NYC Service | Department for the Aging | Aging in New York Fund

NYC Service and Aging in New York Fund Hold 'The Great Exchange,' the Largest Timebanking Event Ever

—Event introduces the money-saving concept of timebanking to hundreds of New Yorkers in Union Square; existing TimeBanksNYC members earn valuable time credit for participating—

— Service pays. Bank on it —

NEW YORK, NY – June 12, 2011 – NYC Service, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's comprehensive program to engage more New Yorkers in volunteer service and target those volunteers towards the City's greatest areas of need, and the Aging in New York Fund, the nonprofit arm of the New York City Department for the Aging, today sponsored the TimeBanksNYC "Great Exchange," an event to introduce New Yorkers to the TimeBanksNYC program and to introduce existing members to one another. TimeBanksNYC, launched in August 2010, is a clearinghouse where members can find opportunities to give or receive services and share their skills with others. The Great Exchange was held in Union Square Park and featured workshops and presentations where attendees could learn new skills, see live performances, participate in activities, and have a chance to meet with TimeBanksNYC members. TimeBanksNYC is a component of Age-friendly NYC, a collaboration between the Mayor's Office, the City Council, and the New York Academy of Medicine, which commits to making New York City the most livable City for older adults.

"Every New Yorker has something to give or a talent they can share with others; we encourage all New Yorkers to use their blank for good. TimeBanksNYC facilitates the exchange process," said Chief Service Officer Diahann Billings Burford. "Whether it's doing yard work for your elderly neighbor or receiving tutoring for a calculus class, TimeBanksNYC makes it easier to access neighbors who want to help.."

Timebanking is a way in which people provide help, support and services to one another by using time instead of money as currency. For every hour that a TimeBanksNYC member provides a service or shares a skill with another member, he or she earns a time credit for the exchange that can then be redeemed for other services.

"In this economy, when many people have less money to spend, TimeBanksNYC allows members to spend time instead of dollars to get the things they want and need," said Aging in New York Fund Executive Director Ali Hodin-Baier. "Exchanges are free and can be managed online or through our toll-free number."

Service exchanges can vary depending upon one's skills and needs. TimeBanksNYC allows both licensed and non-licensed services to be exchanged. Specific service categories on TimeBanksNYC include:

- Arts, Crafts, Music & Recreation
- Business Services
- Community Service/Activities
- Companionship
- Computer/Internet Technology
- Education Workshops/Services
- Errands
- Health Services/Support
- Help for Home/Office
- Repair & Maintenance
- Transportation
- Wellness

To become a member, individuals can register by filling out a membership profile (which requires three references), either on www.nyc.gov/timebanksnyc, or by calling (866) 244-6469. Individuals must also participate in a TimeBanksNYC orientation, either in person or online. Once these steps are completed, individuals will receive an email or phone confirmation that their TimeBanksNYC membership has been activated. Members can then use the TimeBanksNYC database to list the talents and skills they want to offer other members and the talents and skills they are hoping other members can offer them. After an exchange has occurred, the provider of the service records the time credit in the TimeBanksNYC database. A time credit email is sent to the receiver of the service exchange for confirmation.

TimeBanksNYC is a program of NYC Service and is administered by the NYC Department for the Aging in collaboration with the Aging in New York Fund and the Visiting Nurse Service of NY TimeBank.

NYC Service was launched by Mayor Bloomberg in April 2009 to meet his State of the City pledge for New York City to lead the nation in answering President Obama's national call to volunteerism. NYC Service is meeting its goals to make New York City the easiest place in the world to volunteer, target volunteer efforts to address the most pressing local challenges, and promote service as a core part of what it means to be a New Yorker. NYC Service aims to drive volunteer resources to six impact areas where New York City's needs are greatest: strengthening communities, helping neighbors in need, improving education, increasing public health, enhancing emergency preparedness and protecting our environment.

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