

The Community Hero



Stone county volunteer hired to permanent post

There are so many terrific reasons to volunteer, but have you ever considered that the volunteer opportunity you participate in might lead to a permanent job?

That is exactly what happened to Stone County Community Hero Rosalie Tizzard.

In October 2009, Tizzard answered a newspaper request for volunteers issued by the Stone County Health Department (SCHD). She had no idea her volunteer efforts would soon land her a part-time job.

The advertisement was seek-



Rosalie Tizzard (right) works the front desk at a December H1N1 vaccination clinic held by the Stone County Health Department.

ing volunteers willing to help with H1N1 immunization clinics.

“Rosalie was not currently employed and really wanted to get involved,” said Kim King, Public Health Educator for SCHD. “She began working at clinics and was there to work every one of them. She would be there for the entire 6 or 8 hours of the clinic.” Tizzard primarily manned the front desk at the clinics, collecting paperwork from the public and answering questions.

Tizzard’s positive attitude, assertiveness and dependability was immediately recognized and valued by the department staff. King said, “the staff just fell in

love with her. She got along with everyone and had a terrific take charge attitude. She made everything at the clinic run smoothly.”

Because of Tizzard’s outstanding volunteer efforts, the Stone County Health Department administrator desired to find a permanent place for her within the department. Although an open position was not immediately available, administration was in the process of reviewing and adjusting current programs and the budget. A new part-time support staff position was created to fill some gaps.

When Tizzard was approached about the permanent job opportunity, she was ecstatic.

“I told them (when I started volunteering) that I was looking for a job,” Tizzard explained, “I liked the people—I’m a people person.” Tizzard’s new position at the department involves her splitting clerical duties with Environmental Services and the Branson West office location.

. She also is continuing to work

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue

Springfield-Greene County now accepting intern applications...p. 2

*** Volunteer of the Month**

Monica Parsch ...p. 3

*** Partner/Sponsor of the Month**

The Walking School Bus...p. 3

*** Calendar of Events**

Learn what trainings, exercises and volunteer opportunities are coming up...p. 4

Internship program provides opportunity for students to work in local government

The Springfield Greene County Health Department (SGCHD) has announced the redesign of the department's internship program for college level students. The program provides an exciting and demanding opportunity for students to gain work experience in local government.

"There is now an application required and a competitive selection process," said Rebecca Ray, health educator for SGCHD. "Both graduate and undergraduate student applications will be considered."

Students selected to receive an internship will be matched with specific internship opportunities in various programs throughout the department. The goals of the pro-



gram include providing students an opportunity to network and meet professionals in the public health community, as well as allow the health department the chance to identify potential future employees.

Work assignments will be determined based on the individual

intern's skills, knowledge, and experience. Some intern positions may even require a specific degree program for eligibility.

"We are constantly coming up with new projects," Ray said.

An internship will span one semester. However, after completion, the intern may apply for another position for the next semester. Summer internships are also accepted.

SGCHD does not currently offer compensation for the internship program. But Ray is quick to emphasize the lasting benefits of participating.

"We offer some great projects that will look good in a portfolio or on a resume."

If you are interested in applying for the SGCHD Internship Program, you may fill out an application online at www.springfieldmo.gov/health/internships.html. A resume and cover letter are required to be submitted as well. Details of the application process can be found on the website.

Volunteer enjoying her new job

(Continued from page 1)

one day a week at H1N1 immunization clinics the department is currently offering at county schools and senior centers.

"It's wonderful, I love it," said Tizzard about her new job. "I especially love the environmental type of work."

Originally from Oregon, Tizzard and her husband moved to Stone County in 2005. She has four children, 13 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren who all reside in Oregon.

When she is not working at her new job, Tizzard enjoys staying

active by jogging and doing step aerobics. She also has another hobby that is rather unusual for a great grandmother.

"I love to play video games," said Tizzard. "Sometimes I'll play until midnight!"

Her five dogs also keep her on her toes.

Tizzard's story is a reminder that volunteering can not only provide personal satisfaction and serve a great need in the community, but it can lead to opportunities that can provide a paycheck and rewards for years to come.

We Need Your Input!

If you have ideas for stories, featured volunteers, or featured partners that you would like to see in The Community Hero newsletter, let us know. Contact Shannon Crosby at scrosby@springfieldmo.gov or call 536-1244.

Volunteer Profile



Q: What is your current job? I retired from the nursing profession in May of

2009. My new job is “number one Grandma!”

Q: What is your family like? My immediate family consists of my husband, Dan, and our two sons. Son Mark is married to Anna and they have number one grandchild, Lily. They live in Kansas City. Son Michael is in Des

Monica Parsch

Moines, IA with his significant other, Jennifer.

Q: Why did you decide to become a Community Hero? My nursing career has been primarily institution based, so when I started looking for volunteer opportunities I looked for areas available in the community. Public health departments are tasked to “care” for all of us, have many areas of involvement, and are usually under-funded; it seemed like a good place to be to learn and contribute.

Q: Why do you feel it is important to volunteer? I believe that we have all been given talents that we are to use for the betterment of our “village” in whatever way we can, when we can. Volunteering gives me an opportunity to use my talents to assist our community with its needs.

Q: What are your hobbies? I am a gardener. I like to read, do jigsaw and Sudoku puzzles and knit. Recently I have started quilting and am a member of the Harvest quilters group in Ozark.

Featured Partner

The Walking School Bus

A walking school bus (WSB) is a group of children who walk to school together under trained adult supervision.

The purpose of WSB is to make sure kids get to school safely while promoting physical activity. It encourages kids to walk, who otherwise might not have, and introduces them to an important and easy form of exercise. WSB also helps ease traffic flow and reduces pollution generated by vehicles.

The concept of WSB is used extensively in Europe and New Zealand, as well as a growing number of U.S. cities. In

Springfield, the WSB program is operating at Weaver and Williams elementary schools. The WSB program at Weaver has been underway since 2005 and is coordinated by Tawn Brown. The Williams program is new this school year and is coordinated by Marti Mowery.

The WSB at Weaver currently serves about 30 children. Seven adult volunteers are active in the program. Volunteers are required to pass a background check, must be available for less than an hour in the mornings, and must be able to have fun!

For volunteers who are interested in participating in Weaver’s WSB program, contact Brown at 417-766-5398. To participate in the Williams WSB, contact the school at 417-523-2000.

If you are interested in starting a WSB at your neighborhood school, contact Ian Thomas, director of PedNet Coalition in Columbia, MO. This organization provides training for WSB throughout the state. They also offer opportunities for mini-grants in order to fund the program. The website for PedNet is www.pednet.org.

Calendar of Events

New Volunteer Orientation/ Training. Volunteers are needed to assist Local Public Health Agencies. Please attend a Community Hero training to get involved and make a difference in your community! The next new volunteer orientation/training in Springfield is scheduled for February 27 at 9:30 a.m. New volunteer orientation is also held every other Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the first Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please e-mail volunteerhealth@springfieldmo.gov or call (417) 874-1297 to register.

Ongoing. Secret Shopper program Evaluation The Springfield-Greene County Health Department is looking for volunteers who would be willing to participate in an evaluation program of the health department's services. Secret Shoppers will act as potential participants in health department programs. This will include calling, asking question, and providing feedback about customer service experiences. Volunteers will document answers to questions, number of times a call was transferred, and if he/she re-

ceived the information being sought. This project will help determine areas of customer service that need to be improved and/or celebrated. Interested volunteers may call (417) 874-1297 or e-mail volunteerhealth@springfieldmo.gov.

Feb. 15. Stone County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training. Stone County CERT classes will be held from Feb. 15 through March 22nd at the Reeds Spring High School library. The class will be held on Monday nights from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Feb. 15. Christian County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training. Christian County CERT classes will be starting Feb. 20. Volunteers may choose between attending three Saturdays or three Wednesdays. Class times are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and volunteers must attend all three sessions to be certified. Classes will be held at Ozark Presbyterian Church 1932 E. Hwy 14 in Ozark. To register contact Christian County Emergency Management at 581-2126.

Mission Statement

We will provide volunteer help to the communities we serve whenever it is most needed. We will always plan, prepare and participate.

Community Heroes is a Region D Local Public Health Volunteer program. Community Heroes does not discriminate against any individual because of race, color, religion, sex, age, physical or mental handicap, sensory disabilities or veteran status.

For questions, comments, or suggestions contact Regional Educator/Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca Ray at (417) 874-1297 or by e-mail at rray@springfieldmo.gov

Visit us or sign up to be a Community Hero at www.beacommunityhero.com

The Community Hero is a monthly publication for the volunteers and staff members of Region D local public health departments.

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If you would like to have your training or event listed in *The Community Hero*, please contact Rebecca Ray at (417) 874-1297.