

## United Way's Volunteer Center

### Utilizing Tag Team Volunteers

Nonprofit agencies sometimes benefit most when volunteers are there regularly to help meet on-going needs such as working with clients, in the office or with other duties. At the same time, however, many corporate volunteers find it hard to make a weekly commitment to volunteers. Tag Team Volunteering is one possible solution.

#### Try Tag Team Volunteers

Like job sharing, two or more volunteers can fill one position at an organization and take turns doing the work. For example, two volunteers can tutor one child, alternating the weeks they volunteer, while maintaining a regular schedule for the child.

Tag Team Volunteering best suits work that is similar from week to week or where only quick instructions are needed at the beginning of a shift. Opportunities like tutoring, office work, meal service or preparation, or recreation activities would be ideal.

By creating more flexible opportunities, a nonprofit agency can recruit more volunteers. Because the corporate Team Leader will be the team contact and volunteer recruiter, the agency's job is much easier.

#### Getting Started

1. **Talk with staff** and determine what opportunities could be filled by a "Tag Team."
2. **Update your position descriptions** to indicate that a regular team of people could fill one opportunity. Include this information in your other recruitment material.
3. **Update your opportunity listing on United Way's Volunteer Solutions** to indicate that this position could be done by a team of two or more people. Clarify if the team members can serve the same opportunity on different days, different times, etc.
4. **Establish a process for working with Tag Teams** and determine if you want an application for each person or just the Team Leader.

Remember that the Tag Team approach is easy and will help you fill positions because the team will develop a schedule and cover for one another when they are absent. This Model can help you get more people involved, save time and deliver more service!