

# Volunteers come together

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With information booths running through the auditorium of the Girls Inc. building Wednesday afternoon, dozens of area residents turned out to the ALIVE Center Volunteer Fair to learn about ways to become involved in service activities.

The fair, in its second year, is still developing as an event, but ALIVE Center Director Cheryl Kirby-Stokes said it is important to get this information to the public.

"I think the community in general is not aware of how many human service organizations we have in Warren County," she said. "A lot of agencies don't even know about each other."

Kirby-Stokes said the need for volunteers in the area is one that is unlikely to diminish in coming years, and help is always appreciated.

"There is always a need for volunteers," she said. "That is never-ending."

LifeSkills employee Darlene Wells was walking around with an armful of pamphlets.

"I'm looking for various volunteer opportunities for the individuals we support," Wells said. "Many of them would just love to be a part of what's going on."

Wells thought the fair was a great way to discover the multitude of organizations around the area.

"I think it's a wonderful idea," she said. "We're going to continue to look for more opportunities."

Dennis Saylor, director of hearing loss organization Hear Today, set up a booth for the first time this year and said it was great exposure for his cause.

"What I do is try to make the public aware of the need to protect their hearing," he said. "When I do that I give out free earplugs."

Saylor said that the fact it was free to come out and set up a booth was a strong reason for his decision.

He said he needs volunteers to help him spread information about hearing loss and to "just man tables at events like this."

Ron Olson, a retired Bowling Green resident, turned out to the event to learn about the ways he can become more involved in the community. He volunteers at several adult daycare centers and tries to spread his work to other organizations as well.

With all that volunteering, however, he said he sometimes wears himself out.

"We can't do too much," he said with a laugh. "Because we get tired too easy."

Olson said the fair was informative and interesting, and in future years it could teach the community about more ways to volunteer.

— For more information about volunteering, call 782-0653.