



# Power Booster

DuPage Association of Volunteer Administration  
[www.dava-il.org](http://www.dava-il.org)

## Managing Your Volunteer Program in Tough Economic Times

In 2009 DAVA will focus on ways to help you manage your volunteer program with a timely emphasis on doing so in tough economic times. While we struggle through these hard times, we'll also be looking to you to share your tips, successes and challenges with all of us in DAVA. Together we are stronger and together we can help each other advocate for our volunteer programs.

### Together We Can!

This is the year to reach out to other volunteer coordinators and to network. Use your current resources—DAVA, VCCI, colleagues in your field and online resources like CharityChannel.com, CyberVPM, Giving DuPage, etc. Download free articles and sign up for free webinars at Volunteermatch or Vertical Response. Make this the year to branch out and learn more. Check out the DAVA list of resources available on our website, [www.dava-il.org](http://www.dava-il.org), under Resources.

Don't forget your volunteer resources. Do you have volunteers with special skills that could help you with marketing, recruitment, training? Do you have volunteers with connections to companies that could help you stretch your budget dollars? This is definitely the year to build a volunteer team to help you manage your volunteers. Recruit volunteers with creative ideas, excellent communication skills and then delegate. Involve them not only in daily tasks but also helping with your high priority tasks. Let your other volunteers know that these volunteers are helping because of your limited budget and time. Engage everyone in the solution. If possible recruit yourself an administrative assistant and become a master at delegation.

### Giving and Volunteering in Tough Economic Times

Take heart from the fact that although philanthropy tends to decrease in hard times sometimes volunteering increases. According to an article in the Sunday Tribune Parade magazine "Patrick Rooney of the Center on Philanthropy credits what one scholar calls "the warm glow of giving." Rooney says, "People think, 'There are so many who have so much less than me.' Giving makes them feel better." Often if they can't give money they'll give their time. So now is the time for you to promote your organization and how it impacts those in need and to recognize your volunteers by enhancing that *warm glow of giving*.

If your organization doesn't fall into that immediately recognizable "public need" category of the hungry, the homeless, or the sick you may find that volunteers will leave you for a more needy organization during these tough times. Try to be understanding and supportive and hopefully they will return later. One thing you can try is to partner with another organization who is perceived to be needy. If your local food pantry needs food or Valentines for the children, you could organize a food drive and/or have your staff and volunteers make valentines. This way they are helping the needy, getting that *warm glow of giving* and hopefully still staying with your organization.

Next month we'll focus on ways to recognizing your volunteers.

