

VCS HISTORY

The Soroptimist Club and the Junior League founded the Volunteer Center of Sacramento – originally named the Volunteer Bureau – in 1962; the Volunteer Center originally functioned as a center for senior citizens. Within three years, the Center expanded to serve volunteers of all ages. Today, the Volunteer Center of Sacramento continues to serve adult and youth volunteers and has expanded its programs to include services for schools, nonprofit and corporate agencies.

Starting in 1976, the Volunteer Center of Sacramento began to operate the Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP). The program's primary purpose is to provide alternative sentencing services for adult and juvenile offenders referred through the Sacramento County Court system. The program has grown to serve and place over 5,000 people annually, culminating in over 200,000 hours volunteered each year to improve the Sacramento region.

VCS MISSION

The Mission of the Volunteer Center of Sacramento is to strengthen Sacramento communities, organizations and individuals by facilitating volunteer services.

The vision of the Volunteer Center of Sacramento is to "enrich lives and community through leadership in volunteerism." Our vision conveys a strong and positive message about the agency's commitment to the greater Sacramento community. By providing quality volunteer referrals and training, the Volunteer Center works to ensure that volunteer opportunities in Sacramento are open and available to everyone. The Volunteer Center continuously works to ensure that volunteer opportunities in the Sacramento area are available and accessible to everyone

VCS OPERATIONS

The VCS is a great resource for people in Sacramento area communities. Individuals, groups and businesses can receive volunteer information and opportunities, as well as find out about special events that need volunteers. People may call, e-mail or come in to the center to get a customized list of agencies and opportunities to suit their interests, availability and desired length of commitment. They can also visit our website at www.volunteersac.org to see upcoming events as well as ongoing opportunities. Additionally, the Center has compiled an extensive list of Community Based Organizations that visitors may come in to peruse.

Community Based Organizations list their events and volunteer needs with the Volunteer Center. Part of the VCS's mission is to help other CBO's fulfill their missions. The VCS facilitates this mission by assisting with volunteer recruitment as well as fulfilling a variety of other supportive roles so that these agencies can shine in their community, bringing much needed services to Sacramento. Our mission is "strengthening Sacramento communities, organizations and individuals by facilitating volunteer services."

To recognize individual volunteers from across the region, the VCS annually sponsors the Spirit Awards luncheon. The Spirit Award recipients are nominated by Community Based Organizations and selected by the VCS for their dedicated service to the community. Each year the VCS recognizes a dozen volunteers at a luncheon with over 300 attendees.

The VCS currently operates two community service programs within Sacramento County. One program is for individuals' ordered by the court to perform community service, and the other program is for students who have been suspended or expelled from school. These individuals are placed at non-profit and public organizations within the community. Each agency is trained and monitored to ensure volunteers are performing duties appropriate to their placement and working in a safe environment. VCS staff monitors these individuals progress and ensures volunteer hours are documented and have been completed in an appropriate manner. The VCS is currently working with more than 180 non-profit and public agencies throughout the greater Sacramento area. These agencies include homeless shelters, food lockers, feeding the hungry programs, clothing closets, social service agencies, faith-based organizations, senior services, and park districts. The VCS supervises over 200,000 hours of community service each year.

As part of the Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP) that the VCS operates for the Sacramento County Courts, ASP caseworkers conduct an in-depth interview with each client prior to placement. During this interview, an assessment is made regarding the client's availability, transportation, training and skill levels. Additionally, they consider any special needs the volunteer may have in determining placement then develop a placement strategy for each client that will allow them to complete their community service hours by the court- ordered completion date.