

Helping teens volunteer this holiday season

Annual booklet provides dozens of resources

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The Corporation for National and Community Service lauds volunteering as a way that can benefit people of all ages by supplying them with ways to bolster their self-esteem while helping others.

Locally, NetworkPeninsula, a nonprofit organization that supports more than 150 nonprofits across the Peninsula, publishes a yearly booklet to help kids find ways to give back.

The "2014/2015 Youth Resource Booklet: A Student's Guide to Volunteering on the Peninsula" is available online and is a clearinghouse of information for kids and their parents.

The book is set up to help kids search for altruistic endeavors by location, interest, time of year,

amount difference.

"Collection drives are a great way to help multiple nonprofits," Dutro said. "Any group can do a collection drive. Some kids don't have a lot of time to volunteer, but to organize a collection drive could be easier on their schedules and make a big impact on the organizations that need the items."

Collection drives could include cleaning supplies, clothes, diapers and baby supplies, electronics, holiday food, household items, hygiene items, office supplies, pet supplies, school supplies and toys. Or, at this time of year, kids could consider creating holiday cards for area elderly, or for families of service personnel, Dutro noted.

"Any family, any child, could look at the list and make cards for the holidays for different senior programs, or even just cutting coupons for people," she said. "Many nonprofits hand out coupons to their clients



amount of time or for a specific cause. There is also a section on collection drives, which, according to NetworkPeninsula executive director Karen Dutro, are popular ways kids and their families can make a signifi-

for diapers or food."

The booklet lists a variety of scholarship opportunities for students.

There is a listing for regional and national award opportunities for student volunteers and links for national youth and community service groups.

Last year, NetworkPeninsula changed its name from Network-Williamsburg. The organization serves more than 150 nonprofits from greater Williamsburg as far away as Hampton. The book is distributed widely and, because it is online, can be accessed any time.

Dutro said she receives positive feedback from kids, their parents and the organizations listed.

"It is a great booklet for anyone looking to volunteer," she said. "There are so many ideas in there."

More—Visit www.networkpeninsula.org.

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