

# Volunteers seek student support

By AMY MISCHO  
Staff Reporter

Last year, when students asked for a place to go for volunteer opportunities, Student Involvement answered by adding a new Volunteer Service-Learning Department.

Now Volunteer Services is asking for something back from students — time.

"There are a lot of volunteer opportunities, and we're desperately looking for people," said Diane Podolske, assistant director of Volunteer Services.

Volunteer Services acts as a liaison between the organization and student, matching the student with a volunteer opportunity. Volunteer Services currently has organizations that need students, but no students to volunteer.

When students leave for summer break, Podolske said, they take with them a resource which many organizations in the Lincoln community depend on.

"Organizations saw all of our students at UNL and thought 'what a great resource,'" she said.

Now, Volunteer Services has the challenge of finding summer volunteers from UNL to fill the needs of the service organizations, she said. The service is searching for students, faculty and staff that have some time to give.

"There is a myriad of volunteer opportunities," said Stacey Duncan, who works with Volunteer Services.

Opportunities this summer include fishing day trips, working with kids and helping them make crafts, chaperoning field trips, Internet searching and working at the Lincoln Children's

## Museum

Students have the choice of directly working with the organization they are helping or volunteering behind the scenes.

Jason Dubs, president of the UNL Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, knows what it is like to do both.

"Right now, I don't get a chance to

“There is a myriad of volunteer opportunities.”

STACEY DUNCAN  
Volunteer Services worker

work on the projects because I put so much time in on other things," Dubs said.

When he first volunteered with Habitat for Humanity three years ago, he worked on-site with Helen, a woman who was working on her Habitat house.

"Helen and the kids were there and I got to see how excited they were to finally own a house," Dubs said. "I got to see the tangible evidence of the work I was doing."

Dubs said he knows the importance of the other side of community service as well. Without people to lead, motivate and organize the volunteers, no work can be done, he said.

The YWCA has many volunteer needs for the organizational side of community service, Podolske said.

They need clerical volunteers and a maintenance/cleaning volunteer, as well as people to work with children and adults.

The Good Neighbor Community Center needs an administrative volunteer-assistant coordinator and CenterPointe, Inc. has a position for Internet searching.

The Hispanic Community Center is looking for help with a field trip for its summer camp. If they do not have enough volunteers, the summer camp cannot take place, Podolske said.

The Lincoln Children's Museum sponsors a Valentino's night at which volunteers eat free after setting up tables and chairs, delivering food and having fun with the children.

Lincoln/Lancaster County Habitat for Humanity is having its 10th Anniversary Blitz Build July 20-24 and July 27-31. Volunteers are essential to help build five houses in 10 days.

Open since September, Volunteer Services provides money for organizations to use for service projects and forms programs to assist students in finding organizations.

This fall, the service is planning a Volunteer Involvement Fair in conjunction with the Student Involvement Fair. Volunteer Services also promotes Make a Difference Day, which has a Children's Literacy theme this year. They will sponsor a Read-A-Thon on October 10, and will be sending students to schools to read aloud.

Contact Volunteer Services at 472-2454 with questions or to get information on how to volunteer. Ask to speak with someone in the Volunteer Service-Learning Department.

## Market gives urbanites taste of rural life

MARKET from page 2

some sell specialty items, such as Anne Malone from Plattsmouth, who sells exotic plants and cacti.

She said her business offered plants that were unavailable anywhere else.

"I have a double-variegated oleander, and it's the only one I've ever seen," she said, "that's why it's \$125."

The Farmer's Market benefits Haymarket businesses, too.

Miller Fabrications, 730 O St., gets more business on Farmer's Market Saturdays, said Robin Fridrich, an employee.

"Todd used to have a stand by the train station," Fridrich said. "We do have a lot of customers who know him from there."

Fridrich said Miller's business started as a weekend business, with a workshop in a garage, but because of the exposure of the Farmer's Market, it has grown into much more.

"It all started with the Farmer's Market," she said, "and its grown into a booming business."

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