

NEW LEADERSHIP AT VRC 2018

As we enter our 29th year of service to New Yorkers, Volunteer Referral Center is pleased to announce new leadership. Zelda Warner was elected Board President at the January 2018 Annual Meeting hosted by Nancy and Ron Carr.



During the transition, VRC News reporter Wendy Rolnick spoke with Retiring President Robert Price, and New President Zelda Warner.

[Read all about them here!](#)

Retiring President Robert Price

"The VRC prides itself on being a professional matchmaker, conducting face to face conversations with prospective volunteers," says retiring president Robert Price, who sees personal service as the heart of the Volunteer Referral Center's mission to match volunteers with not-for-profit organizations that need them. "To help volunteers and agencies make meaningful connections you must be an excellent listener." The VRC is built on a high level of collaboration and partnership with approximately 300 not-for-profit agencies throughout New York City.

During Robert's tenure as president, 2014-2017, the VRC celebrated its 25th anniversary with a highly successful and well attended gala, maintained financial stability in a challenging environment, held annual events to honor partner

New President Zelda Warner

When Zelda began volunteering at the VRC, she had a preconceived notion that all the volunteers would be retired professional women like her. Two years later she is amazed and delighted at the rich diversity of volunteers, who are from all walks of life, all ethnicities, and all ages. "Everything we do here is about people – getting to know them during an hour-long visit, learning about their interests, abilities and passions and connecting them with agencies whose needs meet their skills"

Zelda brings a rich history in management, administration and volunteer work to her position as the VRC board president. She was Director of Admissions at both the 14 Street Y Preschool and Grace Church School, where she was also Financial Aid Director and Business Manager. Her non-profit Board memberships include Parents

agencies, and added nine new members to the Board to represent a more diverse and younger population.

According to Robert, "The VRC has always had a hard-working board of directors, each member contributing in a variety of ways that draw on their interests, expertise and commitment to help the organization grow."

Robert has been actively involved in the production of numerous recruitment events sponsored by the VRC. They include Volunteering is Ageless, Volunteering in the Arts, Volunteer Opportunities for High School Students and Volunteer Opportunities in Healthcare.

Since 2014, the Volunteer Referral Center has increased the number of volunteers and referrals by 66% and 63%, respectively.

Although no longer president Robert continues to be an engaged member of the VRC team. He serves as Chair of the Development Committee, meets with prospective volunteers and assists with ongoing programs and events to promote the VRC's "Expert Placement & Personal Services".

"I am highly confident that Zelda will professionally and effectively take the reins of the presidency and continue the legacy of a great organization."

Need Ideas for Volunteering?

The VRC has been helping New Yorkers find great volunteer opportunities for 29 years. With 300 partner agencies, VRC will guide you to a perfect match. To schedule a free meeting call 212-889-4805 or sign up at <http://volunteer-referral.com/volunteer-opportunities-2/>.

Expert Placement & Personal Service

League of New York, Genesis Theatre Guild of New York City (Chair), Independent Schools Admissions Association of Greater NY (Co-chair), GO Project and Grace Church School (Chair). In the two years that Zelda has been at the VRC she has used her organizational skills to initiate Volunteer Opportunities for High School Students, a project that introduces high school students to volunteer opportunities. At the 2018 event students from 23 public and private schools had the opportunity to meet with representatives from 26 agencies to learn more about what they do and how volunteers can help. Zelda also meets with prospective volunteers of all ages and will continue this quintessential VRC service.

As an advisor Zelda understands that some VRC clients may be very clear about how they want to donate their time, while others may have mixed feelings about volunteering, and no idea what they want to do. To help people find the right match, she listens carefully, and pays attention when a person perks up and shows interest. She asks clients what they are passionate about doing and what they are passionate about not doing.

As the new president, Zelda is very grateful to Robert. "He has been an enormous help as I get to know the board committee chairs, agency staff, volunteer coordinators and the VRC volunteers. This is an organization that is running very smoothly and very well with limited resources. My primary goals are to locate new funding sources, and to ensure that the VRC will thrive, grow, and move forward. I would like to continue the outreach work begun by Robert which resulted in the addition of many new and varied agency partners and increased awareness of the VRC in the not for profit community. I look forward to working with our talented and dedicated staff and learning from their years of experience and creative ideas for the future."



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