

# Love to volunteer? Then we want you!

**By Tim Weller**

Are volunteers important?

Let's put it this way: Without them, the Chatham Historical Society and its Atwood House & Museum would be out of business.

About 80 volunteers lend their services to the organization. That's impressive, but it's not enough during the busy spring and summer seasons. So, if you can spare at least three to four hours a week, please consider joining our enthusiastic crew. The museum provides training, support, and a flexible schedule.

"Volunteering projects and positions vary throughout the year," says Volunteer Coordinator Kevin Wright. "We match your interests with what you enjoy doing most."

The museum is currently looking for tour guides, a museum store assistant, exhibit planners, a building and grounds manager, data entry workers and a publicity coordinator. That's just for starters. "Whatever your skill is, we have a job for you," Wright says. "And if you like learning new things, we will also train you." During the summer and fall seasons, we need the most volunteers so that we can offer tours and assistance to the thousands of visitors who come to explore our 11 galleries. You can become an expert in a couple of areas and lead docent tours, or simply show visitors the general layout of the museum. Some of our volunteers enjoy spending time in the Nickerson North Beach Camp and sharing stories of life at the beach in the 30s and 40s.

Volunteering gives you an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. If you enjoy teaching, you can help develop programs like the monthly Sunday lecture series or help create educational material for children. If you are a history buff, or interested in art or literature, the museum offers dozens of unique opportunities. You can still pitch in even if you can't make a regularly scheduled commitment. "If you're looking for a fun day of volunteering, just ask about any of our upcoming events," Wright says. Many of our volunteers enjoy the early

evening socials during the summer where they can meet colleagues from a variety of departments and learn about what other volunteers are doing. Over the last few years, volunteers have started working in several departments after getting to know more people and finding new projects that interest them.

Although the museum exhibits are open mostly from May through October, work continues behind the scenes all year long. Some volunteers come in daily, while others prefer weekly schedules, or helping during a specific event. Costumes and Textiles Chair, Janet Marjollet came to the museum because it filled a need for her. She started volunteering once a week and now comes in daily. “I fell in love with what I do and I would like to continue as long as I can.” Marjollet’s colleague, Barbara Hogan, has been volunteering at the Atwood House & Museum for nine years. She says, “It gets me out of the house and gives me a purpose. My work is fascinating and I get to interact with nice people.”

Volunteers who enjoy writing and working on research projects can even work from home. The administration staff is available at least six days a week to offer guidance and support to all volunteers.

Interested? Contact Kevin at (508) 945-2493, ext. 18, or email him at [kwright.atwood@gmail.com](mailto:kwright.atwood@gmail.com).

*The Atwood House & Museum, home to the Chatham Historical Society, is located at 347 Stage Harbor Road. You may reach the museum at (508) 945-2493 or through the website at [www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org). Tim Weller is secretary of the Board of Trustees.*