Welcome to the latest edition of the Long Island Volunteer Center e-newsletter which recaps our 2016 programming.

**MLK Jr. Holiday National Day of Service** - Caitlin Bowe, LIVC’s youth programs coordinator, organized a comfort kit and nonperishable food donations drive for the Northport VA facility, Beacon House, which houses 50 homeless veterans. She also recruited volunteers from LIU Post Long Island Volunteers Service Club to serve dinner for the residents. HandsOn Network featured the project in their national news.

**5-Hour Volunteer Challenge to celebrate National Volunteer Week and launch new LIVC website** - In conjunction with The Carleton Group, New York Institute of Technology’s student-run advertising and PR agency, the Long Island Volunteer Center conducted a 5-Hour Volunteer Challenge to celebrate National Volunteer Week which ran April 10 through April 16. Featuring a dozen volunteer opportunities, the 5-Hour Volunteer Challenge also launched the new LIVC website platform, Fundly Connect, which links individuals and groups to the volunteer needs of over 340 nonprofit groups across the region. The volunteer opportunities appealed to a variety of interests, passion areas, and ages, including support for literacy and veterans, help for hungry and homeless people, assisting health organizations, and advocating for animal rescue and environmental causes. With special recognition to JustServe.org which helped identify volunteer opportunities and thanks to Roosevelt Field and ALEX AND ANI, which were instrumental in supporting the volunteer signup events, and to the featured organizations participating in the LIVC 5-Hour Volunteer Challenge with volunteer opportunities: The Book Fairies, Habitat for Humanity Suffolk ReStore, Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society, Island Harvest, Keep Islip Clean, National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Long Island Chapter, Northport VA Hospital, Parks & Trails New York “I Love My Park Day”, Rebuilding Together Long Island, Ruff House Rescue, Shoes For All, and Sweetbriar Nature Center. LIVC Team members who worked on the initiative included: Cheryl Brancato, Anna Lyons, Patricia Moynihan, and Diana O’Neill.

**Prom Boutique 2016** - The Long Island Volunteer Center, working in conjunction with Nassau Community College Marketing & Fashion students, coordinated 18 collection sites across Long
Island to accept new and gently-used prom dresses, bridesmaid dresses and accessories (including dressy shoes, evening bags and costume jewelry) for the 22nd Annual Prom Boutique held at NCC on April 16. All dresses and accessories were distributed free of charge to girls of families across the region who cannot easily absorb the expense of a new gown for their prom, awards ceremony, or graduation. High school guidance counselors, at-risk youth agencies, group homes, and church outreaches made the program available to their constituents. Seven hundred ninety-five girls benefited from 28 different schools and nonprofit youth organizations across Long Island. Created at the Junior League of Long Island in 1995 and added to the array of community service projects at the Long Island Volunteer Center in 1999, this event was made possible with generous support from ALEX AND ANI, Bellmore Lions Club, Friends of Lana, LIU Post Long Island Volunteers Service Club, MAC Cosmetics, Weight Watchers, and Zurich NA. Three hundred eighty-three volunteers (including the LIVE steering committee) participated led by steering committee members Cheryl Brancato, Michelle Esselborn, Whitney Glass, Caryn Grossman, Linda Marshall, Diana O’Neill, Teri Resca, Judi Sloan, and Anne Sprotte. Additional LIVC support came from Myra Breitburg, Meg Callinan, Lindsay Ehrenpreis, Patricia Force, Chris Fox, Judy Keenan, Dorothy Maples, Simone Leo, Anna Lyons, Tracy Murtagh, Patricia Moynihan, Elisabeth Muehlemann, Tenaya Parchment, Patti Polyn, Wendy Post, Chrystal Rottach, Paul Salerno, Patricia Sands, Rich Schneider, and Linda Stampler. A fundraiser on December 9 at Austern’s Antiques in Bellmore will benefit the 2017 program year.

September 11 Commemorative Day of Service - The Long Island Volunteer Center and the Nassau County Firefighters Museum and Education Center in conjunction with Long Island Blood Services hosted a Blood Drive on September 12 from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. The Blood Drive was held at the Nassau County Firefighters Museum in Garden City as a poignant way for Long Islanders to pay tribute to 9/11 victims and heroes. In all, 22 pints were donated which, according to blood donor statistics, will help save the lives of up to 66 individuals. Another feature of the commemorative Day of Service was assembling 140 comfort kits for homeless veterans served by Beacon House at the Northport VA. Publishers Clearing House adopted the event as a corporate day of service while the LIU Post Long Island Volunteers Service Club secured the comfort kit items including toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and socks among other personal necessities. Nassau Community College sent volunteers from their faculty, the Veterans Club, and the Nursing program to assist with the comfort kit assembly and wrote letters to veterans to accompany the kits thanking the veterans for
their service and sacrifice. LIVC’s AmeriCorps Ready Corps member, Lindsay Ehrenpreis, handed out American Red Cross emergency kits to all blood donors and UPS emergency preparedness kits to volunteers who assembled the comfort kits as a thank you for their participation. WBLI set up a remote display with music to “pump up the volume” for all things volunteer. The radio station also took photos to post and provided giveaways for event attendees.

A special aspect of the event unfolded when a representative of the Points of Light, Eric Nankervis, Director of Disaster Services, visiting from Atlanta headquarters, presented the President’s Volunteer Service Award to LIVC’s Youth Programs Coordinator, Caitlin Bowe, who was surprised, delighted, and humbled all in the same instant. LIVC is a member agency of the Points of Light, the world’s largest organization dedicated to volunteer service mobilizing millions of people to take action and change the world.

The LIVC team (led by Simone Leo and comprised of Caitlin Bowe, Lindsay Ehrenpreis, Patricia Force, Megan Messano, Patricia Moynihan, Elisabeth Muehlemann, Diana O’Neill, Judi Sloan, and Rich Schneider) sends a hearty thank you to the 47 volunteers who assisted at the blood drive and comfort kit assembly service project and to the following contributors who helped make the event a touching reminder of what brings community together at the “intersection of passion and purpose”: American Red Cross, California Pizza Kitchen of Westbury, LIU Post Long Island Volunteers Service Club, Long Island Blood Services, Nassau Community College, Nassau County Firefighters Museum, New Yorkers Volunteer, Okorn Family Fund, Points of Light, President’s Volunteer Service Award, Publishers Clearing House, Starbucks of Stewart Avenue in Garden City, UPS, and WBLI.

9th Annual Volunteer Fair - The fair held at NCC in October attracted 228 attendees seeking volunteer opportunities at the 44 nonprofit organizations that exhibited. In addition, 100 books were donated to The Book Fairies, 8 large boxes of food were secured for The Nest (NCC’s food pantry), 100 emergency kits were assembled by 80 volunteers for Hempstead Boys & Girls Club, and 5 awards were conveyed to recognize individuals with two President’s Volunteer Service Awards, one Daily Point of Light Award, and three Beacon of Hope Awards. The fair was led by Judi Sloan and Rich Schneider with support from Lindsay Ehrenpreis, Marissa Hiruma, Simone Leo, Anna Lyons, Elisabeth Muehlemann, and Diana O’Neill. Sponsors included HSBC and Newsday. Fair tablers and award winners were daily featured on LIVC’s facebook page.

Corporate Days of Service - Simone Leo was LIVC’s representative to the 2016 Long Island Volunteer Enterprise Steering Committee. LIVE is a corporate community service initiative and this year helped place hundreds of corporate volunteers in one day service projects at participating nonprofit organizations. Also, service projects were coordinated for Publishers
Clearing House, UBS Financial Services, WeiserMazers, and Zurich NA that served environmental causes, veterans/military families, seniors, and children. Simone was assisted by Caitlin Bowe, Lindsay Ehrenpreis, Elisabeth Muehlemann, and Diana O’Neill.

**Seasonal Volunteer Opportunities** - Every quarter, Elisabeth Muehlemann compiles over 130 volunteer opportunities from local nonprofit agencies and releases a booklet advertising these volunteer needs which is made available throughout Long Island Libraries and accessible via the website. It is organized into community needs covering Economy, Education, Environment and Health and is further broken down into voluntary categories from animals to social services, hunger and homelessness to mentoring, nature to cultural arts. Contact information for volunteer coordinators is included as well as the location of the agency needing volunteers. The list allows the interested volunteers to consider the breadth of needs across Long Island as well as the areas of interest that could be pursued while considering convenience to home, school or work. A holiday needs list was also created.

**AmeriCorps Ready Corps** - Long Island Volunteer Center has had the opportunity to be the host site for AmeriCorps Ready Corps members over the last 3 years. ReadyCorps members work in regions across the country to promote emergency preparedness in the communities they live and work in. Our 2016 Ready Corps member, Lindsay Ehrenpreis, worked in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties and engaged a variety of populations in preparedness trainings and events reaching more than 12,000 people with emergency preparedness information, training 38 volunteer leaders, and building and/or distributing 640 emergency preparedness kits.

**NYS Grant to recruit Disaster Volunteers** - This past June, LIVC completed its work for New York State assisting the Long Island Long Term Recovery Group in Superstorm Sandy response and recovery including opening the Volunteer Recovery Center in Bethpage to participating in the Disaster Recovery Center in Central Islip, staffing a call center for homeowner and volunteer inquiries while maintaining a website that acted as a clearinghouse to match individuals and groups to community needs and managing a variety of service projects to help with the rebuild effort and needed environmental cleanups/mitigation. In all, the LIVC tracked over 50,000 volunteers who spent over 500,000 hours assisting over 60 nonprofit organizations that performed essential work to help people and communities devastated by the storm’s impact. LIVC members who contributed to this initiative included: Beata Clark, Kristin Damato, Doug Doxey, Amanda Glazer, Lana Gluck,
Simone Leo, Dorothy Maples, Linda Marshall, Laura Messano, Patricia Moynihan, Elisabeth Muehlemann, Diana O’Neill, Chyrstal Rottach, Anne Sprotte, and Francesca Yellico.

Communications- Many thanks to Frank Pomata who manages our LinkedIn page, to Simone Leo and Anna Lyons for updating the Long Island Volunteer Center website and managing agency partnerships, to Patricia Moynihan for creating blog posts, to Elisabeth Muehlemann who manages our Twitter and Facebook pages and creates our infographs, and to Caitlin Bowe and Elisabeth Muehlemann for managing the Instagram Account.

If you’d like to connect with us check out the following links:

Website: www.longislandvolunteercenter.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Long-Island-Volunteer-Center-an-affiliate-of-HandsOn-Network-75904707437/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/longislandvolunteercenter/

Twitter: www.twitter.com/livolunteer

LinkedIn: www.linkedin/company/longislandvolunteercenter

Blog: https://longislandvolunteercenter.wordpress.com/

YouTube:  https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=long+island+volunteer+center

Giving Tuesday:  https://givingtuesday.fundly.com/volunteer-generation-campaign