

THE VOLUNTEER

A NEWSLETTER FOR RCRV MEMBERS

October 2015
Volume 15, Issue 3

Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers

If you can dream it,
we can do it.

Mission

Rockwell Collins retirees connecting to identify and support volunteer needs in our community and beyond, while enriching the lives of the volunteers.

Officers

Terry Lamb - President
Phil White - Vice
President
Chuck Wehage - Secretary /
Treasurer

Committee Chairs

John McDonough -
Community Projects Team
Kayla Paulson - Membership
Keith Sutherland - Communications
Jim Klein - Data Base

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REACT Center Closes

By Keith Sutherland

The REACT (Rockwell Educational Access to Computer Technology) Center was started in 1998 by Clay Jones, Tom Hobson, and other Rockwell Collins Executives. It was a formalization of an all-volunteer 13-year old project that had started at Linn-Mar high school as a K-12 computer-donation program. It originally had two goals – to donate usable but not-quite-current computers to local schools, and to train people, working as volunteers, in computer skills so they could be hired into a workforce that had a shortage in those skills.

Barb Klawiter was hired to become REACT's first and only employee. To allow REACT to operate as a non-profit organization, it was created as a program, 100% funded by Rockwell

Collins, within the Cedar Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, REACT's fiduciary sponsor changed to the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, and eventually to the United Way. Allegedly, one of these transfers was decided over a golf game, but whether REACT went to the winner or the loser was not reported.

REACT's original home was where CopyWorks is now on First Avenue. Facility limitations – especially the lack of a loading dock – triggered the move in 2001 to its location in Munson Electric's building in Hiawatha. This location was REACT's center of operations, and also served as the meeting location and storage facility for RCRV.

In the 17 years of REACT's existence, the organization distributed 35,000 computers to about 700 schools, non-profit organization, and public agencies. Computers were donated by area businesses, with about 85 per

cent coming from Rockwell Collins. Refurbishing these computers was done by a corps of volunteers, some who worked at REACT two or three days per week for many years. Over the life of REACT, 265 people volunteered there, repairing computer hardware, replacing modules, loading and configuring software, and providing technical support to the clients who received the computers.

Barb Klawiter scheduled and directed the volunteers with the world's best fake laugh and immense energy and dedication to the clients she served and the volunteers who did the work. When the center closed, Barb supervised the distribution of the REACT inventory to local schools and started looking for a job.

REACT's original goal, established by Clay Jones, was to donate at least 1,000 computers per year to local agencies. In fact, REACT's output was never less than 2,000 units per year. The peak volume occurred a few years ago when Rockwell Collins implemented a major systems upgrade and rollout of Windows 97. Except for that peak period, REACT's volume was fairly stable, and always limited by the volume of computers donated to it. In the past few years, donations to the larger school districts dropped off, but the needs of the smaller, rural districts around Cedar Rapids and non-profit agencies did not.

REACT's annual budget was \$90,000, all contributed by Rockwell Collins. For the arithmetic-challenged, it thus cost Rockwell Collins a little less than \$44 for each computer donated.

Rockwell Collins terminated the program primarily because the demand for refurbished computers had decreased, and the cost of the program was no longer justifiable. There has been a progressive increase in use of tablets and handheld devices, both by

industry and educational systems. Over the past few years, the number of computers donated had dropped significantly, and the number distributed to schools and non-profits had also declined.

REACT had many dedicated long-time volunteers. Please excuse me if I left off a name, but there were so many. The following worked at REACT for most of the 17 years of its existence, and sometimes seemed like fixtures in the facility: Jerry Bair, Winston Bair, Geoff Barrance, Jan Dickey, Sam Dillon, Leonard Doms (deceased), Bob Ellis, Dale E, Les Haerther (deceased), Bill Huebener, Pete Juergens, Cliff Koop (deceased), David Oliver, Jeff Richmond, Basil Tilly, Don Wickenkamp, Bryon Wiscons, and Ron Wueve.

RCRV Awards Five Grants

By Phil White

Annually, the RCRV organization has the privilege of making grant awards. The purpose of the RCRV Charitable Grant Program is to allow RCRV and its members to recognize and reward deserving nonprofit organizations in support of the RCRV mission. The 2015's community grant program was available for non-profits who engage volunteers. Grants could be used for volunteer recruitment; retention and training to help the non-profit effectively and efficiently complete their mission.

We were allotted \$12,500 by Rockwell Collins, versus \$10,000 as in the past. Thank you, Rockwell Collins Charitable Corporation.

We received requests for \$49,875 from seven agencies. A committee of four RCRV members composed of Doug Anderson, Terry Lamb, Laura White and chaired by Phil White selected five agencies to receive funds

from this grant. Unfortunately, due to limited funds no agency received the full amount of their request. Grant awards were presented at our June board meeting. The following are the recipients and their projects;

Miracles in Motion uses the energy and spirit of horses to create the healing power needed to reach disabled and differently abled children and adults in ways that other services cannot. Sponsored by Fred Zehr, Miracles in Motion will receive \$4,000 for their Volunteer Round-up. Funds will be used to enhance volunteer training programs and reward volunteers, while providing opportunities for some volunteers to become certified instructors.



RCRV Rockwell Collins Retiree Volunteers

COLLINS

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Rockwell Collins

Rockwell International

Gems of Hope (GOH) brings hope to cancer patients and their families



through inspirational gifts, workshops, libraries and youth programs. Sponsored by Jack Murphy they will receive \$3,000 for their G-Force project a new program launched in 2015. This program will give GOH tools to recruit, train and manage new volunteers as well as appreciate and develop existing volunteers. GOH is expanding beyond Cedar Rapids to the Iowa City area. The grant will assist with the funding of items such as Volunteer Management S/W, Volunteer Kits, Training and advertising.

Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center targets 18-24 year old females who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Bridgehaven comes alongside these individuals in all circumstances surrounding pregnancy and parenting. Sponsored by Terry Lamb, they will receive \$2,000 for their Valuing Our Volunteers program. This program will allow staff to attend a Volunteer Coordination Training Conference as well as provide supplies for a bi-annual volunteer appreciation event.



Horizons, A family Service Alliance provides a variety of services such as



serving more than 11,000 individuals and families through Consumer Credit Counseling, Meals On Wheels, Mental Health Counseling, and Community-Based Programs. Sponsored by David Knuth, they will be receiving \$1,750 for their Horizons Volunteer Management System. This system will perform online scheduling automatic reminders, time tracking and queries for its volunteers. Our grant will supplement funding already received from other organizations to help purchase, implement and train on the use of the VolunteerHub software.

His Hands Free Medical Clinic provides medical, dental, chiropractic, physical therapy, women's health, pharmacy and mental health services. All medical providers are volunteers; they also rely heavily on volunteers for administrative tasks. Sponsored by Harlan Hanson, they will receive \$1,750 for the recruiting of both professional and non-professional volunteers. The grant will help allow His Hands paid staff to have time to effectively market to potential volunteers, both professional and administrative.



The application process for next year's grant program will be advertised in early 2016, and all applicant materials may be found on the RCRV website. Thanks again for everyone that works to make this possible.

**Non-Profit Profile
Gems of Hope**



Gems of Hope was inspired by Tory, a 9-year-old living in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. While her mother was in treatment for cancer, Tory wrote daily notes of encouragement, leaving them where her mother would see them. The pair also attended art therapy classes together. Tory's mother recognized that the love behind the notes and the opportunity to create art, as well as the information she found in her reading, were valuable components in her recovery. She joined two friends also affected by cancer in founding a non-profit organization that would extend these components to others.

Gems of Hope, Inc. Founders
Beth Hammell, Sheila Harman, and
Cindy Sale, October 2006



Gems of Hope promotes what medical research now supports: developing one's spirituality can encourage feelings of optimism and hope and, thus, healing. Gems of Hope was founded to share hope with others.

Gems of Hope was founded in July of 2005. Sheila Harman and Beth Hammell had been diagnosed with breast cancer in the previous year. Sheila, inspired to help other cancer patients as they went through their treatment, called Beth and another friend, Cindy Sale who had been a caregiver to her brother with cancer. Together these three women with the help of the Cedar Rapids community launched Gems of Hope, Inc. to support men and women during their cancer treatments.

Gems of Hope supports cancer patients and their families. At the core of their programs is their "gifts of hope" distribution. Volunteers handcraft cards with inspirational sayings and mount handmade earrings or bookmarks, or a serenity circle or stone to the card. The gifts are distributed in oncology clinics and hospitals throughout the corridor. They also offer a kids camp for ages 5-12 dealing with a cancer diagnosis, a web site for teens, a scholarship program for high school seniors and cancer libraries for schools.

It is not, of course, the small gifts that are of value to cancer patients. It is the caring and thoughtfulness that accompany them that help the patients' optimism. Similarly, the workshops are less a means of making jewelry or bookmarks than a way to share a small effort with a loved one needing caring and a small diversion from their worries.

These activities require many volunteers. In fact, Gems of Hope is in greater need of volunteers than of

money. If you are interested in providing hope to people in need, they would appreciate it if you would volunteer a few hours every now and then. Their web site has details of the various volunteer roles available.

If you have an interest in helping financially, Gems of Hope's 10th anniversary celebration, with entertainment by Gerard Estella and Alisabeth von Presley, will be at the Scottish Rite Temple December 19. The price of admission is, of course, reasonable.

Receive the Volunteer on-line

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email, simply send your name and email address to contact@rcrv.org.

Rockwell Collins Trivia

In response to the question in the previous issue of the Volunteer, James Niday replied that Single-Sideband modulation was invented in 1915 by John Renshaw Carson.

Since James was the only person to respond to the trivia question, the editor has concluded that this column was of little interest to our readers and removed it from future issues of this publication.

RCRV Meetings

With the closing of the REACT Center, the location of RCRV meetings has changed. The Community Projects Team now meets to discuss current and future projects every Thursday at 10AM in room 210 of Kirkwood's Linn County Regional Center on Boyson Road in Hiawatha.

The RCRV Board of Directors meets at 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of

every month except July and December. The location is generally announced in the minutes of the Community Project Team meetings. In November, the board will hold its Annual Meeting at Horizons, 819 5th Street SE, Cedar Rapids.

You are always welcome at any of these meetings.

Volunteer Hours Reporting

Through September, 143 RCRV members reported volunteering for 20,428 hours at over 20 agencies. 55 active members have not yet reported any volunteering this year.

RCRV tracks the volunteer hours of our members to demonstrate the impact that we collectively make, and to support funding for the supported non-profits and for the 55+ Initiative program.

Please report your volunteer time by logging on to the www.rcrv.org website. Or you may send an email to Kayla Paulson of 55+ Initiative at kpaulson@uweci.org, or call Kayla at 319-398-5372, x37.

Want Ads

Help Wanted

Writer/Editor for quarterly non-profit newsletter, circulation about 4,000. Wanted to ensure timely publication of 4 issues of newsletter per year. Pay commensurate with the assets of the publisher. Apply in person or by email to Terry Lamb, President@RCRV.org.

