

Kathy A. Silks Presentation

I have developed and presented a talk that focuses on what inspires people to volunteer and gets people thinking about the roots of their own desire to volunteer. It can be tailored to the needs of the group (it's appropriate both for recognizing volunteer service or inspiring volunteer service) and the length can be adjusted as needed. I've used this presentation with a number of organizations, including WITF's annual volunteer brunch, Adams County Library System's annual volunteer recognition luncheon, and as the kickoff speaker for the Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning at Messiah Village (a retirement center in Mechanicsburg). I could give you references if that would help.

I've just started a new job at AARP Pennsylvania, coordinating their community engagement initiative called Create the Good (<http://createthegood.org/>), which encourages people age 50+ to give back to their communities, whether they have five minutes, five hours, or five days. Its focus is much like what you have described -- getting people to think about they can be helpful to the people and organizations around them. I have access to lots of great new resource material that could be worked into the presentation as well.

Professional Biography

Kathy Silks held leadership positions in corporate communications, development, and community relations and outreach at WITF, central Pennsylvania's public broadcasting organization, from 1983 through 2008. In her most recent position, as Vice President of Community Relations, she created and managed a variety of community interaction initiatives, including WITF's new Public Media Center tour program; career exploration initiatives serving students (pre-school through college), teachers, and scouts; the WITF Spotlight e-newsletter; and the Community Advisory Board and Education Advisory Board. In addition, she served for more than two decades as an on-air fundraising host for WITF-TV and radio, provided oversight for WITF's volunteer program, and planned a wide variety of events, including the groundbreaking and dedication of the WITF Public Media Center, Family Day open houses, and previews for many WITF productions.

Silks is a past president and member of the Pennsylvania Public Relations Society, which honored her with the Ernest R. McDowell Award for Excellence in Public Relations. Her work has been recognized with PBS Advertising & Promotion Awards for Promotional Campaigns and Annual Reports and several awards from the Harrisburg and Lancaster Chapters of the International Association of Business Communicators. A graduate of Albright College with a B.A. in Social Welfare, Silks was a social worker and program administrator for ten years before coming to WITF.

Silks is Immediate Past President of the Dauphin County Library System Board of Trustees, a board member of the Capital Region Partnership for Career Development, a board member of Friends of Wildwood, and a trustee of The McInroy-Sheffer People Trust. She serves as a Coming of Age Central PA steering committee member and workshop facilitator; a volunteer instructor at Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning at Messiah Village; a career advisor with Middletown Area School District's Pathways to Success initiative; co-chair of the One Book, One Community book selection committee; an Olewine

Nature Center education volunteer; and a research volunteer with the Northern Saw-whet Owl program of Ned Smith Center for Nature & Art. She is a past president and current Gateway to Equity chair of the American Association of University Women (Harrisburg Branch).

Silks is a founder and past board president of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Capital Region and a former commissioner on the Harrisburg Mayor's Commission on Literacy. Her community service awards include Outstanding Woman of the Year (American Association of University Women, Harrisburg Branch), Big Sister of the Year (Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Capital Region), and two Outstanding Young Women of America Awards.

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