MY FAIR MAMA: Mother’s Day plans are now underway!

This Mother’s Day, with your help, nearly 150 low-income elderly and disabled women come out of their small apartments to be whisked away to a wonderful celebration at the downtown Spokane Doubletree—our 17th annual I Remember Mama Mother’s Day luncheon.

Your donation of just $25 allows one of these women to enjoy a gourmet lunch, entertainment, gifts and much-needed companionship. Our hard-working volunteers are busy coordinating all the details of this year’s “My Fair Lady” themed party.

Your sponsorship makes a lovely Mother’s Day gift when your donation is made in honor or in memory of your own mother and grandmother. We’ll even send your loved one a Mother’s Day card on your behalf!

To make a donation just send back the enclosed donation form or visit www.voaspokane.org/IRememberMama.

She’ll soon be laying out her best dress. Your Mother’s Day gift to your mom can help her get to an event she waits for all year...

The Crosswalk Teen Shelter downtown helps kids stay off the streets and is now using a fun on-street form of recreation to help.

In the final stretch of the school year, one volunteer is hoping to motivate the kids to finish strong. And he is thinking outside the box to make that happen. A lot of the force behind Crosswalk is volunteer-driven. Many of those volunteers are actually kids who used to go to Crosswalk too.

One of those kids grew up to be a man who tries to be as involved in helping out the community as much as possible. Right now he’s working on refurbishing skateboards to offer a reward to the kids who push through the school year.

Not so long ago, Billy was a “Crosswalk Kid” himself. Now, he’s on a mission to keep homeless kids in school—by getting them onto skateboards...

Billy Sexton says he has been working with the homeless in Spokane for years.

While trying to help, he said he realized that it is almost impossible to break the cycle of homelessness once you are in it. Sexton is hoping to target the problem before it even really begins. He has recently shifted his efforts to keeping the kids at the Crosswalk shelter in school. He tries to find interesting ways to do it; his project right now uses skateboards to reward kids who stay in school.

“When I was a kid, I came down here. All they wanna do is help. If it gives a little bit of incentive to keep these kids in school, they’re down,” said Sexton.

“I would like there to be just a constant source of positive reward,” said Sexton. “Why not have some more incentive. A little bit of reward at the end.”

Local skateboard shop “Pistole” has already donated old skateboard decks. But Sexton needs more—bearings, trucks, axles, risers, basically any old but usable skateboard parts will do.

His motto? “The solution is hours”—hour as in if everyone put in an hour or two to help, the community would be a whole lot better off. Sexton will be working on this project until the end of the school year—that is when he will present the kids with the boards. He needs a lot of help until that time.

Learn how you can help at 509.838.6596 or jrobertson@voaspokane.org. (Story by Frances Wang. Transcript and image reprinted from KREM.com.)
SPRING WISH LIST: Alexandria’s House gets a new home

Alexandria’s House—our program for pregnant teens and their babies—is nearly ready to move. The historic Luhn House in Browne’s Addition has undergone extensive updates and renovations. As soon as the last inspection is complete, we will be moving in our girls. Will you help us make sure we have the last few things to make this wonderful house a home? We still need:

- Diaper pails (5)
- Flashlights
- Full length mirrors
- Kitchen linens (dish towels, pot holders, etc.)
- Shower curtain liners (new)
- Sponsor a highchair ($89)
- Toiletry caddies
- White bath towels
- White bedroom garbage cans
- White crib sheets

To donate (or make a monetary contribution to purchase) any of these items please call Kay Murano at 509.624.2378 ext. 104. Thank you!

Want to help, but don’t think you can?

Good news—if you have CDs, money markets, or savings, you may be able to get a higher payout and help your community at the same time with a charitable gift annuity.*

To learn more, call Kay Murano at 509.624.2378 ext. 104.

*Always consult your tax advisor regarding these types of gifts.
Who would we be without our Volunteers?

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!

Your hands help us feed the hungry, shelter the homeless and support and uplift those who need our help the most.

We are grateful to you—the fine people who happily share your time and talents. You are people who make a real difference.

Every year, hundreds of you—individuals, families, churches and community groups—bring new life into our programs with your spirit of community service and bless our clients with your willingness to serve.

Some volunteers have weekly shifts, others help with onetime projects. No matter your role, we thank you for your energy and commitment. From painters to meal providers, we couldn’t do what we do without you.

Volunteers of America just wouldn’t be the same without volunteers!

Last Spring, Mayor David Condon and his cabinet volunteered side-by-side with homeless youth to clean up the neighborhood by giving Crosswalk teen shelter a fresh coat of exterior paint.

The army of women from EWU’s Alpha Phi chapter recently spent a day painting, cleaning and moving furniture to help Alexandria’s House’s teen moms bring their babies to a beautiful home when the program moves into its new location at the historic Luhn House in Browne’s Addition (see top of pg. 2).

Volunteer EWU Intern Elizabeth Mendoza created a brilliant photo booth to draw foster youth to our resource table at the Real World Conference in March.

Victoria Sattler crunches data for luxury hotels to help them see where they can improve their success. Now her expertise is helping us make a bigger difference.
Ready to Get Involved?
5 questions for difference-makers

Valiant volunteers expand the ability of our programs to find and serve the most vulnerable and forgotten members of our community. Your time, care and expertise is needed. And we want your volunteer experience to be as valuable to you as your service is to us and the people we serve. These five simple questions will help you hone in on the perfect place to start:

• **WHO do I WANT TO HELP?**
  There are certain issues that really light you up, get you talking and make you want to take action—often, that’s the best place to start. Maybe you are particularly passionate about homeless or foster youth or want to make a difference in the lives of veterans or domestic violence victims.

• **WHAT kind of work do I PREFER?**
  You might feel more comfortable planting a garden or using a paintbrush than building a database or lending accounting expertise. Would you rather work indoors or outdoors, alone or with a team, directly with those in need or behind the scenes? Is there anything you absolutely don’t want to do? Maybe there is an activity you have always wanted to try or an area where you can lend years of expertise.

• **WHEN am I AVAILABLE?**
  Your schedule and interests may be better suited to a one-time project than to an ongoing project with a weekly or monthly commitment. You may want to participate in something you can join last minute or a position where you can stay for long enough to learn and grow over time.

• **WHERE would I LIKE TO SERVE?**
  Do you need to volunteer at a site with access to your bus route or with good wheelchair accessibility? You might prefer to volunteer downtown or maybe north Spokane or Coeur d’Alene. Getting the right fit means finding just the right spot.

• **WHY do I WANT to VOLUNTEER?**
  You want to make a difference in your community. But you might also want to build your résumé or do some networking. Thinking about your personal and professional goals before you choose a position can help us make sure you get everything you need from your volunteer experience.

For more help finding a great volunteer opportunity, call us at 509.624.2378 or visit www.voaspokane.org/volunteer.