

North Raleigh News



A week to think of others

By **DAN HOLLY, Staff Writer**

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This being National Volunteer Week (April 23-29), I thought it would be a good opportunity to update readers on my resolution to volunteer more in 2006.

I got involved in Futures for Kids, a North Raleigh-based organization that seeks to guide kids trying to figure out what path in life to take through discussions with career coaches on an online message board (www.f4k.org).

The time commitment has been minimal as promised -- no more than a half hour per week. No shame in that -- my schedule is jam-packed, but I still want to find time to volunteer.

I've answered questions from a handful of students about journalism. The questions tended to be basic -- what do journalists do? How much money do they make? But I think that's the idea. If I've given one confused student a little bit of guidance, I've done my job, I suppose.

And I'm not atypical, according to data from the Points of Light Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that encourages volunteering.

About 28 percent of Americans volunteered, and they spent a median of 52 hours on volunteer activities in 2004, according to a fact sheet the group sent me this week.

That's one hour a week, which may not seem like much but -- admit it -- you'd probably spend that hour watching TV.

A good way to get started may be Triangle Impact (www.triangleimpact.org). That organization coordinates volunteer activities, and it needs volunteers, according to Billie Jo Leonka, a project leader. They can accommodate busy people who cannot consistently devote large chunks of time, she said.

I leave you with this: "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."
-- *Winston Churchill*

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