

Non-profit website thrives

By Amanda Kerr

After only four months, www.NetworkWilliamsburg.com, a non-profit website for non-profits, is doing well.

So far the website, which launched in December 2007, has 25 registered non-profit members and receives an average of 400 visitors per month.

Network Williamsburg is designed to connect non-profits with volunteers and civic minded businesses and groups. Non-profits pay a \$25 annual fee for access to the website, which allows them to post volunteer needs, up-coming events and material needs.

The website also has 16 corporate sponsors that have donated funds to help with the upkeep of the website. Some of those sponsors have also offered either monetary donations or in-kind donations to benefit non-profits.

Civic groups, churches and individuals can use the website for free.

Website founder Karen Dutro said that Network Williamsburg has helped to facilitate a variety of connections between non-profits and charitable individuals.

"We have successfully matched up individuals who had items such as furniture, printer ink, computers, and paper to donate to agencies in need," Dutro said.

People interested in volunteering can go to the website and click on Volunteer Net to see a list of volunteer opportunities in greater Williamsburg.

Dutro has started posting information about grant opportunities for non-profits. So far about 30 grants have been posted.

Information about scholarships for high school seniors has also been posted under the Info Net link.

Dutro said she is pleased with the interest in the website and hopes Network Williamsburg will help grow support for non-profits.

"We are very excited about this and hope to continue to provide access to information that will encourage community involvement and increase resources available to non-profits," she said.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Network Williamsburg is currently featuring volunteer opportunities that will take place during National Volunteer Week, which runs from April 27-May 3. Special events are also being held on April 25-27 for Global Youth Service Day. For a complete listing of events go to www.NetworkWilliamsburg.com and click on full calendar.

The Virginia Gazette

Volunteer week

April 27-May 3 is designated as National Volunteer Week.

Thank you to all the people who give their time and talent to help others in the community. If you have been thinking about volunteering, now is a great time to encourage people around you and to motivate others to serve with you.

Check out www.networkwilliamsburg.com to see the ways you can help local nonprofits with your time, talent, or donated items. There are lots of events scheduled across the community on April 26, a great chance to have fun and support your favorite charity at the same time.

Karen Dutro
Founding Director
NetworkWilliamsburg