCE MEETING**
5:30 p.m. - Call for location.
- Thursday, July 11** **HMO TASK FORCE MEETING**
Monthly meeting
7:30 p.m. at CCHCC office.
- Thursday, July 18** **SENIOR TASK FORCE MEETING**
Monthly meeting
2:30 p.m. at the Stevick Center
- Saturday, July 20** **DOWNTOWN FEST**
Downtown Champaign
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Come and visit our table!

*There is more to be
learned in one day of
discomfort, poverty and
anxiety than in a lifetime
of apparent happiness,
security, riches and
power.*

- Ralph Stanbury



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