

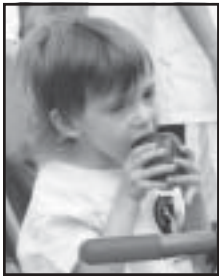
# CENTERLINE

THE VOLUNTEER CENTER OF GREENSBORO, INC. 336-373-1633

[www.volunteergso.org](http://www.volunteergso.org)

## Tenth Anniversary of the Human Race

Time flies when you're having fun! 2004 will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year that the Greensboro community has been walking, running, strolling, and biking along to raise much-needed funds for charitable groups.



It's the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for the Randolph County race.

Last year, the Greensboro race attracted a record crowd of 4,000 participants and raised nearly

\$250,000 for 111 nonprofit agencies. Randolph County earned \$34,000 for 31 agencies.

This year's Greensboro race will be held **Saturday, March 20** at Grimsley High School in Greensboro and on **Saturday, March 27** at Memorial Park in Asheboro.

The Human Race is a great way to raise both funds and friends for your cause. All charitable organizations including nonprofit agencies, schools, churches, and civic clubs are invited to participate. There's no minimum that groups need to raise - and there's certainly no maximum either! Just ask the Gateway Education Center PTA,



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Organizations keep 75 - 85% of the money they raise, and the more you earn, the more you keep!

We'll hold a training session on January 15 from 9-10 a.m. so you can pick up brochures, registration forms, posters, buttons, and all the things you need to make your participation in the race a success.

Groups that turn in more than \$1,000 by March 1 will be listed as **Marathon Members** and have their name on the official Human Race t-shirt.



Shirts will be available to the first 1,500 fundraisers who raise \$50 or more by March 18.

Race sponsorships are still available, starting at just \$500.

To join the Human Race, call the Volunteer Center at 373-1633.

Whether you have two legs or four, wheels or sneakers, we'll see you at the Human Race!

## Who Mentored You? Pass it On!

No doubt sometime in your life you had a mentor - a caring adult who took the time to befriend you and make a positive contribution to your life.

Now's your chance to return the favor and make a difference in the life of a child.

Held every January, National Mentoring Month raises awareness of the benefits of mentoring and recruits new mentors



*Bill Brubaker is nine-year-old Gabe's Big Brother. They like to play golf, go canoeing and biking, and plant vegetable gardens.*

to help young people reach their full potential.

The theme of this year's program is "Who mentored you? Thank them . . . and pass it on!"

All month, we'll be profiling mentors as our Volunteers of the Week. Look for their stories in the *News & Record*, on WFMY-News 2, and on our website.

So remember those influential people in your life, take a minute to think how you could help a child in need, and call the Volunteer Center of Greensboro at 373-1633, [info@volunteergso.org](mailto:info@volunteergso.org) and ask how you can help. For more information, visit [www.mentoring.org](http://www.mentoring.org).

## Wrapping Children in Love

Many groups participated in this year's Make a Difference Day, held October 25. Here's a profile of how the local Project Linus chapter made a difference.

Women armed with crochet hooks, knitting needles, scissors, and thread joined forces on Make a Difference Day to create blankets for children in need.



*Hours of work go into each afghan. Here, a volunteer crochets a blanket for a child facing a crisis.*

These Project Linus - Guilford County chapter volunteers donated their work to two worthy organizations that day. They created 107 crocheted, knitted, quilted, and fleece "no-sew" blankets for the Victory Junction Gang Camp in Randleman. After the death of their son, Adam, in a racing accident, Kyle and Pattie Petty built the camp to care for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses.



*One of the group's youngest volunteers (center) learns how to make a fleece "no-sew" blanket.*

Project Linus volunteers also filled 20 diaper bags with home-made blankets and other essential items for new mothers as a donation to the Guilford County Coalition on Infant Mortality. Several businesses contributed to the bags including Babies R Us, Belk, and Kohl's.

*(continued, column 3)*

## From Russia, With Love

Dear Friends,

Well, I'm back from Russia, and much of my trip still seems a blur. What I remember most is that it's a country of contrasts.

The beautiful palaces and museums of Moscow and St. Petersburg are filled with priceless treasures cared for by people who live in drab, two-room (no, I don't mean two bedroom) "flats." The fashionable shops are filled with expensive clothing, but can the average resident afford to buy it? Still, it was common to see Russians walking down city streets with cell phones in hand.

I went to Russia with other Volunteer Center directors from the eastern US and Kristin Buckley from the Points of Light Foundation.

The 'work' part of our trip took us to the Nihzni Novgorod region (located between Moscow and St. Petersburg) where we met with directors of four fledgling volunteer centers. We were all struck by the Russians' determination and vision - they know that volunteering, especially for their youth, provides hope and a feeling of accomplishment.

The directors held a leadership training for Russian youth ages 15 - 17 while we were visiting. The teens were learning about the *Seven Habits of Highly Successful People* and *Good to Great*, two texts we regularly use to train adults in the US.

*(continued, page 3)*

*Memories of Molly's Russian trip: Above left, spires of a Moscow church. Immediate left: Kristin Buckley from the Points of Light Foundation, Irina Taunova (of the Nihzni Novgorod region volunteer center. She visited the Volunteer Center of Greensboro last summer), and Molly Keeney.*

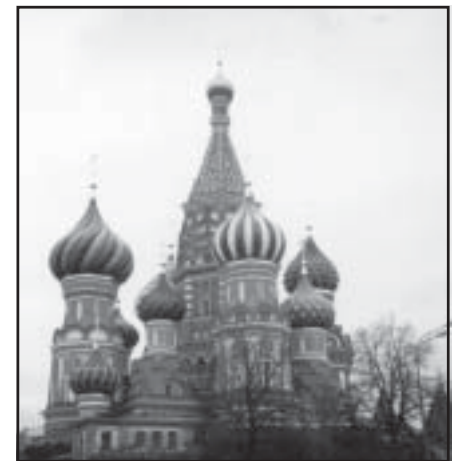
## Make a Difference Day *(continued)*

There's no paid staff at the Project Linus - Guilford County chapter, whose mission is to provide love, a sense of security, and comfort to seriously ill and traumatized children by giving each a beautiful hand-made blanket.

Now the group has embarked on "Here's a Hug," a new program to give blankets to Guilford County school children experiencing a crisis. Often, teachers, principals, or counselors are the first to know of trauma in a child's life. So far, seven schools have signed up.

Thanks to Aetna and UnitedHealthcare volunteers, the group has a good inventory for this important project. Volunteers from these companies, both members of the Volunteer Center's Corporate Volunteer Connection, participated in The Great Blanket Challenge to see who could make the greatest number of afghans for the children.

Thanks to Project Linus for making a difference in children's lives.



## Randolph County Shows It Cares - Again!

Hundreds of volunteers turned out for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Days of Caring in Randolph County in September.

“We had a great response this year from businesses, civic groups, and churches,” said Bonita Campbell, Days of Caring chair.

The volunteers donated hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars of food as they completed 57 projects including painting cabins at Girl Scout camps, hosting ice cream and bingo parties at the Adult Day Care Center, building a handicap ramp, and washing windows at the Seagrove Pottery Museum.

With the recent economic downturn, local food pantries have been especially hard hit, so food drives were a major focus of this year’s Days of Caring.

Eighteen Randolph County employers held food drives, asking their employees to donate food to the Christians United Outreach Center and the Salvation Army pantries.

Several individuals also stopped by the Randolph County Volunteer Center to fill boxes with food donations.

Once again, we thank Randolph County citizens and businesses for their outpouring of support and compassion. You’re the best!



## Molly Keeney *(continued from page 2)*

From a visioning exercise, these kids saw a future where people with disabilities aren’t second-class citizens, but rather actively involved in solving community problems.

The teens also learned how to teach their parents and other adults about the treacheries of alcoholism and the joy of helping others. Thanks to the work of Russian volunteer centers, the younger generation has hope for a better life.

Like nonprofit agencies in the US, Russian volunteer centers are worried about funding. The difference is that the money they receive doesn’t go to their staff - who are all volunteers - but directly to pay for programs, supplies, and technology to serve the community.

Earlier this year, Irina Taunova and Galina Demarkhina, two women from Nizhni Novgorod volunteer centers, visited the US to gather ideas for recruiting youth, planning projects, and raising funds. The Volunteer Center of Greensboro was fortunate to have them visit us for a weekend.

Then and now, we learned an important lesson: that despite our language barrier, we all want the best for our children and our communities.

Encouraging and enabling volunteerism is one way to make it happen!

*Molly, other US group members, Russian volunteer leaders, and a group of Kosovo teens participating in a leadership program to recruit young people as volunteers.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

National Mentoring Month	January 2004
Human Race training session, 9-10 a.m. at Volunteer Center	January 15
Martin Luther King, Jr Day	January 19
Human Race, Greensboro	March 20
Human Race, Randolph County	March 27
National Youth Service Days	April 16 - 18
National Volunteer Week	April 18-24
Join Hands Day	May 1
NCAVA Conference Winston-Salem	May 11 - 14

## Welcome, Minhthu Ngo Lynagh

The Volunteer Center is pleased to welcome Minhthu Ngo Lynagh as our Program/Development Director.

She holds a Master of Science in Health Care Administration and has a great deal of experience in fundraising.



She’s a local volunteer for Lutheran Family Refugee Services, Faith Action International House, St. Pius Catholic Church, and Children of Vietnam. She also serves on the Greensboro Community Relations Commission.

Minhthu, her husband Dr. William Lynagh, and their sons Sean and Kevin now make Greensboro their home.

Minhthu’s responsibilities will include coordinating Fill the Bus, Days of Caring, and other volunteer events, working with Partnership F.I.V.E., and fundraising.

## Leaf it to Us Rakes In the Volunteers

Rakes in hand, volunteers from throughout the community cleaned up the yards of elderly and disabled residents in Greensboro's Eastside Park neighborhood on Saturday, November 22.

More than a clean-up project, Leaf it to Us demonstrated that volunteers with and without disabilities could work side-by-side in projects to benefit others.

Students from UNCG organized the project with help from Partnership F.I.V.E. (Fostering Inclusive Volunteer Efforts). They recruited 90 volunteers - students from Greensboro College, Girl and Boy Scout troops, community and family volunteers, and volunteers from the Arc of Greensboro, Bell House, the Mental Health Association in Greensboro, RG Whitsett Residential Services, and Green Acres Group Home.

Leaf it to Us was part of National Family Volunteer Day, designed to showcase the benefits of groups of people working together in community service. It's a program of the Points of Light Foundation

Volunteers who were physically unable to rake made greeting cards for residents of the Servant House, a transitional housing program for homeless disabled and elderly men. They also decorated food tray covers for area hospitals and retirement communities.



Everyone participated in a community yard sale. The \$275 raised will be used to purchase a bicycle rack for the Eastside Park Community Center and to contribute to the Eastside Park Neighborhood Association.

Partnership F.I.V.E. is a unique community program designed to include people with disabilities in service projects. For more information, visit the Volunteer Center website at [www.volunteergso.org](http://www.volunteergso.org) and click on the Partnership F.I.V.E. link.

## Randolph County Volunteers Win Awards



*North Carolina Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service in Randolph County were presented to (left to right) Lydia A. Craven, Claire Davis, and Laurel Dawson Honaker. Joining the group is Franklin Freeman from Governor Easley's office. Awards were also given to Feaster H. Newton (center) and Ann Clark Trogdon (second from right). Mrs. Newton (third from right) and Garlene Rich, director of the Volunteer Center of Randolph County, joined the celebration.*



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The mission of the Volunteer Center is to mobilize volunteers to address community needs and to strengthen the capacity of local organizations to involve volunteers effectively.