

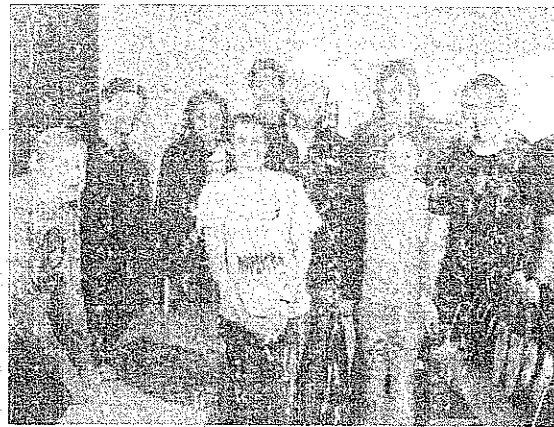
Agency seeks opportunities

Skyline CAP was happy to welcome 10 students from the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity at the University of Virginia into the thrift shop last Saturday for a day of volunteer service. The fraternity is a co-ed service organization on campus. Each year, pledges are asked to show their leadership skills by organizing their own project. This year, Abby Kirkham, a fraternity pledge, contacted Skyline CAP about volunteer opportunities with the agency.

The timing was perfect. Skyline CAP recently brought on board an AmeriCorps VISTA worker, Andy Dziuba, a recent graduate from James Madison University, who is tasked with helping to develop volunteer services for the agency. Skyline CAP pursued the AmeriCorps VISTA with the goal of increasing the agency's ability to meet the needs of its service area through increased volunteer participation and new revenues through local fundraising efforts.

VISTA members are also volunteers who receive a stipend and are trained through AmeriCorps, a federally funded program offering volunteer opportunities throughout the nation. VISTA volunteers serve people in poverty by working with non-profit organizations who serve them.

"We were happy to have the group from UVA come," said Dziuba. "Skyline CAP serves an important part of the Charlottesville region in Madison, Greene, and Orange counties. We have few resources in our community so attracting



Contributed photo

Volunteers from Alpha Phi Omega fraternity at the University of Virginia helped at Skyline CAP's thrift shop in Orange County. Pictured from left to right are Abby Kirkham, Ian Nathan, Nazuk Kochhar, Maureen Campbell, Denny Staples, Sat Mandir Khalsa, Josh Kaup, Lindsey Saxby, and Matt Baltz.

volunteers and support from outside our counties is important. We still need volunteers from the community and people to patronize the shop - it's for a good cause"

The benefits of having other volunteers were mutual. "Working at the Skyline CAP Thrift Store was a great experience. Our group really liked helping such a useful organization. We could see the worth in our efforts and the work was enjoyable too!" said organizer Abby Kirkham. The group spent a Saturday afternoon organizing the thrift shop, sorting clothes, and tidying the display area.

These efforts helped meet one of the agency's most urgent needs -- volunteers to help with the day-to-day operations of the thrift shop in downtown Orange, which opened in October 2009. The thrift shop provides low-cost goods to the community and is an important resource help support the Skyline CAP services offered in Orange County.

Dziuba, originally from Connecticut, said, "I was initially attracted to the

VISTA program because it was a way to get valuable work experience, and to remain relatively local. I really felt like it was the best way for me to get involved in fighting poverty," Dziuba said. "I enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that my work is actively helping disadvantaged people in my community. My service here has made me realize the importance of feeling like I'm making a difference."

The mission of Skyline CAP, Inc. is to give a hand up to those in need through actions that promote self-sufficiency. The agency seeks to alleviate the impact of poverty in three-county service area of Orange, Madison, and Greene counties through programs that promote education, affordable housing, and emergency assistance.

More information about Skyline CAP, including how to volunteer, can be found on the agency's web site at www.skylinecap.org. Dziuba can also be contacted directly at the Orange County office at 672-7490.