

In This Issue: “Volunteerism and Health Care”

From Headstart to Revenue Sharing – from mental health to senior programs – from comprehensive health programs to the Community Development Act – community and citizen input is not only requested, but required.

Marlene Wilson, 1976, p. 21

Thirty years ago, a pioneer in the organized management of volunteers and in the volunteer administration profession wrote these timeless words in her groundbreaking book, *The Effective Management of Volunteer Programs*. Yet the words still echo true today regarding the critical role that volunteers and volunteerism play in health care programs, organizations, agencies, and institutions. Consequently, this second issue (Number 2) of Volume XXIV of *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration* explores these critical roles in greater detail, and in more contemporary contexts.

On behalf of the entire editorial staff and review Board of *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration (IJOVA)*, I want to express our appreciation to each of you who has contacted one of us regarding this new generation of the former *Journal of Volunteer Administration*. In many ways, we are still building a new bridge as we walk upon it, seeking to connect practitioners, academicians, and consultants in greater service to the global volunteer community. We appreciate and welcome your continued comments, advice, and manuscript contributions to *The IJOVA* as we seek to continue the tradition of excellence established by the former Association for Volunteer Administration, transitioning *The Journal* into its new web-based design and international focus.

The response to the new publication has been overwhelmingly positive! Since *The Journal*'s on-line premier in July of this year, *The IJOVA* web site has experienced 23,112 "hits" (i.e., someone accessed *The IJOVA* home page) and 815 extended "visits" (i.e., someone linked from the home page to at least one additional page in *The Journal*). Thank you for accessing *The IJOVA*, and please continue to share this resource with organizational colleagues, professional peers, students and clients.

The issue opens with sthree excellent *Feature Articles*. Ramirez-Valles provides an excellent overview of volunteers in public health causes, describing both public health areas and activities to which individuals volunteer as well as characteristics of the volunteers themselves. Allen discusses roles and participation of volunteers in a long-term care ombudsman program, and assesses potential differences between nursing homes with and without volunteer ombudsmen. Swinson focuses upon using potential health benefits of volunteering as a strategy in recruiting volunteer generational cohorts, concluding that “Identifying and understanding the potential volunteer market and the motivational strategies needed to attract those volunteers will be key issues for the future of volunteerism.”

The former *Research In Brief* section has been transformed into the more extensive (yet still very applied) *Research Into Practice* section. This issue highlights a qualitative study by Blanchard

that explores sources of personal motivation among hospital volunteers as well as possible differences in motivation based upon age or gender. The exploratory research reported by Edwards, Safrit, Gliem, and Rudd highlights positive affects upon teen volunteers themselves regarding obesity and overweight while serving as volunteer teachers of younger youth in an obesity and overweight prevention program.

Tools of the Trade includes a review of two companion publications by the American Society of Directors of Volunteer Services (ASDVS), a professional membership group of the American Hospital Association (AHA). Both publications address serious issues surrounding legal, risk management, and accreditation issues in volunteer-based health services organizations and agencies. The reviewer, Hood, appropriately concludes that “following the recommendations outlined throughout these manuals . . . should pose no threat to the volunteer director who focuses on good business practices for volunteer programs in healthcare organizations,” and I would add, any volunteer-based organization.

Ideas That Work includes an excellent description by Loh of how a Singapore hospice organization has successfully guided its student volunteers to focus their volunteer experiences upon the larger development of the island-nation’s communities. This Community Involvement Programme (CIP) approach within the health care agency has, according to the author, “[instilled] in student volunteers a sense of social responsibility, better preparing them for active citizenship.”

Sue Wood’s *Commentary* provides the reader with serious thought-provoking questions that are especially relevant in light of the upcoming influenza season, last season’s appearance of the avian flu strain, and ongoing concerns regarding a potential influenza pandemic.

Beginning with this issue, *From The JOVA Annals* will feature articles focused upon the volume’s theme, yet published previously in *The Journal of Volunteer Administration (The JOVA)*. We hope this new feature will allow for easier online access and retrieval of quality articles that still have relevance in today’s global volunteer community. Thus, we are pleased to reprint three such works: “Psychosocial Support: A Crucial Component for the Successful Management of AIDS Volunteers,” by Tommy J. Breau (originally published in 1993/1994); “Partners in Caring: Administration of a Hospital-based Volunteer Program for the Education of Cancer Patients,” by Joyce Nyhof-Young, Ph.D. and Jennifer M. Jones, Ph.D. (first published in 2003); and “Volunteering for the Future: The Impact on Young Volunteers of Volunteering in Paediatric Palliative Care,” by Rosalind C. Scott and Denise Burgin (first published in 2004).

We hope this issue of *The International Journal of Volunteer Administration* will provide each reader with information, inspiration, and renewal as we nurture, support and sustain the critical roles that volunteers and volunteerism play in providing for the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of individuals around the world.

R. Dale Safrit, Ed.D.
Editor-In-Chief