

REPORT

Your United Way of Broome County investment at work

Special Edition

Volunteers help non-profit organizations fulfill their missions

Volunteering is one of the staples of American society. Since the birth of our nation, the work of volunteers has helped to build strong communities. People volunteer in families, groups, or as individuals to assist many community-based organizations in providing services to members of their communities. Most non-profit agencies would cease to exist if they were denied the hard work and dedication of their volunteers.

Broome County volunteers donate 400,000 hours yearly

Volunteers also are the heart of United Way of Broome County and its member agencies. Last year, United Way benefited from 663 individual volunteers who donated their time—a total of 10,750 hours—to various committees and activities. United Way's 29 member agencies averaged more than 200 volunteers each, with each one donating more than 60 hours of volunteer time, on average, for a total of over 400,000 hours of service.

While volunteer activities can include such routine tasks as stuffing envelopes and entering data into computer programs, volunteers also serve on policy-making boards and help oversee the financial health of these charitable organizations. In many organizations volunteers provide primary services, such as tutoring individuals with substandard reading levels, coaching teenagers in athletic activities, assisting older adults in decision making, and helping youngsters learn new skills.

Volunteers, like people in general, come in all shapes and sizes, all ages and genders. They include teenagers and retirees, business executives and students. Many organizations encourage their employees to volunteer at United Way or its member agencies. Some offer incentives such as

paid time off to those who participate.

United Way's Voluntary Action Center serves as a clearinghouse for information on volunteering. The center provides a link between those who want to offer their services and the non-profit or public human service organizations that need volunteer help. The skills and interests of each individual are matched to each organization's volunteer needs. The center both refers those looking for volunteer positions directly to the organizations looking for volunteers and also sends out a directory of specific volunteer opportunities.



Pat Gleason

Volunteers usually begin by performing small tasks

Patrick Gleason has been a volunteer at United Way since early in his career at BSB Bank & Trust. Most volunteers begin by agreeing to perform a small task and then taking on more complicated activities. Pat's experience has been somewhat different. He began his involvement by being the Key Person at BSB Bank & Trust for the annual United Way fund drive in 1987. (The key person is the employee at each organization conducting a workplace campaign who serves as the liaison with United Way.) During the 1991 United Way Campaign he served as a Loaned Executive. "L.E.s" are employees who are loaned by their employer to United Way to work on the annual fund drive Campaign, usually full-time for 8 to 10 weeks.

Pat continued as BSB's Key Person through 1993. That year he also became involved in the allocation of funds raised by the United Way Campaign by becoming a

member of the Allocation Panel reviewing the distribution of funds to United Way member agencies concerned with counseling and family services. For the next two years he served as vice chair of that panel, and then was selected as its chair in 1996.

Patrick Gleason: from Key Person to Division Chair

As a panel vice chair and chair, Pat was automatically a member of United Way's Allocations Steering Committee; and as a panel chair, he automatically became a member of the Community Services Division. He also volunteered to be a member of the Venture Grant Review Committee in 1996, which oversees the distribution of funds to new and innovative human services programs at both United Way member and non-member agencies.

In 1997, Pat agreed to chair the Allocations Steering Committee, which also made him vice chair of the Community Services Division. He served both roles again the following year. If he was not busy enough, he also served as a Loaned Executive again for the 1997 Campaign and chair of the Venture Grant Review Committee in 1998.

Last year, Pat served as chair of the Community Services Division. In that capacity he supervised the distribution of over \$2.8 million to 96 local programs.

Pat provides a wonderful example of the commitment and dedication that volunteers give to non-profit organizations and the community spirit of many local businesses, as exemplified by BSB Bank & Trust. His enthusiasm and experience are very much appreciated and have helped the United Way of Broome County meet its goals.

