



News Release

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GARDENS OF THE WORLD SEEKS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP VISITORS

(Thousand Oaks, CA) Gardens of the World, a popular Thousand Oaks visitor attraction that hosts over 20,000 guests annually, is seeking volunteer docents who can commit three hours of their time per week for at least one year to lead free, public educational tours.

Christine Hogan, Hogan Family Foundation executive vice president, said, "We are very proud of our docent program that currently has 45 docents assisting our visitors. However, we anticipate that more clubs, seniors groups, schools, and other organizations will visit this year, requiring additional volunteers to ensure that the guest experience is always of the highest caliber."

Docents receive six to eight weeks of training, including "shadowing" experienced docents and conducting "mock" tours with staff members. Follow-up refresher sessions are also held periodically. In addition to the training, docents are provided with Gardens of the World polo shirts and name tags.

Hogan, said, "Our training program allows docents to customize their presentations to fit their individual styles, while keeping the educational elements they impart to guests accurate and consistent."

Docents are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. Individuals interested in applying should contact Linda Seaman, Gardens of the World volunteer coordinator, at 805-557-1135, extension five or e-mail at linda@hoganfoundation.org.

The Gardens of the World, located across from the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza and operated by the Hogan Family Foundation, will be celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2010. The gardens themselves are representative of French, Japanese, English, and Italian cultures. Early California history is also highlighted at the Mission Courtyard and an American bandstand and grassy amphitheater is center stage for concerts conducted throughout the year.

Among other programs, the Hogan Family Foundation also operates its Rancho St. Francis program with 50 to 60 volunteers at two facilities near its headquarters in Newbury Park. The ranches are used for the rehabilitation of neglected horses and dogs and to provide specialized support for disadvantaged children and abused women.

For more information on current programs operated by the Hogan Family Foundation, go online at www.hoganfoundation.org. For other volunteer opportunities in your community, visit www.volunteermatch.com.

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