

# August, 2009



## **Donn's Desk,**



The board and staff of Volunteers in Action have been working on clarifying our mission and vision statements along with our value statements and new organizational goals. What is God calling us to do as an organization? How should VIA grow in order to best love our neighbor and build community in the context of our world today? The new mission statement we are looking to adapt is: ***“Volunteers in Action serves the community by equipping and enabling Christian volunteers and churches to be Christ’s transforming presence.”***

A key component of this mission statement is that our focus be on serving with the community. We do this through equipping, enabling and educating volunteers, deacons and other Christian leaders in our programs and activities. Our goal is to build community and enhance lives by being instruments for healthy, transformational change.

We are also establishing major goals, objectives and action steps to help carry out this mission and vision. These goals are: a) transforming lives and communities; b) expanding VIA’s work with other churches; c) fund development; d) educating and equipping and e) organizational strength.

If you have ideas or input as to how VIA might be able to better carry out what God is calling us to do, please feel free to call me. Thank you again to all of you who support VIA through your financial support, volunteering and prayers. —Donn Hansum, Director

## **SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH**

You are invited to join us and the Villa Park neighborhood in an Extreme Community Makeover Service Day on Saturday, August 8th. We will be working with neighbors in the 700 to 900 blocks of Meade and Newton to improve their lives and neighborhood. Activities will include home improvement projects such as yard work, bush trimming, painting and fence repair.

We will be meeting at the Confluence Ministry building at 1400 Quitman at 9:00 am to begin our day and then go to the blocks where we will be working. Our focus this year is to work alongside homeowners and neighbors to partner with this community in things they are wanting to see accomplished.

Please consider joining us. Call the VIA office at 303-713-9144 or let your VIA deacon representative know if you can help. Thank you for considering this opportunity to care about our neighbors. —Donn Hansum, Director

## **UPCOMING VIA EDUCATION WORKSHOPS**

**Newly Selected Deacon Workshop -**  
Wednesday, August 19th at 7:00 pm  
All newly selected deacons and any other interested individuals are invited.

**Chair of Deacon Gathering -**  
Wednesday, August 26th at 7:00 pm  
All deacons and other servant leaders are invited.

Both workshops will be held at Third CRC  
2400 S. Ash St., Denver, CO 80222

## Volunteers in Action Welcomes Rachel Miedema as Volunteer Coordinator

Rachel Miedema joined VIA on July 7, 2009. To introduce her to all of you, we interviewed Rachel to learn more about her.

### **Rachel, why did you apply for this position at VIA?**

I applied to VIA because my interests and background in community development seemed to match up with the mission and vision of VIA. I was also drawn to the idea that I would work with local churches as well as numerous non-profit organizations in metro Denver.

### **What experiences do you bring to the Volunteer Coordinator position?**

I recently graduated from Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, GA with a degree in Community Development. While in college I was able to do several internships in my field. One was with a non-profit community development organization called Hope for the Inner City in Chattanooga, TN where I coordinated an annual event. The other was with ReachGlobal in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania where I did research on the microfinance resources in a community. Both of these opportunities gave me experience in the non-profit world as well as helping me attain research and organizational skills.

### **What excites you most about your new career/job?**

The most exciting part for me is the opportunity to build relationships with church members, clients, and employees at our partner organizations. I have a heart for connecting churches with their community and working for VIA gives me an opportunity to put feet on this desire.



### **You spent a week with Anastasia Remmes. How did she orient you to the Volunteer Coordinator position at VIA?**

Since people are the most important part of this job, Anastasia set up a lot of appointments for me to go and meet employees at our collaborative organizations to connect with them and learn about their services. This helped orientate me to the city and how VIA fits into the web of organizations in Denver that are providing assistance to the elderly and disabled.

### **I understand that you like to read. What are some of your favorite books?**

A few of them include: Walking with the Poor by Bryant Myers, A Severe Mercy by Sheldon Vanauken, The Sun Also Rises by Ernest Hemingway, and Churches that Make a Difference by Ron Sider, Philip Olson, and Heidi Unruh.

A warm welcome to you, Rachel! We, as staff, board, volunteers, and community, look forward to serving together as **Volunteers in Action**, desiring to provide *Service in Christ's Name*.

—Donna VanElderen, Partners For Success Program Manager

**Faith in Deed!** The *Faith in Deed* program has received calls for volunteers needed in the following areas recently: Reading mail for blind individuals; help with yard work for the elderly; drivers for doctors appointments; helping disabled unpack; friendly visitor for lonely senior citizen. If you would be willing to help in any of these areas, please give VIA a call at 303-713-9144.

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Rachel Miedema  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Jaime Antolini  
Administrative Assistant

### **\*New board members**

We are very grateful for all the board members who volunteer their time and talents in this way. We give special thanks to those board members who have just completed their service: **Jerry Alger, Dale Landhuis and Cory Vermeer** for the VIA Board and **Fred Ritsema, Rhonda Buteyn and Buryl Mellema** for the Foundation Board. They have been a blessing to VIA and those we work with.