



SERVing the CommUNITY

SERV: Helping You Help Others

November 2011

Published by the Massachusetts Human Resources Division (HRD)

www.mass.gov/serv

Inter-Agency SERV Team at Pine Street Inn



◀ Front row (Left to right): Brenda Brantley (DOT), Tonya Donald (DCR), Rob Powell (ITD), Ruthie Graham (DCR), Tess Ward (DCR)

Back row (left to right): Stan Slepoy (DOT), Sean Hardeo (ITD), Kieran Sullivan (DOC), Jessica Galligan (DOC)



▲ Left to right: Rob Powell (ITD) and Jessica Galligan (DOC)



▲ Left to right: Kieran Sullivan (DOC), Sean Hardeo (ITD), Ruthie Graham (DCR), Tess Ward (DCR)



◀ Left to right: Brenda Brantley (DOT), Tonya Donald (DCR)

"I had no idea what to expect when I volunteered my time to prepare food in the kitchen at The Pine Street Inn. My heart ached for the homeless people who have nowhere to call home. To sleep night after night in a shelter is not an easy way to live. Needless to say, it was an extremely rewarding and valuable experience to have volunteered. It's the least I can do for those in need."

**— Tess Ward, Contract Specialist
Department of Conservation and Recreation**

Print

* Design courtesy of Linda Tedeschi, Department of Revenue - tedeschil@dor.state.ma.us



Kudos & Announcements

November 2011

Kudos Corner



One of our SERV approved non-profit agencies, the Open Door, a hunger relief agency in Gloucester, was honored as "Community Partner of the Year" by the Greater Boston Food Bank in October 2011. Lauren Johnson, Director of Resource Management at the Office of the State Comptroller is President of their Board of Directors and a SERV team from the Office of the State Comptroller repaired and painted the dining room of the Open Door. The award recognizes a hunger-relief agency that is a leader in food distribution, food safety, nutrition, nutrition education, community advocacy, leadership, and partnership in Eastern Massachusetts.

SERV Transition:

As of November 1, 2011, LaToya Odlum, a Personnel Analyst at the Human Resources Division, (HRD) will assume the responsibilities of the Statewide SERV Coordinator. She can be reached by email: latoya.odlum@massmail.state.ma.us or by phone 617-878-9789.

Natalie Wadzinski, who was the Statewide SERV Coordinator from February 2007 to October 2011 is still at HRD with new responsibilities. She can still be reached at natalie.wadzinski@massmail.state.ma.us or by phone 617-878-9710.

Help With Hunger Relief in Boston

To reserve a slot please email latoya.odlum@massmail.state.ma.us

Greater Boston Food Bank

40 volunteers needed for shift on Tuesday, 11/8/11 from 1pm-3:30pm to inspect, sort, label and repack donated grocery products that are then distributed to hunger relief agencies. Free onsite parking.



Pine Street Inn

4 volunteers needed for shift on Wednesday 11/9/11 from 9am-1pm to do behind the scenes kitchen prep work for dinner.



Rosie's Place

3 volunteers needed for shift on Wednesday 11/9/11 from 11am-1:30pm to serve lunch meal to women and children clients who are homeless.



See the volunteer calendar and list of over 700 approved nonprofits at www.mass.gov/serv.



Meet Linda, Our Graphic Designer



Linda Tedeschi, a day-time technical trainer at the Department of Revenue (DOR) kindly moonlights during off work hours on a volunteer (unpaid basis) to put the magic into the monthly SERV newsletter published by the Human Resources Division (HRD). You may recall the days of plain text uninviting weekly SERV emails from HRD. Once Linda stepped up and offered her assistance to HRD, the newsletter has been transformed into a professional marketing tool to promote SERV across the Executive Branch.

She also manages the CPR training program for DOR which has about 1700 employees. The rest of her time is devoted to developing and conducting computer courses and designing graphics, publications and multimedia projects for Employee Training and Development Bureau in DOR.



Life longs friends-left to right: Jennifer Loomos, Linda Tedeschi & Diana Vannelli

Studios, mainly consisting of etchings, woodcut and linoleum reductions, and stone lithographs.

Most recently, Linda's beautiful figurative and abstract paintings, prints, and drawings were displayed at the Salem Cinema Art Gallery (Salem, MA) for the month of October 2011. I attended the opening night and there was quite a crowd! As Linda's real passion is her creativity, we were very pleased to provide an opportunity for her to spruce up our newsletter to encourage more employees to volunteer and to acknowledge those volunteers who were willing to share their photos, quotes, or volunteer story.



Artist's Reception, Oct. 2011

Using an extensive clip art library and professional layout software Adobe InDesign, Linda takes the blank page every month and along with the text provided by HRD somehow transforms the bland and ordinary into engaging.



Artist's Reception, Oct. 2011

Not only is Linda an expert on graphic design, she is well educated in the art field and has a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts (BFA) from UMASS Amherst in Printmaking with minors in art history and graphic design. Over the past 20 years, Linda has been sharing her creative talents with others who appreciate art in the Northeast through numerous art shows and exhibits at some renowned galleries in New York and Massachusetts. A past member of the Experimental Etching Studio in Boston, Linda frequently exhibited her work at South End Open



Artist's Reception, Oct. 2011

It's been wonderful to have Linda's assistance with the newsletter. I am truly indebted to her and greatly appreciative of her willingness to help every month and keep me on deadline! May you continue to find ways to best use your great creativity and talent Linda in your employment with the Commonwealth and in your private endeavors.

You may see Linda's artwork at:
<http://www.behance.net/linda-tedeschi/frame>

- Natalie Wadzinski, Human Resources Division

See the volunteer calendar and list of over 700 approved nonprofits at www.mass.gov/serv.



Meet Natalie, Statewide SERV Coordinator through October 2011



Volunteer of the Year" Award on behalf of the SERV program in 2009.

It's been a real privilege to work on the SERV volunteer program the past four years. Effective November 1st, I am assuming some responsibilities on a multi-year human resource project. I only had done some episodic volunteering but that all changed in 2007 when I became the SERV Coordinator. Recently I've become my family's volunteer leader and have drafted my husband, pre-teen daughter, and even my father-in-law (once) for weekend shifts helping with hunger relief. My philosophy is that you are never too young or too old to start volunteering!

Program design, implementation, marketing, and administration of the SERV program has been a learning experience that has opened my eyes to the multitude of non-profits serving the needs of our residents. Between July 1, 2007 and September 9, 2011 there were 3,204 state employees who volunteered for 90,242 hours. That's a statistic we should all be proud of! I recognize that many state employees make significant contributions in their communities during their leisure hours and that should be appreciated and commended as well.

One thing I've really enjoyed is sampling one-time shifts at a wide variety of non-profits. Volunteering has allowed me to meet some of the kindest state employees I would never had occasion to meet as part of my regular state work. Strangers who have volunteered side by side have developed personal friendships and professional connections and has sparked some of our employees to do additional volunteering on their

own during non-work hours. We're not alone SERVing on these shifts as we meet other interesting corporate volunteer teams and groups of high school student and college students.

The most satisfying part of being involved in the program has been seeing first-time and seasoned volunteers get energized from their experience and find their volunteering niche. Employees who SERV consistently report increased morale when they return to the office and more commitment to their state job as it allows them time to do volunteering that makes a difference.

My philosophy is that we all have a responsibility to help others when we are able. Some day many of us will need assistance from others due to aging, illness, or unexpected changes in life circumstances. If you believe in karma, "pay it forward" and make a difference now. When you need help in the future, it may even be a SERV volunteer that steps forward.

We all have something we deeply care about whether it be children, seniors, homelessness, the needy, the environment, health, or public safety causes. The key tip for successful volunteering is to discover your passion and pursue the volunteer work that you will find most fulfilling. I hope you all also have jobs and lives that you feel passionate about; it makes all the difference between just going through the motions and truly fully living each day. Thank you volunteers for all your effort to help others! It's been great working with so many dedicated agency SERV Coordinators who have been effective advocates at their agency. I don't like farewells, so I'll just end with: "I hope I see you on a SERV shift soon."

*-Natalie Wadzinski, Statewide SERV
Coordinator, Human Resources Division*

See the volunteer calendar and list of over 700 approved nonprofits at www.mass.gov/serv.