

Berks County Needs YOU!

Make a Difference in Your Community

2015 Summer Youth Volunteer Resource Guide



www.uwberks.org



LIVE UNITED

**United
Way**



**Summer
2015**

Summer is a fun time to hang out with friends, soak up the sun and sleep late. While many teens enjoy these activities, others feel the need - and want the opportunity - to connect with others and provide a service that adds value to their community. In addition, more and more schools and club participation are requiring community service hours to help teens recognize the importance of volunteering their time and engaging in activities that improve community conditions.

The United Way of Berks County has compiled a list of various youth volunteer opportunities that we hope will add value, build skills, meet needs, encourage teamwork and provide opportunities for youth leadership. This list is by no means inclusive of all the opportunities available for youth in Berks County. If you do not find something here, consider calling your school, church and local service organizations. You also may want to check our website: www.uwberks.org.

**I am interested in ...
Interacting with kids and teens**

BERKS WOMEN IN CRISIS

Working with children

Teens ages 15 and up who love to work with children can team with trained adult volunteers and staff, assisting with games and outdoor activities. If you have special talents like art, animated reading, music, sports or organizing games, you can be helpful with all the children in our safe house. Contact Karen Nein at karenn@berkswomenincrisis.org or 610-373-1206 X124.

OLIVET BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Blue Mountain Camp

Love the Outdoors? Love spending time with kids? Volunteers ages 15 and up spend the day with the kids of the Olivet Boys & Girls Club. Assist our group leaders in traditional camp activities: fishing, hiking, swimming, outdoor education and so much more! Contact Rhonda Mauk-Hudak at rhonda.mauk-hudak@olivetbgc.org or 610-373-1314.

SHADY HOLLOW ASSISTED RIDING

Help a Child Hug a Horse Today

Join other volunteers ages 14 and up from all over Berks County in helping individuals with special needs with assisted horseback riding lessons. After a training class you will work with other teens and young adults, as well as volunteers of all ages to help make a difference in the lives of others. You will help groom and saddle horses and then walk beside the horse as the student rides. No prior experience needed just maturity, dedication and enthusiasm! Contact Michele Cooper at volunteer@hugahorse.com or call 610-858-7937.

**THE SECOND STREET LEARNING AND TECHNOLOGY
CENTER AT OPPORTUNITY HOUSE**

Summertime = Fun!

Plan a day of fun with our kids at SSLC! This is your big "opportunity" to do lots of fun stuff this summer: read with the children, review academic skills learned during the school year, play outdoors, bring out the artist in our kids with planned art activities or host a water day or field day! You must be at least 16 years old to join in the fun. Volunteers who are 18 or older will require background clearances. Contact John Moulton at jmoulton@opphouse.org or 610-374-4696 X239.



DID YOU KNOW?

Volunteering can help you explore your interests.

Volunteering can be an opportunity to learn more about something you enjoy doing. If you like working with kids, get involved at a summer camp or help younger students with their schoolwork. If you like to cook, make dinner for the families at a shelter. Look for opportunities that allow you to participate in activities that already interest you.

Volunteer activities add value to college applications and work resumes.

College admission staffs want to know who you are as a person. They're looking for well-rounded individuals who will give their best both within and outside the classroom. Potential employers want to know if you show up on time, can take direction, are responsible, and work well with others. A good reference from an agency you've volunteered with can help them decide that you would be a good college student and employee.

Volunteering allows you to share your talents and knowledge with others.

You have skills, talents, knowledge, experience, personality and passion. Each of us is unique and has something to share with others. Volunteering is a great opportunity to teach skills to others that may not have that opportunity to learn them.

Volunteering allows you to help make a positive change in your community.

Each of us wants to live in a community where families are healthy and strong, where children are given the help they need to succeed in school, where people with disabilities and the elderly are able to live as independently as possible. Volunteering helps you make your community a better place to live, and you become part of the solution.

**I am interested in ...
Rebuilding Lives**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BERKS COUNTY Construction volunteers

Lend a hand or maybe a hammer! Volunteers 16 years and up can help build a home for qualified deserving moderate income families. Contact Helen Marie Palumbo at hpalumbo@habitat-berks.org or 610-373-3439 X301.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BERKS COUNTY ReStore volunteers

The "store that builds houses" is looking for volunteers 16 years and up. Help clean, stock and interact with customers to sell donated items with proceeds going to Habitat. Contact Helen Marie Palumbo at hpalumbo@habitatberks.org or 610-373-3439 X301.

**I am interested in ...
The Outdoors**

BERKS WOMEN IN CRISIS

Weekly Yard Work

Weeding and picking up trash on a weekly basis will help keep our campus neat and beautiful. We have limited tools for yard work, so bring your own gloves, shovels, etc. We will supply receptacles for refuse. You CAN make a difference! Contact Karen Nein at karenn@berkswomenincrisis.org or 610-373-1206 X124.

PHOEBE BERKS HEALTH CARE CENTER

Enjoy the Fresh Air!

Volunteers age 13 and up help our residents enjoy the summer weather by taking them outside for walks, plant flowers and so much more! Contact Heather Cox at hcox@phoebe.org or 610-927-8514.

SHADY HOLLOW ASSISTED RIDING

Come on Down to the Farm

We need help with barn cleaning, gardening, raking our arenas and paddocks, paper shredding, and other outdoor maintenance for people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and get a little dirty. At fundraisers we need help staffing tables, setting up, etc. Volunteers over the age of 14 (or accompanied by an adult if younger), church groups, community service groups, school clubs, etc. are all welcome. Contact Michele Cooper at volunteer@hugahorse.com or 610-858-7937.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN YMCA

Green Thumb Volunteers

Love being outdoors? Get in tune with nature and express your creative side by sprucing up the camp's various flower beds. Got a green thumb? Share your gardening tips with our campers while maintaining our community garden. 600 acres are available for you to help plant flowers, mulch and do some painting. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Contact Sue Kiscadden at ycamps@smymca.org or 610-670-2267.



**I am interested in ...
Helping Our Seniors**

PHOEBE BERKS HEALTH CARE CENTER

Activities Volunteer

Want to warm a heart & create a smile? We're looking for activities volunteers 13 years and up to help our residents with crafts, reading, host storytelling sessions and much more. Contact Heather Cox hcox@phoebe.org or 610-927-8514.

PHOEBE BERKS HEALTH CARE CENTER

Pet Visitor Volunteer

Do you have a lovable pet? Pets can help reduce stress, relieve loneliness and depression, and prevent heart disease. Bring your pet in for visits with our residents. Contact Heather Cox hcox@phoebe.org or 610-927-8514.

PHOEBE BERKS HEALTH CARE CENTER

Got poker face?

Volunteers 13 years and up share your card playing talents with our residents. Contact Heather Cox hcox@phoebe.org or 610-927-8514.

PHOEBE BERKS HEALTH CARE CENTER

Lifeguard

Must have lifeguard certificate and be CPR certified. Contact Heather Cox hcox@phoebe.org or 610-927-8514.

**I am interested in ...
Job Experience**

HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY

Marketing Internship

Marketing Interns use a variety of social media accounts to promote our animals for adoption, as well as advertise events. Interns observe these animals in order to gain a better understanding of their personalities, and produce a well written, positive biographical sketch for each animal. This marketing helps animals get adopted quicker, and allows the shelter to share vital information. Interns must be a college student with Marketing or related major. Contact Lauren Monti, Volunteer Coordinator, at Lmonti@humanepa.org or 717-715-7485.



HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY

Volunteer Management Intern

Volunteer Management internship will provide experience and training in running and supporting a volunteer program across multiple sites. Interns will gain hands-on experience and management skills in a non-profit work setting and learn more about animal welfare and shelter operations. Volunteer Management Interns will focus on assisting with volunteer recruitment and Volunteer Information Sessions, assisting with new volunteer interviews, helping to carry out volunteer trainings and special events, and more. Interns must be able to meet a minimum time commitment of 10 hours/week for three months, and must be at least 18 years of age. Contact Lauren Monti, Volunteer Coordinator, at Lmonti@humanepa.org or 717-715-7485.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY

Animal Enrichment Intern

Our newly developed enrichment program (offered year-round) focuses on providing engaging activities and purposeful interaction for our dogs and cats as they wait to be adopted. Interns can expect to work both independently and alongside HSBC staff and volunteers in order to implement and carry out appropriate training and enrichment activities to enhance the mental and physical behavior of our residents. Interns must be at least 18 years of age and be able to make a minimum commitment of volunteering at least 10 hours per week for three months, and be comfortable handling a variety of animals. This is the perfect opportunity for those interested in a career working with animals; want to learn more about animal welfare and save lives. Interested applicants should submit resume to Lauren Monti, Volunteer Coordinator, at Lmonti@humanepa.org.

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE

OppShop or Warehouse...take your pick for summertime fun!

Opportunity House will be opening an off-site retail store named OppShop this summer and volunteers are needed to help stock the shelves and merchandise displays. You will also have the chance to work with customers, interact with OppShop employees and get real hands-on experience. Volunteers are also needed to help sort and organize donations and electronically scan books at our off-site warehouse. Grab some friends...groups are always welcome. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Contact John Moulton at jmoulton@opphouse.org or 610-374-4696 X239.

BERKS COMMUNITY TELEVISION

Live Television Camera Operator Volunteer!

Volunteers will operate a camera during live studio productions. No experience necessary, we train you! Must be 14 years or older. Contact Ambur Bernhard at abernhard@bctv.org or 610-374-3065.

**I am interested in ...
Computers and Office Work**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF BERKS COUNTY

Data Entry/Administrative Volunteer

Are you looking to gain experience in an office environment? Are you 16 years or older? Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of Berks County and develop your office skills. Data entry, filing and special projects are just a few of the duties that you would perform. We would love to hear from you! Contact Helen Marie Palumbo at hpalumbo@habitatberks.org or 610-373-3439 X301.

**I am interested in ...
The Arts**

THE YOCUM INSTITUTE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

Arts camps

Be creative, gain skills and support the arts in our community. Volunteer aides, ages 15 years and up, are needed for a variety of arts camps and outreach classes to work with professional artists, musicians, dancers, actors and directors from June 15 – August 18. Camps and classes are offered for ages 2-15 and are held on-site and various off-site locations. Volunteers must commit to a minimum of one week and will receive a special discount on a class. Contact Beverly Houck at primarystages@gmail.com or 610-376-1576 X205.

**I am interested in ...
Caring for Animals**

HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY

Dog Walking Volunteer

Dog Walking Team Volunteers work as a team with fellow volunteers and staff to make sure dogs get out for their walks, play time, and bathroom breaks. We have dog walking teams every morning, lunch, afternoon, and Mon. & Fri. evening. Volunteers 12 – 15 years old must volunteer as a team with a parent/guardian, and 16+ can volunteer on their own. If you love to be active and can't imagine a better way to spend your time than playing with a bunch of dogs, then this is for you! Contact Lauren Monti, Volunteer Coordinator, at Lmonti@humanepa.org or 717-715-7485.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY

Volunteer Cat Cuddler

Calling all professional Cat Cuddlers! We are looking for your help to provide the daily love, snuggles, and play time to the shelter cats, as well as light cleaning, to keep them happy and healthy while they wait for their forever home. We have cat cuddlers every morning, lunch, afternoon, and Mon. & Fri. evening. Volunteers 12 – 15 years old must volunteer as a team with a parent/guardian, and 16+ can volunteer on their own. If you love cats and nothing beats a cats purr, then this is the opportunity for you! Contact Lauren Monti, Volunteer Coordinator, at Lmonti@humanepa.org or 717-715-7485.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY

Adoption Team Volunteer

Adoption Team volunteers work as a team with staff to provide a warm, welcoming atmosphere to visitors, answer questions, talk up animals available for adoptions, and help visitors complete paperwork. Adoption Team Volunteers are needed every day, as well as Mon. & Fri. evenings. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old, be comfortable in a fast-paced environment and love people just as much as animals! Contact Lauren Monti, Volunteer Coordinator, at Lmonti@humanepa.org or 717-715-7485.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY

Foster Care Volunteer

We always love to have new foster families join the team! Foster families (must be 18 years) open their home to animals in need, and we have an on-going need for animals looking for foster care. Animals range from puppies and kittens too young for adoption, those recovering from medical care, those working on additional training and socialization, and much more. All vet care and supplies are provided by HSBC and there is always a staff member on call if an emergency arises. Plus, foster care is tons of fun and saves lives! Contact Leann Quire, HSBC Operations Director, at Lquire@humanepa.org or 610-921-2484 x27.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY

Kennel Crew Volunteer

Kennel Crew Volunteers help the staff clean the cat & dog area and adoption center every morning. This is a flexible volunteer opportunity, and volunteers can sign up for as many, or as few, days as they want and it is also an excellent opportunity to meet staff and fellow volunteers. Kennel Crew volunteers are needed daily from 9:15 a.m. – 12 p.m. 7 days/week and is a great, flexible option to complete service hours quickly! Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Contact Lauren Monti, Volunteer Coordinator, at Lmonti@humanepa.org or 717-715-7485.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF BERKS COUNTY

Service Days for Groups

The Humane Society of Berks County loves to host groups for 1 Day Service Opportunities. Service Days are typically shelter cleaning and organizing projects, yard work, and other important shelter projects that keep the facility in tip top shape. Service Days can take place Saturday – Wednesday and can typically take up to 15 people/day. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. In addition, we have special events and larger scale projects we always love to have groups help with! For more information and to get started, please contact Lauren Monti, Volunteer Coordinator, at Lmonti@humanepa.org or 717-715-7485.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN YMCA

Horse Attendant

To know a horse is to be changed forever! Help feed, groom, muck stalls and get to know these gentle giants. You'll be amazed what you learn about yourself while caring for our horses. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Contact Sue Kiscadden at ycamps@smymca.org or 610-670-2267.



**I am interested in ...
Food
(Who doesn't love food?)**

GREATER BERKS FOOD BANK

Hunger fighters needed

The Greater Berks Food Bank is always looking for new volunteers to join our mission to end hunger. Please log on to our website (www.berksfoodbank.org) to find a list of the volunteer opportunities we offer and complete our volunteer registration form. Contact Ashley Snyder at asnyder@feedingamerica.org or 610-926-5802 X207.

PHOEBE BERKS HEALTH CARE CENTER

Shake & bake volunteers

Love to bake or cook? Phoebe is looking for volunteers 13 years and up to hold baking/cooking sessions with our residents. Contact Heather Cox hcox@phoebe.org or 610-927-8514.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN YMCA

Cooking for Kids

Do you like to spend time in the kitchen? Put a smile on a child's face while helping them make nutritious choices. We need you to help make fun and creative meals for our campers. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Contact Sue Kiscadden at ycamps@smymca.org or 610-670-2267.

UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES

Pantry Volunteer

Help pack and distribute food at Helping Hands Food Pantry, 1055 Spring St. in Wyomissing from 8 AM – 4 PM. Volunteers must be 16 years or older. Contact Carmen Miranda at Carmen.m.miranda@comcast.net or 610-374-3319 X105.

Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer:

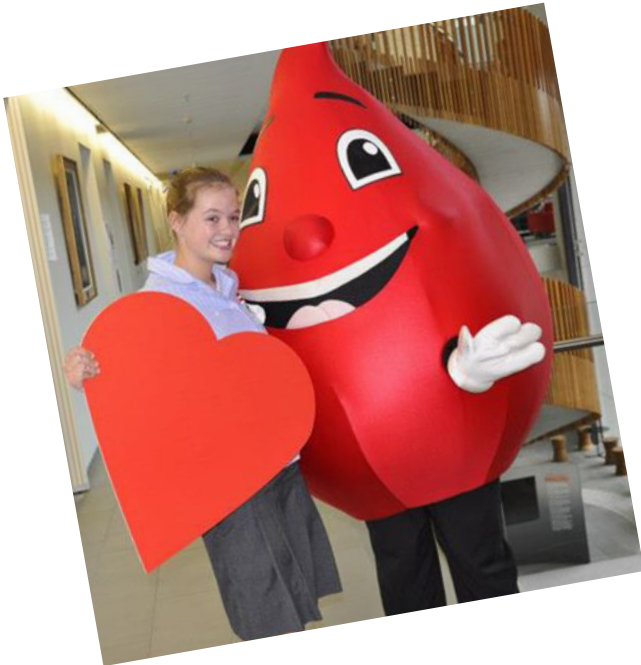
1. Gain work experience in areas that interest you
2. Boost your self-esteem by helping others!
3. Help make our community a better, stronger place
4. Enhance your college applications and work resumes
5. Meet new people, make friends & build references
6. Gain new skills
7. Access to scholarship opportunities
8. Fulfill your school's community service requirements
9. Experience growth - you will learn about yourself and others
10. It's fun!

**I am interested in ...
Helping Others With a
Second Chance**

BCPS/BERKS CONNECTIONS

Unique Opportunities for Criminal Justice/Social Service Students

Are you interested in volunteering within the criminal justice system or just have a heart to serve? BCPS/Berks Connections has many short term and long term volunteer opportunities for volunteers 18 years or older. Become a one-to-one mentor or an educational tutor with an inmate in the Berks County Jail. Volunteer your time assisting with our many fundraisers and family connections programs. Contact Danielle Dougherty at dfdougherty@countyofberks.com or 610-478-6920 X3933.



**I am interested in ...
Community Health**

CO-COUNTY WELLNESS SERVICES

Peer Educator for Berks Teens Matter Initiative

So much is happening in your life, and there is so much to think about as a teen. . .puberty, relationships, abstinence, pregnancy, STD's, and more. Would you like to become an askable expert for friends and classmates and are 14 years or older? Join us for 8 fun-filled hours of learning about you! Then explore volunteer options with us: join our prevention team to deliver community based programs, be part of our youth advisory group, or help us to spread the message through your school health club. Contact Michelle Rossi at mrossi@cocountywellnessservices.org or 610-375-6523.

MILLER KEYSTONE BLOOD CENTER

Donor Aide

Assist the blood collection staff during the donation process and aid in the preparation of blood units for laboratory testing. Position is available at the Bern Township Donor Center or at Community Blood Drives. Minimum age for teens: 14 or going into the 9th grade. Contact Andrea Gebely at agebely@giveapint.org or 610- 926-6060.

READING HOSPITAL

Teen Work Group and Open Community Work Group

Groups meet for 2 hours monthly through December and work on various projects making patient comfort items such as activity kits, candy and craft favors, newborn packets etc. Volunteers must be 15 years old unless accompanied by an adult. Contact Liz Simyak-Boyer at Elizabeth.simyak-boyer@readinghealth.org or 484-628-4077.