



# Action Items

A monthly newsletter for  
Hands On Charlotte volunteers

Hands On  
CHARLOTTE

November, 2009

[www.handsoncharlotte.org](http://www.handsoncharlotte.org)

## Hands On Schools: HOC program increases amount & value of volunteer support for schools

Hands On Charlotte not only makes volunteering simpler and more accessible for individuals and groups, we also offer many resources that help increase the value of volunteerism for our partner agencies, such as:

- access to thousands of volunteers,
- our online system for volunteer recruiting and management, and
- a corps of trained Volunteer Leaders who make volunteer utilization more efficient.

With our new **Hands On Schools** program, HOC is using these resources to increase volunteer support for a handful of low-resource schools in the CMS system. Moreover, we're concentrating the efforts of these volunteers to focus on improving the academic achievement of the students.

HOC has already begun working with several schools to implement this pilot program, and more will be added soon. Among the schools participating are First Ward Elementary School, Irwin Avenue Elementary School, Bishop Spough Middle School, Thomasboro Elementary School and Harding University High School. Our volunteers will find new opportunities to help out these schools among the project offerings on our volunteer calendar.

Anyone interested in volunteering for Hands On Schools projects will not only need to sign up via the HOC web site, they will also have to

register as a volunteer for CMS. This is a quick, simple process that can be accomplished by visiting the website [www.cmsvolunteers.com](http://www.cmsvolunteers.com).

As with all HOC projects, we will be looking for Project Leaders to help manage these volunteer opportunities. The PLs will serve as the liaison between the school and the volunteers, and enable the school staff to focus on student needs rather than volunteer program support.

In addition to providing a wide range of volunteer opportunities at these schools, the program will also identify, train and support Youth Volunteer Leaders, who will organize service opportunities for their school-mates or for youth in general through our CharlotTEEN Youth Program.

If you're interested in helping out students from at-risk neighborhoods to succeed in school, or if you're a member of a company or faith community that would like to concentrate on supporting students in low-resource schools, please contact Hands On Schools Senior Program Manager Beverly Parks at [Beverly@handsoncharlotte.org](mailto:Beverly@handsoncharlotte.org). Or, if you are looking for volunteer opportunities for middle and high school students, please contact Program Managers Laurel Fender or John Bratton at [Laurel@handsoncharlotte.org](mailto:Laurel@handsoncharlotte.org) or [John@handsoncharlotte.org](mailto:John@handsoncharlotte.org).

## HOC Welcomes 5 Board Members

Hands On Charlotte is pleased to announce the addition of five new individuals to its board of directors. Each member brings diverse personal and professional experience to the board, and will begin serving in January 2010.

- Anthony Caterino is a partner in the Charlotte office of Ernst & Young
- Bob Harris is president of Lending Tree
- Eric Law is the development director at International House
- Tyler Ream is the area superintendent for the South Learning Community of CMS
- Sasha Trosch is director of communications & community affairs at UNC Charlotte's Belk College of Business

The HOC family extends its warmest welcome to these new board members and looks forward to benefiting from their perspective and leadership for years to come.

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# HANDS ON CHARLOTTE DAY 2009

Thanks to all the volunteers who made the 17th edition of Hands On Charlotte Day on Saturday, October 24, a great success! We'll post more information and photos in the December newsletter, but here are some of the highlights:

**Projects:** HOC organized 26 different volunteer projects throughout the area, from Pineville (Sterling Elementary School) to Huntersville (Carolina Raptor Center).

**Teams:** Dozens of volunteer teams participated in HOC Day this year — everyone from the Marvin Ridge High School Beta Club and Home Depot to the Charlotte Area Peace Corps Alumni and Cox Communications.

**Treasure Hunt:** Our first ever Green Hands Treasure Hunt was a huge hit! 18 teams tracked clues and participated in volunteer projects from Pineville to the Center City in search of the grand prize — a vacation for 4 to the Caribbean! Congratulations to The Sylish Sweaters team for capturing first place!

**Raffle:** Our HOC Day raffle for US Airways gift cards was very popular. We sold well over 1,000 tickets and raised funds to help support HOC's year-round programming. Special thanks go to John Wyatt, Darlene Heater and Dana Fortson, all of whom sold more than 100 tickets each!



## Volunteers: You're going to Disneyland!

In 2010, Disney wants to inspire one million people to volunteer a day of service to a participating organization in their communities and celebrate their good works by giving each of them one day admission to a theme park at Disneyland® Resort or Walt Disney World® Resort, free.

Starting January 1, 2010, guests can go to [www.disneyparks.com](http://www.disneyparks.com) to search for volunteer opportunities made available through HandsOn Network affiliates such as Hands On Charlotte and sign up for a day of volunteer service. As the nation's largest volunteer network, HandsOn Network has 250 on-the-ground volunteer action centers across the country and connects volunteers to more than 70,000 nonprofit agencies that need their help. Many of the opportunities will be projects that entire families can participate in together.

We'll provide more information in the December newsletter and on the website, but in the meantime, here are answers to some common questions about the program, which is called "Give a Day, Get a Disney Day."

### What is the "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." program?

"Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." is a program that celebrates and inspires volunteerism. Disney is working with HandsOn Network to connect volunteers to community need. Disney is thanking those who volunteer for an eligible volunteer opportunity by giving them a free ticket good for one day admission to a Walt Disney World® or Disneyland® theme park.

### What about HOC's regular volunteers who normally sign up for opportunities through the HOC website. Will they get to participate?

Volunteers may find opportunities through the HOC website, but they must sign-up at [DisneyParks.com](http://DisneyParks.com) to participate in the "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." program.

### How far in advance can volunteers sign up for a volunteer opportunity?

Volunteers may sign up beginning January 1st. Volunteers cannot sign-up for a volunteer opportunity that is more than 60 days in the future.

### When does the "Give a Day. Get a Disney Day." program end?

Ticket quantities for this program are limited. The program begins January 1, 2010 and continues until all tickets are distributed or December 15, 2010, whichever occurs first.

### How often can a volunteer get a free ticket?

The program is limited to one ticket per person, regardless of the number of times they volunteer.

# HOC News & Notes

**Project Leader Training:** There are two Project Leader training sessions schedule in November. These sessions are for individuals interested in leading a monthly calendar projects. Both sessions take place at the Hands On Charlotte office at 6:30 pm; one is on Thursday, November 12 and the other on Tuesday, November 17. You can sign up for the course on the website under “Courses”.

**Volunteer Social Event:** Our next Volunteer Social will take place Wednesday, November 4 at Jackalope Jack's at 1936 East 7th Street from 6 pm until 8 pm. It is listed on the project calendar on the website. Please sign up online if you're planning to attend, so we can get a good estimate of the number of attendees.

**Thanksgiving Day Parade:** HOC is helping to recruit volunteers to help out with Charlotte's annual Thanksgiving Day Parade in the Center City. Volunteers will help prepare the floats for the parade from approximately 8am until 10am. Other volunteers will help to clean

up the floats at the end of the parade route. Please keep an eye on the HOC web site for more details about this opportunity to help with a Charlotte tradition!

**Reimagining Service:** If you're passionate about volunteerism and believe in the power of individuals to make a positive difference in their communities, you may want to participate in a new forum seeking innovative ideas to expand the impact of service. Reimagining Service ([www.reimagining-service.org](http://www.reimagining-service.org)) is a community and a platform to foster ideas that make an impact. It is a place for anyone who believes that volunteering is more than just “a nice thing to do,” and that it holds the key to addressing some of our communities' toughest challenges. You can read an initial report on the website and then offer your own comments and ideas.

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## Community Grapvine

Every month, we will list volunteer opportunities that are not currently among HOC's monthly projects, but still provide a valuable way to assist local non-profit or community service organizations. If you are interested in helping, please contact the individual listed in the description. Hands On Charlotte assumes no responsibility for these volunteer activities.

**Dowd YMCA:** The Dowd YMCA will host its annual half marathon and 5k races on Saturday, November 7, and needs volunteers for a range of tasks. Volunteer details are listed on the HOC web site under Special Events, or you can contact Allison Rice at 704-716-6084.

**Harris Teeter Harvest Feast:** On Friday, November 27, Harris Teeter is organizing its annual Harvest Feast dinner at the Charlotte Convention Center to serve community members in need. Many volunteers are needed to make this

event happen and there are group opportunities for families, businesses or houses of faith. The event is from noon until 4pm, but volunteers are needed a couple of hours before and after the event. Shifts are available. For more information, please contact Catherine Reuhl at 704-844-3904 or [creuhl@harristeeter.com](mailto:creuhl@harristeeter.com).

**Basketball Coaches:** The Mecklenburg County Department of Parks & Recreation is looking for volunteer basketball coaches to help out at leagues throughout the county from November through February. The time commitment is about 3 hours per week (1.5 hours practice and 1.5 hours for game). For more details, please contact Lori Saylor at [Lori.Saylor@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:Lori.Saylor@mecklenburgcountync.gov).

**Uptown Shelter:** The men's Uptown Shelter is in need of towels, washcloths, razor blades and deodorant for the hundreds of clients it serves every day. If you would like to donate any of these items, or coordinate a donation drive to help the shelter, please contact Linda Miller at 704-927-6869.

## Welcome to our New Volunteers!

These individuals have gone through our new volunteer orientation from mid-September through mid-October. Welcome to HOC!

Dimitra Acheson	Amanda Fye	Jeanie Koechley	Brett Perry	Tara Trow
Abby Alexander	Angela Gay	Annie Lambert	Emily Perry	Maria Vaughn
Billy Allison	Traci Gifford	Samantha Laveck	Julie Piehl	Kyle Whittlesey
Amy Baucom	Zach Gilchrist	James Leonard	Chantelle Pires	Ryan Wiggins
Tracy Bonfield	Matt Gill	Anna Lipford	Hallie Pruce	Maisha Williams
Andrea Bowie	Barry Given	Craig Lochbihler	Heather Puljung	Jackie Zinn
Louis Brown	Amy Godiwalla	Tolu Mafe	Kimberly Robbins	
Lisa Bryson	Robert Goncalves	Amber McFern	Katherine Rogers	
Adrian Budischak	Dawn Hamer	Hannah McNeill	Karen Simcox	
Linda Carter	Ashley Harty	Vanessa McPherson	Jim Sokolowski	
Dani Chesson	Stefani Hasty	Ashraf Mokari	Bree Sorrell	
Greg Chesson	Shannon Henderson	Ebrahim Mokari	Tom Stanar	
Joey Church	Amanda Hinkebein	Terri Newman	Nancy Swoyer	
Robin Constantine	Patricia King	Kelly Nichols	Ashley Talley	
Carina Deguire	Stephanie King	Jennifer Patteson	Shanna Todd	

### Board of Directors

<b>Jim Thompson,</b> Chairperson	Sara Collins
<b>John Ross,</b> Vice Chairperson	Mitch Cox
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	Lori Saylor
	Mark Schuler
	Evelyn Warren
	John Wyatt

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<b>John Bratton,</b> Hands On Schools Mgr./AmeriCorps	
<b>Laurel Fender,</b> Hands On Schools Mgr./AmeriCorps	

### Hands On Charlotte

strengthens our community and enriches lives by mobilizing a diverse,  
committed corps of citizens in direct, volunteer service.

# November 2009

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