

The Volunteer Voice

Ashe County Volunteer Initiative Program

County of Ashe



Volunteers Needed to Assist With the Income Tax Assistance Program

The Ashe County Public Library is once again assisting low income residents with filing their 2009 State and Federal income taxes. The Income Tax Assistance Program will begin January 18th and will end on April 15th, 2010. The Adult Services Librarian, Laurie Baumgardner, is coordinating the Income Tax Assistance Program. Volunteers are needed to assist with the program. Volunteer duties will consist of greeting people when they come in and to make sure they have all of their tax papers that is needed. Volunteers are also needed to answer phone calls and schedule appointments for individuals. For more information on volunteering, you can contact Laurie Buamgardner at (336) 846-2041, or email at: lbaumgardner@arlibrary.org.



**“We make a living
by what we do,
but we make a
life by what we
give”**

Winston Churchill

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Volunteers Needed for the February Commodities Distribution

The Ashe County Department of Social Services and Ashe County Partnership for Children is conducting the Commodities Distribution February 26, 2010 at Ashe Family Central from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. The program helps to supply food for low income families who are in need. They have increased the amount of families they hope to serve from 450 to 475. Volunteers are needed to help put the boxes of food together and to help load the boxes in the cars. For more information, you can call Ann Cannon (Ashe Family Literacy) at: (336) 982-4311.

Children's Christmas Project Update



The Children's Christmas Project, sponsored by the Ashe Baptist Association, went extremely well this past December. There were several donations made to support the project along with agencies, organizations, churches, and individuals sponsoring children in Ashe County who would otherwise not have gifts at Christmas. There were a total of 522 children sponsored this past Christmas. The Children's Christmas Project had a total of 121 volunteers who came together at Ashe Family Central to wrap gifts and to help on distribution day. The Ashe County Volunteer Initiative Program would like to say 'Thank You' to all the volunteers who gave their time to make the Children's Christmas Project a success.

The Annual Volunteer Initiative Program Canned Food Drive Update

"In helping others, we shall help ourselves, for whatever good we give out completes the circle and comes back to us."

Flora Edwards

The annual Canned Food Drive started in mid October and ended in mid December. Canned food was donated at the local grocery stores, WCC (Ashe Campus), Wal-Mart, Dollar General, Ashe Memorial Hospital, and Riverview Community Center. Once all of the food was collected, it was then counted, divided equally, and distributed among five local food banks. The total amount of food collected was 1,557 items. The Ashe County Volunteer Initiative Program also received a community grant from Wal-Mart in the amount of \$1,500.00 which gave the five food banks \$300.00 each to help replenish their food banks. The Ashe County Volunteer Initiative Program would like to thank the volunteers who helped and everyone within the county who contributed to the success of the Canned Food Drive.



The Community Resource Network for Aging and Disabilities is housed at Ashe Services for Aging. The Network provides easy access to information and assistance for loved ones, the elderly, or disabled through one phone number and one location. For more information, you can call Ashe Services for Aging at (336) 246-2461 and ask to speak to Glenda Luther.

Ashe Services for Aging-Medicare Part D/Advantage Plans

In January, the Senior Center will continue to have SHIP Volunteers available to assist you with your Medicare Part D. For those who have the Medicare Advantage Plan, January 1 through March 31 is the time to review and make any changes that is needed. An appointment is necessary. For more information or the schedule an appointment, please call (336) 246-4347. You can also schedule an appointment at the front desk of the Senior Center.



Will Clinic

Ashe Services for Aging will be having a Will Clinic (Thursday) February 25, 2010 at the Senior Center from 10:00am until 1:00pm. Staff from Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. will be there to provide assistance with preparation of Powers of Attorney, Health Care Powers of Attorney, Durable Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, Simple Last Wills, and Testaments. Clients must be an Ashe County resident and at least 60 years of age. If married, one member of the couple must be 60 years of age. Appointments are required. For more information, you can call (336) 246-4347 or come by the Senior Center Desk to make an appointment.

*“What is the
essence of Life? To
serve others and to
do good.”
Aristotle*

Free Income Tax Filing

It is tax time again and Ashe Services for Aging will have AARP Volunteers at the Senior Center to provide **FREE** tax preparation help beginning in February. Appointments are required and the Senior Center will begin scheduling the appointments on January 20, 2010. AARP Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service. It is available to taxpayers with low and moderate incomes and gives special attention to people age 60 and older. All returns at the Senior Center are filed electronically online. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call (336) 246-4347. You can also come by the Senior Center Desk to make an appointment.

Free Car Seat Checks

The Ashe/Alleghany Safe Kids Coalition and a subcommittee of the Ashe County Healthy Carolinians Task Force holds a Free Car Seat Check every 3rd Friday of each month at Ashe Family Central Community Room from 3:00pm until 4:00pm. If needed, car seats are replaced free of charge for Medicaid eligible families. For more information, call (336) 846-0781.



Ashe County Volunteer Initiative Program

County of Ashe

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Our Mission

To support and enhance volunteer opportunities and services in Ashe County

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Ashe Services for Aging
 - Ashe County Public Library
 - Ashe Outreach ministries
 - Christmas in July
 - Children's Christmas Project
 - Ashe County Chamber of Commerce
 - Ashe County Volunteer Fire Department
 - After School Programs
 - Ashe Memorial Hospital
 - Guardian Ad Litem program
 - Canned Food Drive
 - NC Cooperative Extension
 - Meals-On-Wheels
 - Blue Ridge Senior Games
 - School Supply Drive
 - Ashe County Free Medical Clinic
 - A Safe Home for Everyone
 - Department of Social Services
 - Ashe County Schools
 - Ashe County Health Forum
 - Ashe County Health Fair
 - National Youth Service Day
 - Homeless Task Force
 - Ashe County Arts Council
 - Ashe Baptist Association
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