

DORS Volunteer Services Annual Newsletter 2016

Letter from the Director of Volunteer Services

May 2017

Dear Friends of DORS Volunteer Services,

They say the third time's a charm and here we are – the third annual Volunteer Services newsletter! 2016 has been a fun year, full of exciting events, challenges, triumphs, and more! The Office of Volunteer Services has continued the Division's mission of helping Marylanders with disabilities find employment.

Whether it was finding a professional outfit for an interview or helping the support staff in a field office to process paperwork faster, our volunteers have made a difference! We have also continued raising money for various charities, hosting events to benefit students of the Workforce & Technology Center, and participating in events with DORS as well as the community. The Office of Volunteer Services would like to thank all DORS employees for their generosity this year and thank the DORS offices for the many volunteer opportunities across the state. We also thank the Volunteers for their hard work, dedication, and enduring spirits as they gave their time and talents to help the Division of Rehabilitation Services reach its goals.

Thanks for making 2016 a great year!

Lucas Gerace, Director of Volunteer Services

Fiscal Observations

Region 1: Western Maryland

- 1,204 Volunteer Hours
- \$32,074.56 contributed

Region 2: Southern Maryland & Lower Eastern Shore

- 468 Volunteer Hours
- \$12,467.52 contributed

Region 3: Baltimore City

- 2,688.50 Volunteer Hours
- \$71,621.24 contributed

Region 5: Central Maryland & Upper Eastern Shore

- 2,480 Volunteer Hours
- \$66,067.20 contributed

Region 6: Washington Metro

- 76 Volunteer Hours
- \$2,024.64 contributed

Workforce & Technology Center & Headquarters

- 2,226.5 Volunteer Hours
- \$59,313.96 contributed

Total Volunteer Hours: 9,142.50

Valued at \$26.64 per hour

Total Contributed for 2016: \$243,556.20

This calculated rate of pay is taken from

www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time and adjusted individually for each state based upon data collected in 2015. Site was accessed on 3/3/17.

Charitable Projects

DORS, including DDS, raised \$333 for the American Cancer Society through Lee National Denim Day.

DORS hosted a blood drive in July which yielded 16 viable donors, which can save up to three lives each.

MSDE raised \$63,629 in this year's Maryland Charity Campaign, toward which DORS made a substantial contribution.

Youthworks

Youthworks is an initiative of the Mayor's Office of Employment Development. DORS partners with OED to provide Baltimore City youth with positive workplace experience so that they can try out a variety of careers to make more informed decisions when planning their futures.

Photo caption: Here the Youthworkers are pictured receiving their certificates of completion from Steven Serra, the Director of Human Resources for the Maryland State Department of Education. The Youthworkers were invited to a luncheon at MSDE headquarters to share what they had learned from their work experiences!

Photo caption: Jasmine Johnson is a returning Youthworker, who has worked in the DORS mailroom helping to deliver and sort mail!

Photo caption: Carroll Barnes IV is another returning Youthworker. During his presentation he announced this would be his last summer with the program as he was heading off to college in the fall!

Photo caption: This was Tyishawn Thomas Kyle's first time as a Youthworker but he got plenty of helpful tips and guidance from his fellow Youthworkers! He acclimated quickly and made a great addition to the team!

Volunteer Profile

We spoke with Ms. Marcia Speller and interviewed her about her experiences as a DORS volunteer as well as asking her for insights and advice to future volunteers. Here's what she had to say...

Photo: Ms. Speller in front of the door to McKenna's Korner gift shop at WTC.

How did you start volunteering with DORS?

I was laid off in 2014 and started working with Family & Children's Services and was directed to work with DORS.

How long have you been with DORS?

A year and 2 months. Tell us a little about yourself. I was an art major and music minor at Mount Ida college. I worked in cosmetology. I'm from Philadelphia and I moved to Delmarva before settling near Baltimore.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering here?

Interacting with the students and getting to encourage people.

Do you have any advice for future volunteers?

Treat people the way you would like to be treated; and treat the customers as though they were family!

What qualities make a good volunteer?

Patience, empathy, ability to listen. Also being able to offer assistance while helping students retain their dignity

and sense of self.

Any future goals or aspirations for your time or position as a volunteer?

To increase the quality and types of merchandise celebrating students' dignity and accomplishments like graduation.

BACK COVER

Larry Hogan, Governor

Andrew R. Smarick, President, Maryland State Board of Education

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D., State Superintendent of Schools

Suzanne R. Page, Assistant State Superintendent, Division of Rehabilitation Services

DORS Administrative Office & Headquarters, Office of Field Services, Office for Blindness & Vision Services and the Workforce & Technology Center are located at:

2301 Argonne Drive

Baltimore, Maryland 21218-1696

Phone: 410-554-9442

Toll-free: 1-888-554-0334

Video Phone: 1-866-371-3614 / 443-798-2840

dors@maryland.gov

DORS field and OBVS counselors are located in over 20 field offices throughout Maryland. To find the nearest one, contact DORS headquarters or visit www.dors.maryland.gov

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