

OLLI volunteers pitch in to address area homelessness (continued)

by David Langdon

Civic Engagement Committee Chair Sarah Reincke notes there are three area organizations her team has identified that offer opportunities for volunteer support focused on housing and homelessness:

- **Asheville Buncombe County Christian Ministries** (www.abccm.org) needs cooks, drivers, those with life skills, and arts and crafts leaders at its Veterans Restoration Quarters on Tunnel Road. Steadfast House has similar needs. The ABCCM medical ministry needs volunteers with medical training as well as several administrative positions that do not require medical backgrounds.
Contact **Carol Culler** at cull4now@yahoo.com for more details.
- **Homeward Bound** (www.homewardbouncwnc.org), a nonprofit helping people move from homelessness into permanent housing through its Pathways to Permanent Housing. Help is sought at their AHope Day Center assisting clients, and at their newly opened donation center on Elk Mountain Road. Contact **Carol Culler** at cull4now@yahoo.com for more details.
- **Habitat for Humanity** (www.ashevillehabitat.org), working to provide safe and decent housing, can use volunteers in its ReStore, which sells donated items to the general public. Volunteers are also needed to assist with house builds and/or home repairs.
Contact **Vinod Jindal** (vkjindal45@gmail.com) for more details

OLLI also has dedicated teams at MANNA Food Bank helping provide meals to families in need.

At present, the OLLI/MANNA Team has the number of volunteers needed.

Others enjoy volunteering in Asheville and Buncombe County Schools as tutors or classroom assistants. When classroom assistant positions were cut from the schools in a budget-conscious move, the value of these volunteer helpers became even more evident. Our OLLI volunteers have been acknowledged as “uniquely qualified” to fill these important roles in the schools. Please contact Sarah Reincke at sarahreincke@gmail.com for details.

Kudos to all our volunteers who support these and other organizations in our area. It may be trite, but it's also **VERY** true: your work does indeed make a difference!