

## Glenn Michaels

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### Examples of Significant Volunteer Partnerships at Volunteers of America Northern New England

**My experience with volunteers is substantial and deep.** Not surprisingly, volunteers were a critical part of our success at Volunteers of America. An important part of our mission was engaging people in the work we do. Volunteers allowed us to accomplish amazing things and bring the support, skills and enthusiasm that make almost anything possible. They also come away from the experience better informed about issues their communities face and with a feeling of great satisfaction for having changed lives. I have included several examples where the volunteer engaged in projects that I managed played a key role in our success and, in the process, changed many lives for the better.

**Young@Heart Concert Sets Attendance and Fundraising Records:** The Young@Heart Chorus is a senior choir that travels the world to demonstrate that people, regardless of their age, are valuable and can accomplish amazing things. The youngest member of the chorus is 72 years old. We filled Merrill Auditorium in Portland, Maine with 1900 people – the largest audience that has ever seen a Young@Heart concert. More than 50 volunteers made this event possible by doing everything from providing tours of the city to our guests to pressing their costumes before the show. It was our most successful fundraising event to date and we have shared our marketing and fundraising tools with other nonprofit organizations working with Young@Heart.



**Homeless Veterans Given a Hand Up During Stand Down Event at Togus Veterans Center:** Because of our experience with homeless veterans and our many connections, we were asked to participate in the veterans Stand Down event in our state. Homeless veterans from across Maine participated in this day-long event which provided access to multiple resources that support these men and women. We received a truckload of donations valued at \$148,000 from The Disabled Veterans National Foundation which were unloaded, sorted, reloaded, shipped and distributed to veterans – all made possible thanks to volunteers. Supplies for the event filled a warehouse in our building. We provided each veteran with a care package filled with important supplies such as blankets, clothing, toiletries, bottled water, and clothing.



**New Program for Homeless Veterans Opened at the Huot House with U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins:** This is a two-year program that is designed to build a customized plan to get veterans back on their feet and into the community again. It is the first and only program in the state that works with homeless women. U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins was the keynote speaker. She is the ranking senator on the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee and also serves on the Armed Services Committee. More than 200 volunteers support this program through fundraising, events, adopt-a-veteran programs, and more. We could not have built or run this program without their help.



**Dedication of Miller Square on Harlow by U.S. Congressman Mike Michaud:** We opened and dedicated our newest and largest affordable senior housing community in Bangor, Maine with support from more than 25 volunteers. The keynote speaker was U.S. Congressman Mike Michaud, a veteran and a member of the Committee for Veterans' Affairs.



**Camp POSTCARD for At-Risk Maine Youth:** Each year, we provide a week-long summer camp program for some of Maine's most at-risk 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The year-round committee that plans for our season and all staff at camp are comprised of more than 100 volunteers. These include law enforcement and criminal justice professionals who serve as camp leaders and do much of the fundraising. There is no cost for any child to attend camp.



**Action Team Program with Major League Baseball Players Trust:** The Action Team program is a national partnership between Volunteers of America and the Major League Baseball Players Trust (the Player's Association's Foundation). The goal of the program is to create the next generation of volunteer leaders working with local high schools. Our affiliate has lead Volunteers of America with the largest Action Team in the country. The volunteers who led the program at their respective schools are shown with their certificates on the field at Fenway Park. This is part of a day-long recognition event for these student volunteer leaders that includes a tour of Fenway Park and time with players who are Action Team representatives.



**Portland Junior Pirates Hockey Team:** This is one of our most unique volunteer relationships. We inherited a program for hopeless veterans that needed help. So did the facility it is housed in. The Portland Junior Pirates, a Maine junior hockey team with players aged from 16 to 21, donated their time for a full day to repair, paint, re-floor and basically provide these men with home they could be proud of. This volunteer work is part of their training program with the team. They provide all supplies and their total donation exceeded \$10,000. When the job was finished, they donated two new 46-inch televisions (which their

owner went out and purchased that day) and watched the Army/Navy game with the veterans.



**Pierce Atwood Rebuilds Retaining Wall and Strengthens Team:** Pierce Atwood, a local and national law firm headquartered in Portland, Maine wanted a physically challenging volunteer team-building event. And they asked the right people. In one day, they tore down a railroad tie retaining wall, built a new foundation and built a new rock retaining wall. This was something that we could not have done by ourselves and helped establish a long-term relationship with this organization.

