

Sacramento Public Library Authority

Agenda Item 3.0: Volunteer Recognition

TO: Sacramento Public Library Authority Board Members

FROM: Cindy Cantin, Community Services Manager

RE: Volunteer Recognition

BACKGROUND

Volunteers are a valued resource of the Sacramento Public Library. They enhance and enrich the library experience for customers and act as ambassadors for the library in their communities. In fiscal year 2008-09, the Library had the enthusiastic help of 617 volunteers who donated 59,880 hours of service.

Of the 617 volunteers, 159 people gave 23,468 hours to Adult Literacy Services and 458 people volunteered 36,412 hours to branch libraries. In fiscal year 2008-09, library volunteer hours increased by 5,473 hours over the prior year. The hours that volunteers donate are the equivalent of *nearly 29 full time staff* and provide the Sacramento community with enhancements above what can be provided by paid staff.

Volunteers perform a multitude of tasks. Volunteers become tutors with Adult Literacy Services to help adults learn to read, and to help improve the quality of life for their students. Volunteers represent the library at events and act as liaisons for the Library throughout Sacramento. Volunteers act as docents for the Sacramento Room, helping people to learn about our community's rich heritage. Volunteers also act as docents in branch libraries, helping people to get library cards or learn how to use a computer. Still others help with story times for children or do the backbreaking work of getting books back on the shelves. A group of skilled volunteers spend hours repairing and cleaning books and other materials. Volunteers help to make sure that customers can find the items they want by keeping them in good order. Volunteers, with their many talents and skills, enhance and enrich the Sacramento community.



Volunteers at "The Big Weed" at McKinley Library for the first National Day of Service on September 11, 2009