

Program Committee Meeting

November 5, 2018, 10AM

Attendees: Sonia Alcantarilla, Stephanie Barrett, Judy Diaz, Sam Ortiz, Jen Prather, Claire Steinberg, Anne Bradner, Leanne Tormey, Gina Nocco (presenting to the group on volunteering at Carver)

Gina presented on the status of volunteers at Carver:

- Carver receives the largest number of volunteers in CAP, followed by the Carver Market.
- Some recent volunteer day examples include Wells Fargo last Thursday and Redemption Church (painting the columns outside).
- A very successful volunteer effort is Kids Tale in the Summer Camp. This nonprofit brings 10 high school volunteers, who help Carver's Summer Camp students write and publish stories.
- The volunteer orientation is an important piece of the experience. Gina prefers to do this in the afternoon when a lot of programming is in full swing.
- Gina and the Leadership Circle recently developed a rubric for the volunteer experience identifying goals for this area (as part of the larger Carver Model of Excellence initiative). Gina is in the process of creating a volunteer task force comprised of staff from different areas of Carver. This task force will work with Gina to take the volunteer experience to a higher level and identify areas within Carver where volunteers can be utilized in a meaningful way.
- Currently, Gina has enough volunteers for the opportunities available. She rarely has to turn volunteers away, but Carver is also not actively recruiting volunteers.

Questions/ Discussion on volunteers:

- The group discussed whether we are solely talking about creating more meaningful volunteer opportunities or creating a strategy to convert volunteers to donors and/or strengthen existing donor relationships. The committee agreed that the latter is important from a development perspective and will require collaboration between program and development.
- The group discussed how the "days of service" can be an important way to introduce Carver to corporations (already done today to a certain extent) and groups of friends and can include a tour of Carver.
- Carver volunteers are generally required to be 16 and over, but children 13 and over can support Saturday Programs.
- Stephanie mentioned the Day of Service at Greenwich Country Day School and how Carver could use a similar model to do a day of service related to the Carver Market.
- Gina noted that a family developed the idea of donating Halloween costumes at Carver and created a very successful event.
- Leanne noted that we have a "menu" of volunteer opportunities organized by the life stage of the volunteer.

- The group discussed how occasionally families reach out to Carver to arrange mitzvah projects. Synagogues include content in their newsletters around the projects so these generate some free PR.
- Carver's Teen Center students volunteer with David to provide homebound food deliveries.
- There are currently no goals associated with the volunteer area at Carver, but goals could come out of the task force work.
- In the Advancement area, volunteers help with the coat drive. Anne noted that volunteers are an important piece in organizing together the 7th & 8th Grade Dance, as well.
- Gina typically collects feedback from volunteers at the midpoint of the school year and then the end of the school year. Feedback is also collected at the end of the Summer Camp. Feedback is in the form of surveys (not always completed) as well as conversations Gina has with volunteers.
- Carver is not currently asking corporate volunteers for donations. At this time, Carver is just showing gratitude.
- Leanne noted that she met with Joan Lowe from Reading Champions (literacy program in Greenwich). Carver is not 100% committed to taking on the program but is considering opportunities for collaboration.
- On December 8, Carver will have a Toy Drive run by Holiday Angels. Carver is expanding the event to include activities for children and volunteer opportunities for our board.

The group briefly discussed the Learning Team Data Snapshots and decided to hold a working meeting next Tuesday, November 13 at 10am to work on the program dashboard.