

## **Utilizing Volunteers**

### **Volunteers Are Wonderful Resources**

#### **Increase quality**

Increase the quality of services and provide access to a wider range of specialized skills

#### **Generate public support**

Create community ownership and generate public support for your program by sharing their positive experiences with others in their community

#### **Increase capacity**

Expand your overall network, increasing your capacity in terms of skills, potential donors, partnerships and alliances

#### **Pay attention to the children**

Help you provide more personalized attention to the children you serve

#### **Maximize sustainability**

Volunteers can help keep the ratio of adults to participants in the crucial 1:10 to 1:15 range that's widely accepted as most sustainable.

### **The Importance of Volunteer Management**

Volunteers can help your staff be more effective in conducting your program activities. Volunteers can provide positive adult role models for children at a time when many need it most. However, while tapping into this type of community resources can make your program stronger, it takes a great deal of commitment, time and organization.

### **Volunteers Require a Management Plan**

Volunteers want to help but they require direction, support, training, communication and most importantly, a volunteer management plan. Whether tasks are complex or mundane having systems in place to for guidance and direction will make the process easier on you and them.

A poorly managed volunteer experience can be frustrating to the volunteer and can do real damage to your program's effectiveness and reputation.