

Best Use of Volunteers (BUoV)

The “Best Use of Volunteers” award recognizes organizations which most effectively utilizes volunteers to enhance their mission.

The Barrington Area Community Foundation considers the combined net impact that volunteers have to the 501(c)(3) organization’s total operations.

The “Best Use of Volunteers” award is separate from BACF’s regular grants. It requires a separate submission. It will be reviewed and evaluated independently from the project awards. An organization does not have to apply for a regular BACF grant to be considered for the BUoV award. If an organization does apply for a regular BACF grant, please submit both applications at the same time and in the same envelope.

The total amount to be granted is \$1500. BACF may award it to one or more organizations. We encourage that your volunteers and/or volunteer leadership be involved to provide input to the award’s use. In the past, organizations used all or a portion of the award to reward the volunteers, such as a recognition event. Organizations also used all or a part of it to enhance their volunteers through additional volunteer training, uniforms (shirts, caps, etc.) and other items.

To be considered for BACF’s “Best Use of Volunteers” award, you must describe the impact your volunteers make to your organization. “Our volunteers enabled “A” and “B” to happen, which directly (or indirectly) impacted “X” clients and/or saved us “\$Y” etc.

There is no specific information required to support your application. If you want us to consider the impact your volunteers made in multiple activities, please provide a summary page that combines everything. Submit what you believe will help the evaluation committee succinctly understand the impact your volunteers made to your organization and in turn your clients. Suggested (not required) information that might help support your award’s consideration include:

1. Describe the activity(s) and/or project(s) that the volunteers lead.
2. Describe the activity(s) and/or project(s) that the volunteers participated.
3. For volunteer activity(s) with direct client contact, please estimate the number of client uses. As an example, an event or activity that meets four times per year with an average attendance of 15 is considered a 60 person event. A single event with 200 clients in attendance is a 200 person event.
4. Quantify approximately how many volunteers participated.
5. Quantify the approximate total volunteer man-hours.
6. Describe any specialized skills provided by these volunteers.
7. If you would have had to hire others to provide these skills and labor, what is the approximate cost to your organization?
8. Along with labor, were there any volunteer in-kind donations?

The volunteers can reside or conduct their volunteer activities outside the BACF geographic coverage area. However, just as with BACF regular grants, we will evaluate

the impact your volunteers made only to your clients within the geographic area served by BACF.

For purpose of the “Best Use of Volunteers” award, board members conducting typical board-related activities will not be considered. However, board members participating in non-governance or other non-typical board responsibilities, such as hands-on or direct client contact activities, can be considered.

Please specify the time period in which these volunteer activities took place. For purpose of this award, we will consider the volunteer activities that took place during the immediate previous twelve months from the date of the award submission deadline OR calendar year 2009 OR the organization’s fiscal year. Likewise, the events, clients served and other impact quantifications must be for the same chronological period.

An organization may not receive “Best Use of Volunteers” award more than once every three years. As such, for 2010 the 2009 and 2008 award winners are not eligible.

Submission date deadline,: February 1, 2010. submission address: email admin@barringtonareacommunityfoundation.org 421 N. Northwest Highway, STE 201 Barrington IL, 60010. Notification is made by email/mail and point of contact information should be included with your submission. The award is issued at the Grants Award Ceremony in April/May 2010.

For more information, clarifications, or questions, please contact David Waring, david@waring.net. E-mails should say in the subject line, “BACF question.” If you prefer to phone, the daytime phone is 847-867-2201.