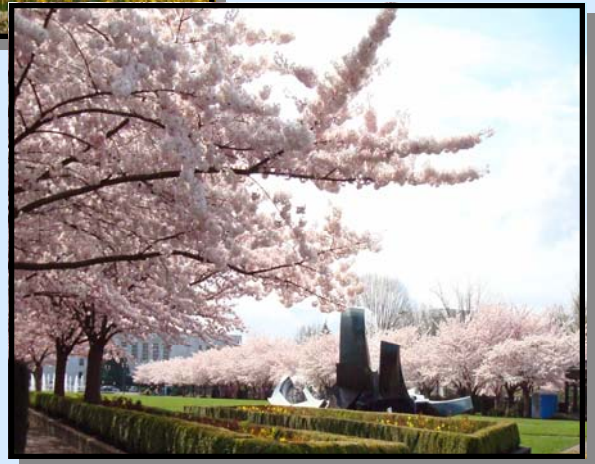


MARION COUNTY

VOLUNTEER REPORT

2007



Marion County
OREGON

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INTRODUCTION

Marion County, Oregon, includes sixteen departments and offices of elected officials. The county's workforce consists of 1,524 employees and 1,012 volunteers.

The work of volunteers is highlighted throughout the year in a quarterly publication, *A Helping Hand*. During National Volunteer Week, the Board of Commissioners presents volunteer awards at its weekly board session, which is broadcast by a local access channel. Annual volunteer awards include the following categories: Judge Rex Hartley Volunteer of the Year, Commissioner Mary Pearmine Outstanding Volunteer Group, Advisory Board Volunteer, Youth Volunteer, and Program or Division Volunteer awards. In addition to the annual awards ceremony, all active volunteers are mailed a greeting and recognition item from the Board of Commissioners during National Volunteer Week. Departments and offices of elected officials are encouraged to individually recognize volunteers at other times throughout the year.

This report describes the total number of volunteers during the 2007 calendar year and the hours they served as reported by county departments. The table in the report indicates the numbers of volunteers and the hours they contributed to each county department. The table is followed by a narrative of volunteer accomplishments.

For more information about Marion County volunteers and volunteer programs, contact volunteer coordinator Glenis Chapin at either 503-588-7990 or volunteer@co.marion.or.us.



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HOURS

DEPARTMENT	PROGRAM	VOLUNTEERS	HOURS	TOTAL	\$ *VALUE
ASSESSOR					
	DATA COLLECTION	1	566	566	\$9,809
BOC					
	ECON. DEV. ADV. BOARD	13	59		
	CO. OF ECON. ADVISORS	13	75		
	MWILL COMM PART BRD	NA	NA		
	MWAC TRANSPORTATION	1	36		
	BUDGET COMM.	3	162		
	OPAL CREEK CO	2	15		
	NS WATERSHED CO	1	75		
	PSCC	4	100	522	\$9,046
BUSINESS SERVICES					
	RISK PROJECT ASST	2	1		
	MSDS COLLECT CLERK	1	247		
	COMPENSATION BOARD	4	30	30	\$520
CLERK-ELECTIONS					
	BOPTA	4	108	108	\$1,872
DEPT. OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES					
	FOSTER ACTION TM	17	253		
	EARLY CHILDHOOD	60	830		
	FAMILY SYSTEMS	24	285		
	CHILD&FAM COMMISSION	64	561		
	HEALTHY START COMM	12	92		
	VOL CENTER ACTION TM	6	208		
	RUNAWAY/HOMELESS TM	13	600		
	ADVOCACY & COMM	6	24		
	ACCOUNTABILITY COMM	4	20		
	STUDENT SUCCESS	8	37		
	SOLUTIONS WORK GRP	4	9		
	LDRSHIP & AGENDA PLAN	2	30		
	COMM/RECEIVE HOMES	4	80		
	COMM. PROG. TEAMS	303	14,319	17,348	\$300,641
DA					
	INVESTIGATIONS	12	707		
	VAD CLERICAL	4	1,463		
	VAD ADVISORY BOARD	3	12		
	VICTIM ADVOCATES	68	36,198	38,380	\$665,125
EXTENSION					
	CASCADE SCENIC RLRD	28	170		
	YOUTH ENVRO SQUAD/W3	82	2,289		
	4-H	286	42,900		
	MASTER GARDENERS	196	13,062	58,421	\$1,012,436

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DEPARTMENT	PROGRAM	VOLUNTEERS	HOURS	TOTAL	\$ *VALUE
HEALTH					
	IDU OUTREACH	5	NA		
	COMM. CARE PARTNERS	15	3,098		
	FLU & IMMUN. CLINICS	6	24		
	CLERICAL	3	280		
	WIC	6	375		
	HEALTH ADV BOARD	9	324		
	PUBLIC HEALTH AIDE	1	182		
	ALCOHOL/DRUG COMM	13	140		
	ABH INTERN	1	171		
	HIV EDUCATION	1	29		
	PSYCH CRISIS CENTER	8	896	5,519	\$95,644
INFO/TECHNOLOGY					
JUVENILE					
	COUNSELING	3	750		
	DETENTION	NA	NA		
	TRAINING ASSISTANTS	4	177		
	ALTERNATIVE PROGS	1	260		
	PROBATION PRACTICUM	2	285		
	GAP MENTOR	8	165		
	MARKET PROGRAM	1	21	1,658	\$28,733
LEGAL					
PUBLIC WORKS					
	AMERICORPS VISTA	1	1,200		
	PARKS	217	1,856		
	PLANNING COMMISSION	9	630		
	PARKS COMMISSION	7	84		
	ADOPT-A-ROAD (groups)	82	1,533		
	MSTR RECYCLER	61	680		
	SWMAC	15	330		
	DOG SHELTER	83	1,726		
	WEED CONTROL ADV	10	988		
	BUILDING INSPECTION	1	360		
	COUNTY FAIR & BOARD	762	9,112		
	ARES	30	1,010	19,509	\$338,091
SHERIFF					
	INSTITUTIONS	127	5,165		
	COLD CASE SQUAD	4	1,534		
	SAR UNITS	114	8,682		
	RESERVES	20	3,841		
	PAROLE/PROBATION	1	110		
	FORENSIC INTERNS	3	NA		
	CADETS	4	841	20,173	\$349,598
Totals					
		2,893	161,916		\$2,811,515

The value of volunteer time is based on the average hourly earnings as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and compiled by Independent Sector. This figure, \$17.33 for Oregon, is increased by 12 percent to estimate for fringe benefits.

VOLUNTEERS

Community expertise
at work!



**Marion County
Weed District
Advisory
Committee**

False brome is the grass overtaking the edges of the trail in the upper picture and completely treated and dead in the lower picture.



The object is to eradicate this invasive plant from areas such as the one pictured and be able to replant with native grasses to create a healthier ecosystem. **The Weed District Advisory Committee** provides guidance in determining priority weeds for the county and helps educate the public about identification and control.

PROGRAMS

Assessor's Office

Mission: To continually improve service to the public while meeting statutory obligations, and to fairly assess the property in Marion County as required by Oregon state law.

A volunteer provided data collection services for the Assessor's office during part of the year, including farm checks and new subdivision inventory. These duties required a high level of organization and planning. Farm checks consist of examining specially-assessed properties for correct usage and require many hours of office preparation before logging full days in the community finding each account and taking detailed notes for computer entry.

Board of Commissioners

Mission: To provide leadership that ensures fiscal accountability and enhances the health, safety and livability of our communities.



Commissioners Janet Carlson, Patti Milne and Sam Brentano

Budget Committee

Citizen members work in conjunction with county commissioners to recommend budgets for all county department operations and capital improvements. Committee members consider long-term financial management and responsibility, county goals, and public needs when recommending the final budget for adoption. Committee members ensure that all funds are balanced in accordance with Oregon municipal budget laws. Last year a budget committee work group reviewed the budget process and made recommendations for process changes and paperwork reductions for a more streamlined and efficient budget process.

The Council of Economic Advisors

The council meets annually to discuss significant financial trends and to project general fund and other revenues for the Budget Officer's use in the upcoming budget session.

Economic Development Advisory Board

The focus for the year was to get the board up and running, review the grant criteria for the video lottery grant program and make recommendations to the commissioners.

Mid-Willamette Advisory Council on Transportation

The high point for the year was keeping the commitment to retain the Stayton/Sublimity interchange.

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North Santiam Watershed Council

The Snake Deford project is taking place on Snake Deford Creek as a partnership between local landowners near Mill City.

Project goals:

- Improve fish habitat
- Resolve erosion and flooding
- Improve water quality
- Remove invasive plants & establish native riparian plants

Hatch Airport

Project goals:

- Improve fish passage by replacing culvert
- Remove invasive plants
- Restore off-channel and backwater habitat
- Improve adjacent wetlands and riparian forests

Fish Passage Barrier Inventory

The council is currently working with the South Santiam Watershed Council to build a fish passage barrier inventory to identify and prioritize fish passage barriers that need to be fixed throughout the Santiam Basin.

Gravel Bed Enhancement

The Council is collaborating with US Army Corps of Engineers and Federal Lakes Recreation Committee for Detroit Lake to design the removal of trapped gravel and the placement of gravel downstream to enhance salmon spawning grounds.

Landowner Restoration Projects

The council offers links to technical and financial resources to help landowners complete restoration projects on their properties to improve watershed health.

North Fork Clean-up

A cleanup along the Little North Santiam River takes place twice a year with the help of Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Opal Creek Ancient Forest Center, Marion County, SOLV, and residents who live in the area.

Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Advisory Council

The Opal Creek SRA Advisory Board is currently focusing on advising the Secretary of Agriculture on implementing a comprehensive plan, setting priorities, and other matters relating to SRA management such as visitor special use requests, law enforcement issues and monitoring, and restoration strategies. The subcommittees initiated by the advisory board are continuing to develop plans for: 1) Monitoring Plan, 2) Trails Plan, 3) Pearl Creek Guard Station Preservation Strategy, and 4) Three Pools Day Use Site Proposal.

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Business Services

Mission: To provide a core foundation of business practices and consultation that assists Marion County departments to achieve their missions.

Clerk

Mission: Record, provide access, and preserve for prosperity those records entrusted in our care; and to promote public trust and confidence by our conduct of accurate, fair and open elections, which accurately reflect the intent of the electorate.

Board of Property Tax Appeals

The board of property tax appeals is a panel of three pool members who hear petitions for the reduction of the real market maximum assessed value, and specially assessed value of property. The board meets between February and April.

Children and Families

Mission: To assure every child and family an equal opportunity to attain their full potential

See Hours page 4

District Attorney

"I believe that everyone should be held accountable. Justice must always be public, accessible and fair. Everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect."

Victim Assistance

Volunteer advocates served 2,938 victims of crime during 2007.

Finance

Mission: Safeguarding the county's fiscal integrity.

No volunteers reported in 2007

Health

Mission: The Marion County Health Department, in collaboration with community partners, provides and purchases high quality services which promote individual and community health to all people in Marion County.

Consumer Care Partnerships (CCP)

CCP is a nationally recognized Marion County program designed to assist consumers of mental health services with creating community based support teams.

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CCP utilizes trained peer volunteers to facilitate individualized community support teams. CCP support teams assist individuals with creating and implementing an action plan designed to meet an individual's identified needs and goals. CCP teams focus on the strengths of each individual and support their recovery through personal support, decreased isolation, increased involvement in desired activities, mentoring, and just plain fun.

Throughout the year, CCP volunteers have assisted individuals with achieving goals such as increasing community activities, obtaining housing, and returning to school. One individual supported by a team had been isolated for 10 years, leaving her home only to grocery shop and meet with her mental health providers. With the support of her teams she has been able to attend social functions, begin an exercise routine, and attend church meetings. This individual is now interested in becoming a volunteer.

Immunizations

George Fox College students helped the Marion county Health Department by giving injections to the community at the Point of Distribution (POD) this year. The volunteers allow a reduction in the number of paid staff needed and enables the students to get more practice, benefiting themselves, the community and the Health Department.

Psychiatric Crisis Center

Volunteers help clients in the center's waiting area and may accompany crisis associates when an extra person provides more safety such as when walking a client to the Salem Hospital Emergency department. Volunteers may answer phones when they are familiar with the center work flow and procedures, and have been helpful in those unusual times when the center was short-staffed or needed extra help because of crisis situations.

Women Infants & Children (WIC)

Volunteer interns were instrumental in setting up information for nutrition education activities during the year.

Information Technology

Mission: The Information Technology Department delivers efficient, cost effective technology services that meet the business needs of Marion County customers and provides overall technology strategy and direction for Marion County.

No volunteers reported in 2007.

Juvenile

Mission: To improve public safety by working with parents and the community to provide youth accountability and opportunities for positive change.

Training

Four wonderful volunteers assist with two staff training days each month. They purchase supplies needed, set up rosters, print reports, make signs and keep the training running for the two days. They also compile all of the sign-in forms after the training, file and perform other office duties.

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Alternative Programs

A dedicated volunteer assists the youths with growing and cultivating plants to sell in Juvenile's Fresh Start Market. She also helps with products for the market that are created to sell. Each December, Alternative Programs holds a holiday party for seniors with the help of their volunteer and youths in the programs.

OSU Extension Service

Mission: The Oregon State University Extension Service engages the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.

OSU Extension Service provides education to communities on agriculture, 4-H, horticulture, forestry, water and watersheds, nutrition education, and sustainable communities. OSU Extension Service trains volunteers on selected programs and relies on them to support and extend higher education into the community. The following summarizes the primary programs utilizing volunteers.

4-H Program

The 4-H program is an informal, educational youth development program. 4-H helps youth grow and develop into positive citizens by providing lifelong learning and life-skill development through a variety of trainings, clubs, and activities. For example, the 4-H clubs and related projects include animal science, communications and expressive art, personal development and leadership, science and technology, and various Latino community outreach programs.

The largest event that culminates many of these activities is the County Fair. The Fair provides a unique multi-faceted educational experience for 4-H members and the public. 4-H members gain experience and knowledge from experts in the field related to their project discipline and life skills such as presentations, communications, reporting, and ethics. The Fair also provides an opportunity for the public to become educated on a plethora of projects from agriculture to public speaking to arts and crafts.

In an effort to better reach Latino communities and introduce families to 4-H, several new youth programs targeting these audiences were created. These include soccer, drama, art, dance, sports, nutrition, gardening, science and technology, forestry and leadership. In addition, these programs are designed to teach youth and families about their traditions, culture, music, food, and heritage as part of learning life technical skills.

4-H volunteers provide leadership and guidance to the 4-H programs in partnership with 4-H youth. Adult 4-H volunteers serve as soccer coaches, club leaders, event coordinators, teachers, and mentors.

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Master Gardeners

The Master Gardener program is the next largest volunteer management program. Their primary activity is the operation of the Home Gardener Question and Answer Desk. The volunteers in the Extension office answered 4,407 enquiries on a wide range of topics from homeowners in Marion County. This is a free service by trained OSU Extension volunteers to the people of Marion County.

The Master Gardeners have built and manage a demonstration garden behind the office on Center Street. It is utilized as a tool for master gardener training and public workshops on gardening topics, and it is the only facility of its type in Salem for teaching sustainable gardening practices. It was used this year for a workshop on tree fruit pruning. In addition, the beneficial insect garden was expanded in 2007 and was the subject of a workshop in September. Construction of "Every Body's Garden" continues and currently consists of three raised beds and also includes a water feature and gazebo. A new potting shed was added this year.



Master Gardener demonstration garden.

At the Oregon Garden, maintenance continues for the drought-tolerant shrubs display within the main garden. In May, the upper parking lots at the Garden were landscaped with drought-tolerant trees, shrubs and perennials. The site was previously graded and irrigation installed, and the planting will be evaluated for plant performance with and without supplemental summer irrigation. The project is supported by a \$14,900 grant from the OR Garden Sustainable Plant Research and Outreach Center (SPROUT).

Community landscaping projects included the design and installation of new landscape in front of the St. Francis Shelter on Berry Street in south Salem, and working with the Willamette Valley Humane Society to design and install a new landscape at their parking lot entrance.

KBZY and Speakers Bureau. Master Gardeners present a radio program each Thursday morning from 8:40 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on KBZY 1490 in Salem. A total of 51 programs were presented in 2007. Master Gardeners gave presentations to various area clubs, charities and other organizations on 18 other occasions in 2007.

Sustainable Communities

The Sustainable Communities project has developed a Youth Enviro-Squad (YES) and an after-school youth training course called Wildlife, Watersheds, and What-not (W3). YES has planted thousands of native plants, built hundred of feet of trail, and invested many hours in restoring and protecting wetland and riparian areas around Marion County. The W3 class is taught by professionals with help from volunteers. This provides an excellent learning and service experience for students and adult volunteers like.

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Public Works

Mission: To utilize available resources as efficiently as possible; to serve the public works needs of our community including providing for the health and safety of its citizens; to maintain and improve the quality of life and improve the agricultural and forestry economies of Marion County; and to provide customers with an environmentally responsible and cost-effective system for reduction and disposal of solid waste through quality services, education, and involvement.

Planning Commission

The commission heard Measure 37-related subdivision cases involving unusual and technical issues. Several members also served on a task force reviewing the County's Sensitive Groundwater Overlay Zone program to provide feedback and possible amendments to the Board of Commissioners.

Marion County Parks Commission

The commission was involved in the beginning phases of the preparation of the Parks Master Plan which began mid-year. Members also considered possible recommendations for development of Parkdale Park, including hearing public comment on the proposals.

Marion County Fair

The Fair Board operates and produces the Marion County Fair. The fair would not exist without this operating board. The board meets monthly, working from its strategic plan to produce the fair. The volunteers who work at the fair are the hands and feet of the Fair Board, and without the volunteers there would not be a fair as staffing would be cost prohibitive.

Solid Waste Management Advisory Council

The advisory council pondered numerous issues during the year, with the most significant being the consideration and recommendation to the Board of Commissioners of a draft ordinance to ban backyard burning within the urban growth boundaries of Salem and Keizer. The council held a public hearing on this issue in January, and many members were present at the public hearing held before the Board of Commissioners on this topic in December.

Dog Shelter

Volunteers at the shelter were part of many beneficial, positive and rewarding experiences in 2007. In February, three volunteers shared the first volunteer fostering opportunity of "Marion" and her seven puppies. The shelter held its first Adoption Outreach on April 7 at Pet, Etc., in West Salem where "Marion" and her puppies were highlighted. Four puppies were adopted that day, the remaining three were adopted the following week, and "Marion" was adopted in June.



Shelter dog walker takes time out for a friendly hug.

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Volunteers have continued with the outreaches. The first Saturday of each month there is an adoption outreach at PetSense in Woodburn. The third Saturday of each month from May to October the shelter has a booth at the Salem Saturday Market. These outreaches have resulted in several dogs being adopted, donations collected, and valuable shelter information given out. A very successful outreach was the December 8/9 Salem Saturday Market Holiday Market. Volunteers made handcrafted items to sell, and this two-day event resulted in \$545 raised for the shelter. Alumni shelter dog "Buddy" was there promoting the shelter and was a shining example of the fantastic dogs at the shelter.

Volunteers donated many hours in transporting animals to and from veterinarian appointments, to Oregon State University for free shelter dog spays/neuters, and to rescues. Volunteers also help promote the shelter dogs by distributing the "Dog of the Week" flyers and posters around the community.

The shelter continues to have a very committed group of dogs walkers who spend quality time with the dogs, walking and socializing them. Every minute dogs spend outside their kennels with a human helps keep them mentally and physically healthy.

Volunteers also help with adoption counseling. They interview prospective adopters and help shelter staff with the adoption process.

The dog shelter volunteer program continues to grow. It is a vital and important part of the success of the shelter.

Environmental Services

Natural Resource Outreach Specialist

An AmeriCorps member served as a with the Department of Public Works - Environmental Services from October 2006 to September 2007. During this time over 1,200 hours of environmental education was delivered to more than 1,440 students in 31 schools, centering on recycling, resource conservation, and water quality outreach. Eighteen schools were helped to attain or maintain their Oregon Green School status through setting up school-wide recycling and resource conservation programs.

A Woodburn middle school without a recycling program at the beginning of the school year became Oregon Green School. They found many ways to reduce waste and bring the recycling message to the entire school through implementing a school-wide recycling program that included a kitchen recycling program. Kitchen recycling reduced trash from 200 gallons per day to 50 gallons and cafeteria garbage was reduced from 945 gallons to 315 gallons per day, resulting in a total reduction of 780 gallons of garbage per day!



AmeriCorps volunteer encouraging recycling at the Marion County

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Storm Drain Stenciling

Another major activity was organizing school and community groups to participate in storm drain stenciling. Two schools participated in the "Down By the Riverside" event the week of May 14 – 18.

Weed District Advisory Board

The Advisory Committee provided in-depth input for documents created to run the Committee and also the District at large. Included were items such as education and outreach brochures and posters, notifications for landowners with noxious weed issues on their properties, self-governing documents for the Committee, and guidelines for creating and maintaining the County Noxious Weed List. They were also integral in obtaining funding to get the program started. The student volunteers for the on-the-ground project at Willamette University removed blackberry briars by hand and made amazing headway in clearing out a previously ignored area that had been an "attractive nuisance" for years.

Master Recyclers

Master Recycler volunteers staffed information booths at various local events such as the Home Show, Oregon State Fair, Ag Fest and many others. Volunteers led field trips, taught composting in the classroom, and set up recycling programs at their workplaces.

Adopt-A-Road

The Adopt-A-Road volunteers cleaned 200.16 miles of county roadway in the year 2007. The "Schreiners Iris Garden" group completed 7.9 miles. This is an admirable accomplishment for one group.

Parks

Volunteers removed Scotch broom, blackberries, ivy and other noxious weeds in county parks. They also planted bulbs, spread bark dust, painted facilities, and maintained trails in many of the parks.

Seventh and eighth grade students adopted a local wetland at Parkdale Park near their school. More than 50 students helped remove blackberries growing along 100 square feet of fence line, planted more than 70 trees, picked up trash, and learned about water quality. The project helped students become more involved in their community and is improving local water quality.

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)

ARES provides emergency communications during disasters when phones and other radios are not operable. They also provide communications during non-emergency events such as the "Festival of Lights Parade" where ARES teamed up with the local Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) to provide communications and crowd assistance during the parade. ARES members also participated in local charity walk/run events and were an integral part of the emergency communications during the recent flooding in adjacent counties. The ARES team collaborates with ham radio operators in neighboring counties and state ham radio operators conducting drills throughout the year, and also participate in Marion County Emergency Operations Center drills.

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Sheriff

Mission: To provide the highest level of public safety services in partnership with our communities.

Cold Case Squad

The four volunteers who make up this group successfully resolved a 25-year unsolved homicide, resulting in an arrest and conviction. The squad is working on the near resolve of a 21-year old homicide case that is pending for the Grand Jury.

Parole & Probation Division

The involvement of volunteers and practicum students has become a staple in the division over the years. Volunteers regularly assist sworn Parole & Probation Officers with their day-to-day duties. Some of these duties may include: interviewing offenders, entering vital data in the computer systems, filing, returning calls, writing reports, and learning general case management strategies. This "education" often helps the volunteer determine whether this is the type of work he/she is seeking as a future career. The volunteer time helps the division by assisting with the ever-increasing workload associated with the supervision of more than 4,400 adult offenders. Over the last several years, many Parole & Probation volunteers seek continuing and increasing responsibilities by applying for intern positions or full-time work when opportunities arise.

**Electronic version of this report available at:
<http://www.co.marion.or.us/BS/VOL>
and
Click on Volunteer Annual Report**



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