April 15-22, 2012 is National Volunteer Week. I cannot think of a better time to acknowledge and express my sincere appreciation for our volunteers’ involvement and support of youth. Contributions of our volunteers make lasting impressions on youth. I am touched by the stories I hear of volunteers who selflessly go “the extra mile” and give of their time, energy and talent.

I would like to remind staff of the importance of valuing all volunteers. Let’s treat our volunteers as honored guests and remember to express appreciation regularly, not just during National Volunteer Week. We cannot achieve our mission of encouraging positive change alone. With committed volunteers, we overcome challenges and accomplish our goals. The presence of volunteers is a powerful force for positive transformation.

If you know of individuals interested in volunteering, please have them contact the DYS Volunteer Hotline at (614) 466-9318.

Harvey J. Reed, Director
Department of Youth Services