

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TITLE: Adopt- A-Highway Program

ZONE REPORTING: NEZ Zone-wide Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION- MAIN FEATURES:

NEZ members participate in the NYS Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway program by cleaning a four-mile stretch of highway designated by two DOT signs showing that NYSRTA/NEZ does the clean up. Our volunteers scour the roadsides and clean the landscape of accumulated litter three times a year in the spring and summer months. The bagged litter is then picked up by the DOT.

CONTACT PERSON: Please provide name and phone number for the person(s) who has/have the best **working** knowledge of this project.

Name: Carol Lowery

Phone (518) 563-4204

E-mail:

TIME FRAME for the event or project: (How long did it take from start to finish?)
Each session usually takes about two hours of time with a good number of volunteers.

RESOURCES NEEDED: Please include estimate of the cost and what resources if any were donated.

No cost is involved and most of the equipment is supplied by the Dept. of Transportation. This includes hard hats, orange safety vests, large collection bags, and litter pickers. We are responsible for having appropriate footwear, clothing, and gloves.

CHALLENGES THAT MADE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT DIFFICULT: (a tip to share?)
Scheduling is a challenge, especially in the springtime. The ideal time is to do the first clean up before the growth of grass along the highways. It is sometimes a challenge to find enough volunteers to cover the four miles on each side of the road. Having sign-up sheets during luncheons or meetings helps, along with personal phone calls.

NATURE OF PUBLICITY RECEIVED: Please attach any news releases or photos of the event.

APPROXIMATE # OF YEARS the project has been sponsored by the unit/zone: 4 years

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS with whom you partnered on this event or project.

PLAN TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT? Yes X No ____ If continuing, please describe if there are also any plans to expand the project.

There are no plans to expand, as four miles is already a large segment of road to clean.

To help maximize the success of your project, please see some tips on the reverse page.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TITLE: COMMUNITY FOOD COLLECTIONS

ZONE REPORTING: NEZ **UNIT(s):** _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION- MAIN FEATURES:

NYSRTA/NEZ volunteers conduct a food drive at five grocery stores in four communities in both Clinton and Essex Counties to benefit our local food shelves. With permission from the local stores, volunteers position themselves at the entry doors of the stores, provide information about our mission and hand out a "grocery list" of needed nonperishable items to those that enter. We have posters to indicate who we are and shopping carts for placement of the donations. The donations are then placed in boxes and delivered to the various food shelves.

CONTACT PERSON: Please provide name and phone number for the person(s) who has/have the best **working** knowledge of this project.

Name: Carol Lowery Phone (518) 563-4204

E-mail: cjjuntunen@yahoo.com

TIME FRAME for the event or project: (How long did it take from start to finish?)

All stores need to be contacted in a timely fashion for permission because some require a Letter of Intent to be sent. Volunteers also need to be contacted. One day in early summer is scheduled and collection time is usually three hours.

RESOURCES NEEDED: Please include estimate of the cost and what resources if any were donated.

There is no financial cost to volunteers, only time and energy. It is important to have large posters made to indicate who is doing the drive and what the mission is.

CHALLENGES THAT MADE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT DIFFICULT: (a tip to share?)

Finding enough volunteers that can donate the time on the decided date is always a challenge. We try to generate names during a zone meeting/luncheon as well as personal calls and emails to our membership.

NATURE OF PUBLICITY RECEIVED: Please attach any news releases or photos of the event. A thank you note to Letters to the Editor of our local newspaper is always appropriate.

APPROXIMATE # OF YEARS the project has been sponsored by the unit/zone: 4 years

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS with whom you partnered on this event or project.

PLAN TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT? Yes X No ____ If continuing, please describe if there are also any plans to expand the project.

There are no plans to expand unless new stores open in the communities.

To help maximize the success of your project, please see some tips on the reverse page.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TITLE: CHRISTMAS TOYS

ZONE REPORTING: NEZ Zone-wide project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION- MAIN FEATURES:

During our Christmas luncheon, membership donates toys for the Christmas Bureau. These toys are distributed to both Clinton and Essex Counties. Those members from each county will purchase for their respective county. Tables are decorated in the festive manner for the holiday, with two tables for each county. There is also a designated place for monetary contributions from members. These are then boxed up and delivered to the Christmas Bureaus of each county.

CONTACT PERSON: Please provide name and phone number for the person(s) who has/have the best **working** knowledge of this project.

Name: Carol Lowery

Phone: (518) 563-4204

E-mail: cjjuntunen@yahoo.com

TIME FRAME for the event or project: (How long did it take from start to finish?)
Members are made aware of the collection in our newsletter and through an email message. It has been an ongoing project so most members are aware of it, but might need a reminder. Delivery is made immediately after the luncheon.

RESOURCES NEEDED: Please include estimate of the cost and what resources if any were donated.

The cost depends on the price of the gift(s) chosen by the NEZ members. Members provide table decorations, with signs designating the different counties.

CHALLENGES THAT MADE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT DIFFICULT: (a tip to share?)

NATURE OF PUBLICITY RECEIVED: Please attach any news releases or photos of the event. Photos of the tables were taken by individuals to keep as records of the project, but these could also be sent for publication in our local papers and/or our zone newsletter.

APPROXIMATE # OF YEARS the project has been sponsored by the unit/zone: 10 years

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS with whom you partnered on this event or project.

PLAN TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT? Yes X No ____ If continuing, please describe if there are also any plans to expand the project.

To help maximize the success of your project, please see some tips on the reverse page.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TITLE: LITERACY CHALLENGE

ZONE REPORTING: NEZ Zone-wide project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION- MAIN FEATURES: The Literacy Challenge is the largest fundraiser of the year, which supports the local chapter of Literacy Volunteers of America to help fight illiteracy. The college-bowl-style competition determines who knows the most about history, sports, science, literature, current events and more. With more than one hundred competitors on teams of four, they compete for the championship through the elimination process until a victor is determined.

CONTACT PERSON: Please provide name and phone number for the person(s) who has/have the best working knowledge of this project.

Name: Emily F. Castine

Phone (518) 846-7585

E-mail: efcastine@twcny.rr.com

TIME-FRAME for the event or project: (How long did it take from start to finish?)

The team practices for two months, during January and February, for six to eight sessions of three hours each. The literacy Challenge is held on the first Saturday in March every year and teams play until they are eliminated. It starts around eleven o'clock and ends around five o'clock.

RESOURCES NEEDED: Please include estimate of the cost and what resources if any were donated.

The registration fee for participating in the annual challenge is \$250.00 per team.

NYSRTA/NEZ pays half and Mooers Knights of Columbus pays half of the expenses.

CHALLENGES THAT MADE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT DIFFICULT: (a tip to share?)

Our zone, NEZ, has participated for seven years. At times, it was difficult to find willing participants. For two years we have included a non-retiree on the team mainly to balance the team and have one science buff, one history buff, one literature buff, and one pop culture buff.

NATURE OF PUBLICITY RECEIVED: Please attach any news releases or photos of the event.

APPROXIMATE # OF YEARS the project has been sponsored by the unit/zone: 7 years

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS with whom you partnered on this event or project.

Our team was fortunate that the Knights of Columbus funded one half of the participation fee.

PLAN TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT? Yes X No If continuing, please describe if there are also any plans to expand the project.

No plans to expand because there are always four team members and we usually have one alternate.

To help maximize the success of your project, please see some tips on the reverse page.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TITLE: KNIT LAP (PRAYER) SHAWLS

ZONE REPORTING: NEZ Zone-wide project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION- MAIN FEATURES:

Any member of the NEZ Zone who is able and willing to knit a prayer shawl will donate it to be given to a member that may be experiencing a crisis in their life or to a member currently in a nursing home. A sheet of directions is given to those willing to knit or they may use one of their own design. Prayers can be recited during the knitting process and a personal note attached if desired. Upon completion, the shawls would be given to the Community Service Chairperson and delivered to the person or persons designated to receive one.

CONTACT PERSON: Please provide name and phone number for the person(s) who has/have the best **working** knowledge of this project.

Name: Carol Lowery

Phone: (518) 563-4204

E-mail: cjjuntunen@yahoo.com

TIME FRAME for the event or project: (How long did it take from start to finish?)

This can be an ongoing project throughout the year. The time depends on the knitter's speed. It is nice to always have at least one available at any time.

RESOURCES NEEDED: Please include estimate of the cost and what resources if any were donated.

Members willing to knit a shawl will purchase their own materials unless someone donates yarn for the project. It usually costs about ten dollars per shawl.

CHALLENGES THAT MADE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT DIFFICULT: (a tip to share?)

The challenge is finding people who still knit and also finding the time needed for the project. A sign-up at the beginning of the year meeting is a good way to initially find people.

NATURE OF PUBLICITY RECEIVED: Please attach any news releases or photos of the event. Photos could be taken when the shawls are presented if it seems appropriate.

APPROXIMATE # OF YEARS the project has been sponsored by the unit/zone: 3 years

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS with whom you partnered on this event or project.

PLAN TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT? Yes X No If continuing, please describe if there are also any plans to expand the project.

To help maximize the success of your project, please see some tips on the reverse page.