



Volunteer Spotlight

"If our hopes of building a better and safer world are to become more than wishful thinking, we will need the engagement of volunteers more than ever."
Kofi Annan

Torrance Police Department's Most Active Volunteer: Virginia Greenhouse

While some people see retirement as a time to kick back and relax, others see it as a time to give back. This is certainly true of Virginia Greenhouse who has accumulated a staggering number of hours as a Torrance Police Department (TPD) volunteer working four days a week with an average of six to seven hours each day. Even with well over 10,000 hours of volunteer time logged in, she still shows no signs of slowing down.

Greenhouse volunteers in the TPD's Traffic Division where she has been a fixture since she began volunteering in 2001. Although a majority of her work occurs in the Traffic Division with duties that include data entry and meeting and greeting people at the counter, she's often "on loan" to help in other divisions, including the Records Division, the TPD's North Torrance Community Center, the Community Affairs Division, the Police Chief's Office, and the Property Room. According to Lt. Steve D'Anjou, "She even helps on special projects, really anything we need administrative work on. She has helped on the Safety Fair, and with the Watch Challenge, which is a sporting event, where we challenge the Fire Department to build camaraderie. She helps set up. She also works every year with the Armed Forces Day Parade." With this much contribution to the department, "she's become part of the family, she's so trusted and known; other divisions call for her...and she always volunteers, she has special skills," says Lt. Steve D'Anjou of the Community Affairs Division, "everybody knows and loves her."



While Greenhouse might be an energetic and enthusiastic volunteer, she is very modest and did not want to be interviewed for our newsletter; however, she was able to answer a few questions. When asked about what she likes most about volunteering at TPD, she answers she likes "everything" because she "enjoys the Torrance Police Department and I enjoy meeting people most of the time."

Lt. D'Anjou, who works closely with Greenhouse, was more than happy to talk about one of the department's most valued volunteers, saying "She's wonderful; she's the epitome of everything you'd want in a volunteer; dedicated, outgoing, friendly, always energetic and eager to help in any area of the department. The whole rank structure all think of her very highly and trust her implicitly."

Torrance Police Department Volunteer Program

If you'd like to give Virginia Greenhouse a run for her money, then volunteer with the Torrance Police Department!

Lieutenant Steve D'Anjou of the Community Affairs Division has been charged with revamping the department's volunteer program. "We've run a volunteer program since August 1992, but it's been stagnant for a number of years," he said.

Until now, most Torrance Police Department volunteer opportunities have mainly consisted of office work and special events although they have had other very active volunteers through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), The Torrance Amateur Radio Association (TARA), and the Animal Disaster Team (ADT) programs.

The volunteer program was moved to Community Affairs last January because the Torrance Police Department is seeking the assistance of volunteers to reach its community outreach goals. "Now we want to take advantage of the highly qualified applicant pool we have found through our community outreach during the last year and are looking for effective ways to integrate volunteers in the day-to-day activities of the Torrance Police Department," D'Anjou said.

