



The Life Enrichment Center AT OYSTER BAY

“Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time, they have the heart.” ~ Elizabeth Andrew

Four months ago when I came on board at the Center, my first order of business was to get to know the staff and understand their role. With 23 employees one would think it would be an easy task, especially since I had been involved with the Center as a board member.

Well, it was more complicated than I expected, beginning with the kitchen staff. To my knowledge we had a chef and an assistant. Who were the rest of these people cutting, chopping, serving, and clearing plates? They worked like a well-oiled machine, pumping out 50 to 100 meals daily.

Like a parrot I asked repeatedly: “Who is that”? Who is that? Who is that?” The answer would be **that’s a volunteer** ... that’s Cooper, that’s Andrew, that’s Connie.... or, those are young volunteers from AHRC, Independent Support Services or the Community Mainstream Association. My first thought was “How fortunate are we?” And then “What would we do without them?”

This same scenario continued for weeks as I met volunteers throughout the building. To this day I am discovering new members contributing their time and talent to the Center. I won’t dare attempt to acknowledge each volunteer as I would need several pages and will surely miss someone. But to help you appreciate the scope of our volunteer base, here’s a small sampling of the dozens of ways people volunteer and give the gift of time to Center:

- Senior Advisory Council and Committees including Friendly Visitors, Hospitality, Silver Threads, Activities, Photographer, Sunshine Lady, Historian and Trips & Tours
- Drivers for our Elderly Transport Service; organizers for the Food Pantry
- Instructors for programs in meditation, computers, painting and writing classes
- Volunteers on the BINGO committee, or working at Oyster Festival, fundraisers and events
- Members collecting donations, assembling baskets, crafting or crocheting goods, performing dances at parties, playing and singing at Open Mic Night, working in our garden and planting the flower boxes

I am in awe of our volunteers and enormously grateful for their contributions! They are the backbone of the Center and without them we would not exist.

With heart felt appreciation and many thanks - *Judy Palumbo, Executive Director*

“Time is not measured by the years that we live, but by the deeds that we do and the joys that we give.” ~ Helen Steiner Rice

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