



VOLUNTEER VOICE

THE NEW GIRL



Meet the new Volunteer & Client Services Coordinator, Melanie Flores at the HOPES Resource Center (HRC).

Melanie began her fruitful career in HIV/AIDS social services through an internship at Northern Nevada HOPES in 2010. You might remember her as a longhaired brunette with red glasses. Since, she has devoted her time to

HIV/AIDS advocacy. She is finishing up her Masters of Social Work degree at the University of Nevada, Reno, sits on the board of directors for the Northern Nevada Outreach Team, the community advisory board for the Statewide Native American Coalition and is working with the Washoe County Health District to deregulate syringe access in the prevention of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other blood-borne illnesses. Did we mention she hosts her own radio show, PSA Today too? Suffice it to say, she is indeed a busy girl.

Likes: puppies, obscure indie folk rock, Kevin Smith, dabbles in web design & digital media, policy & community mobilization.

Contact:
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REASONS PEOPLE VOLUNTEER

- To get to know a community
- To demonstrate commitment to a cause/belief
- To gain leadership skills
- To do your civic duty
- Satisfaction from accomplishment
- To keep busy
- To donate your professional skills
- To have an impact
- To learn something new
- For freedom of schedule
- To help a friend or relative
- To become an "insider"
- To be challenged
- To make new friends
- To explore a career
- To help someone
- To do something different from your job
- For fun!
- For religious reasons
- To earn academic credit
- To keep skills alive
- To have an excuse to do what you love
- To assure progress
- To be part of a team
- To test yourself
- To build your resume
- To be an agent of change

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.
 Margaret Mead

A NOTE FROM YOUR FEARLESS LEADER

Welcome seasoned and new volunteers! We couldn't do half the stuff we do around here if it wasn't for you. Just know that everybody around here appreciates all the extracurricular work you do for our organization and that it has not gone unnoticed. I'm excited to be a part of the team again and take on this role as your fearless leader. I have a lot of ideas

to bring to the table and am eager to hear yours! Through this monthly newsletter I hope to accomplish constant contact with everybody, give kudos to those volunteers going above and beyond and to keep everybody in the loop as to volunteer opportunities, events and meetings that will be happening in the following months.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Northern Nevada HOPES is a very unique organization. It takes a very holistic approach to HIV/AIDS care within the community in that not only does Hopes provide treatment and care to our clients but also partakes in educating the community about HIV/AIDS, prevention efforts through outreach & testing, provides an atmosphere where clients can feel a sense of community and belonging through the HOPES Resource Center (HRC) and are constantly evolving to become a one stop shop for everything HIV/AIDS.

Having said all that, Northern Nevada HOPES provides a myriad of opportunities for community & client volunteers.

Such as:

- ADMINISTRATION
- CLINIC
- HOPES RESOURCE CENTER
- OUTREACH/EDUCATION
- VOLUNTEER PROGRAM
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- FUNDRAISING
- HOPES GARDEN
- MEDIA/PUBLICITY
- PANTRY

In addition to these opportunities, you can also build your own volunteer experience by offering special skills you want to share with the clients



An annual dining fundraising event raising money for AIDS service organizations

and/or staff that you have developed in your personal or professional lives such as teaching resume building, computers, nutrition, art...etc.

Contact Mel for a full list of opportunities!

Sharing Your Skills



Julie Dempsey
UNR Student

Julie is a student at the University of Nevada Reno, finishing up her Bachelors Degree in Social Work. Not surprising, Connie (a case manager here) inspired her to volunteer to learn more about non-profit organizations. Upon volunteering, she realized her past experience as an employment specialist at Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin and at Job Opportunities in Nevada (JOIN), was a skill she could share with our clients. And so she is!

Julie helps our clients every Monday from 10am until Noon with job searches, resume development and other areas of employment.

This is a wonderful example of one of our volunteers utilizing their skills to help our clients. Be sure to let us know if you have any creative ideas yourself!

EVENTS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 02.07.12 National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Noon-5:00pm)

Join us at the University of Nevada Reno outside the Joe Crowley Student Union to promote the 11th Annual Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Participate in testing, outreach & education. African American, more than any other race has the highest rates of HIV infection in the nation.

MARCH & APRIL

- 03.31.12 – 04.01.12 Women's Expo (10:00am-5:00pm)

Join us at the Reno/Sparks Convention Center to promote women's health issues. Participate in testing, outreach & education.

- 04.26.12 Dining Out For Life

Not only help us the day of the event by being a HOPES Ambassador but help out now through event planning and construction. Ambassador trainings will begin in March!

Note:

See an opportunity that you want to be a part of? Don't hesitate to tell Mel you want to be a part of an event or activity. This is your volunteer experience and we want you to get the most out of it whether you are receiving school credit, donating your time from the community, or are a client volunteer. Your feedback and participation is very important to us!

Thank you!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS

Northern Nevada Hopes Tour

FEBRUARY 9, 2012

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Meet at Hopes House, 467 Ralston St.

Required participation for new volunteers, take a tour of the property and find out a little bit of history of the organization. Plus get a client perspective of the organization. It's only an hour long and is a great way to acquaint yourself with the organization!

Volunteer Orientation

FEBRUARY 11, 2012

11:00am– 2:00pm, HOPES Resource Center Ste. 5

Required participation for all new volunteers.
Topics covered will include:

- Nonprofit's History & Mission
- Volunteering History & Mission
- Performance Expectations
- HIV/AIDS 101
- Confidentiality 101