Jon Schultz and family.

BAVC Kicks Off Its 5th Year!

BAVC MATCHES LOCAL CITIZENS WITH THE AREA'S NONPROFIT VOLUNTEER NEEDS

BY SHEFALI BHUVA

Created at the height of the pandemic, BAVC was originally able to share virtual opportunities with the Barrington area. Now, as we enter our fifth year, BAVC has been helping nonprofits fill both virtual and in-person volunteer needs with residents and their families.
Over 100 non-profits are currently on the BAVC platform, "Get Connected."

This month we profile Barrington resident, Jon Schultz. Jon and his wife moved to Barrington from Chicago in July 2020 with their dog. Since then, they started a family. Jon just started a new role as a managing director of brand strategy at VML, an advertising agency in Chicago. Despite his busy schedule, Jon has made it a priority to keep volunteering.

What volunteering have you done in Barrington and what is your connection to BAVC?
My first volunteering opportunity was discovered through BAVC—I had just moved from Chicago after spending a lot of time volunteering and working with the civic sector there and was hungry for a way to give back. I searched online for "Barrington volunteering" and BAVC came up organically. The platform became an instant "bookmark" for me because of how comprehensive it seemed.
With a new baby at the time, on-sight volunteering seemed unrealistic for a while, so I looked for an opportunity to try and volunteer my consultative skills to a local group, as I have done previously for non-profits across the country via the platform Catchafire.org. I saw the Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watershed Partnership was looking for some marketing advice, and through them met Bob Lee, who has since pulled me further into the Barrington civic scene. Since then, I've been doing some general branding and marketing consulting with the Barrington Rotary Club and have even moved to join the group.

Why do you volunteer with your community?
I'm aware of how my community and society at large can improve. In today's political climate where government action is so front-and-center, it can be easy to forget that there are ways to create change beyond the public and private sectors—regular people are making a lot happen on the ground, without waiting for permission. We're busy and often financially constrained, but time and knowledge are two important resources that we can give to be part of the change we want to see!

Shefali Bhuva is part of the Steering Committee and Advisory Board for the BAVC. BAVC helps match volunteers ages 13 and above with over 100 local non-profits. Visit thebavc.org to learn more.