

Time to start thinking about the school year

As the summer winds down, community organizations whose focus is education are gearing up for the new school year. Many of these organizations utilize dozens, even hundreds of volunteers, to tutor, mentor and otherwise engage Rhode Island students. This is a wonderful way to volunteer, whether in school or after school. Aside from serving your community in a very important and deeply meaningful way, you have the privilege of interacting with Rhode Island's children and youth.

Here are some ideas for ways to serve the youth of our state, in the communities of Newport, Cumberland/Lincoln and Providence. It is not necessary to live in these towns in order to volunteer there, but there are similar opportunities in every community.

Cumberland/Lincoln Boys & Girls Club – After school volunteers are needed to host one of over 20 different types of classes or programs that run on weekdays during after-school hours. Work with children primarily ages 6-10 hosting different classes such as fitness/physical education, arts and crafts, healthy lifestyles, mentoring, and much more – the possibilities are endless! For more information, please contact Tamara Burman at 333-4850 or Burman4111@hotmail.com.

Volunteers in Providence Schools (VIPS) seeks volunteers to be Reading



VOLUNTEER CENTER
Kim Stowell

Buddies, building literacy skills in students grades 1-3 enrolled in Providence Public Schools. Reading Buddies pairs small groups of elementary school students with VIPS volunteers who provide who provide targeted skill based

tutoring once a week for 60-90 minutes.

Volunteers are not required to have prior experience working with children or a background in education. VIPS provides appropriate training. For more information email Matt Billings at mbillings@vips4kids.org or call VIPS at 274-3240.

Newport Public Schools' Math Volunteer Program – The MVP (Math Volunteer Program) is seeking volunteers

to support teachers and contribute to improved student mathematics outcomes in grades K-2. Volunteers are trained by Newport Public School teachers and MVP staff, and commit to a minimum of one hour a week in the same classroom. They seek volunteers who are competent in math at a K-2 grade level, who enjoy interaction with students which includes support and encouragement and who possess the passion for enriching students knowledge and helping them succeed. To learn more, contact Kathleen Shinnars at 847-2100 ext. 267 or kathleenshinnars@newportpublicschools.org

“Live United” WaterFire Saturday, Sept. 5 – Between 150 and 200 volunteers of all ages are needed to take part in this popular celebration by participating in an awareness parade as well as acting as Promethean torch bearers (must be over 18 to carry a torch) and distributing information. This celebration marks the kick off of United Way of Rhode Island's 2009 campaign as well as draws attention to the power of volunteerism. Pre-registration is required. The deadline is Monday, Aug. 31. This is an excellent opportunity to take part in the city's premier art and music extravaganza, while showcasing the work of United Way, which supports many community services and programs. To register online send an email to waterfirevolunteer@uwri.org or call (401) 444-0749. Need more information? Call (401) 444-0600 or email Carolyn.Watkinson@uwri.org.

Please visit www.ServeRhodeIsland for information on hundreds of volunteer opportunities. While you are there, please register to be a part of the Serve Rhode Island Volunteer Corps.

