

Messenger Associates, Inc.

October/November 2008 Newsletter

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MAI News:

Messenger Associates welcomes back Consultant Joanne Casterlin, CPC to our team. [Joanne](#) serves clients in the southern tier through our Binghamton office.

Volunteering: A Tool for Job Seekers

Many benefits can come from volunteering during your career transition. This can be a stressful time full of highs and lows. Getting out of the house regularly giving service to others is an excellent way to lift your spirits. Better yet, volunteering helps you to keep your job search skills sharp and fresh. Consider some of the ways that helping others can work to your benefit as a job seeker:

- Make a positive impression on potential employers: When you actively support a cause that you believe in, your genuine enthusiasm will be obvious.
- Skill building: Non-profit organizations rely on volunteers to do jobs of all kinds. You can choose a task that will help you gain new skills, or simply keep your current skills fresh.
- Networking: While you're out there volunteering, you are meeting new people and gaining valuable exposure in your community. Keep your resume close by and share your 90-second introduction whenever you can.

The holiday season is fast approaching, and that means volunteer opportunities will be plentiful. For more ideas on how to find the right organization for you, check out the volunteer pages of the [United Way](#) and volunteermatch.org.

Consultant's Choice: Book of the Month

Go Put Your Strengths to Work: 6 Powerful steps to Achieve Outstanding Performance
(Marcus Buckingham, 2007)

A valuable resource that lays out a 6-step process including worksheets and exercises for focusing on your strengths in your work life and minimizing attention and time spent on areas of weakness for maximum success and satisfaction.

Just for fun: Job Search Humor

Need a laugh? Explore the lighter side of job searching at [The Humor Bin](#).