

VALLEY TIME TRADE Organizational Membership

The VALLEY TIME TRADE

Valley Time Trade is a project of Commonwealth Center for Change. It is based in Northampton, MA and is working in communities up and down the Pioneer Valley. The Valley Time Trade links social service organizations, public and private institutions, food producers, neighborhoods, local businesses and arts groups to make it easier to work together.

Timebanking or time trading is an organized exchange system. One earns a Time Dollar (\$TD) by giving an hour of his or her time to another individual or organizational member doing something they need or want. That person or organization can then spend that Time Dollar getting a service from some other Valley Time Trade member. Timebanking is a way to value the work we do for and with each other in our community and the work we do in building that community.

How might organizations be involved?

If, for instance, Coop Power or CISA becomes a member of Valley Time Trade they can get help from the community. An organization's already existing volunteers can become members of Valley Time Trade as well. When they volunteer for CISA or Coop Power they not only get the benefits of learning about and helping an organization they love, they also are able to spend their Time Dollars getting something they need that is offered by other Valley Time Trade members.

The organization can put out a request to the Time Bank and perhaps find additional volunteers to add to the ones they already have. This can grow your organization's base and engage more and more communities in your mission and work. An organization may be able to find volunteers to fulfill very specific work like graphic design, computer assistance, or help with tasks like mailings.

How might an organization earn Time Dollars?

- An organization can earn Time Dollars by offering time – use of an empty desk space, a meeting room space, or hosting a Valley Time Trade orientation. A Valley Time Trade member then might spend 2 of their Time Dollars to use that space for 2 hours.
- If an organization offers a workshop, which people pay to attend, the organization can offer on or two spaces at the workshop – a 3-hour workshop would cost a Valley Time Trade member 3 Time Dollars.
- Time at an event or a celebration – if an event runs 3 hours a Valley Time Trade member can spend 3 of their Time Dollars to come to the event.
- A Valley Time Trade member might choose to donate hours to an organization.
- A Valley Time Trade member might want to do a Time Dollar benefit for an organization – he or she might do a 2 hour performance or offer a class, people who attend pay 2 Time Dollars, the performer or teacher earns Time Dollars for preparation and performance and the half of the rest Time Dollars would go to the organization (the other half goes to the Valley Time Trade Community Fund).
- Organizations can have any of their employees or board members do a service for a community member or another organization and earn Time Dollars for the organization.

Can the organization spend more Time Dollars than it earns?

YES! Many organizations will be spending more Time Dollars on volunteers than receiving Time Dollars. This is fine. The most important thing is that the organization makes an effort to offer some options for Valley Time Trade members so that we can uphold the principle of

reciprocity. We all know the organizations offer a great deal to communities just by their existence and we don't have a way yet to express that in Time Dollars.

How does an organization become a member of Valley Time Trade?

An organization invites a representative from Valley Time Trade in to get a general orientation to the Time Bank Community Weaver software system and to talk to them about what needs the organization has and what it might offer.

The organization chooses a point person and an email address that is the one used for all the organization's communication with the Valley Time Trade system (individuals within the organization are free to have their own memberships of course.) An account is set up and activated by the Valley Time Trade coordinator. The organization pays dues on a sliding scale, (see below). These dues help pay for Valley Time Trade's rent, utilities, printing, and coordinator pay. The organization posts its requests and offers on Community Weaver – Valley Time Trade website.

How might organizations benefit from being members of Valley Time Trade? They can:

- Save money
- Strengthen connections with the community (both individuals and groups)
- Access a diverse, pre-screened database containing hundreds of potential helpers
- Meet goals more readily
- Reduce the work load for volunteer coordinators and other staff

Suggested Organizational donations based on budget size: Your membership dues support:

- Operational expenses including VTT staff salaries, rent, and phone
- The development and distribution of Valley Time Trade outreach materials
- Food for orientation and new member meetings
- Transportation/gas money for Valley Time Trade staff

Organizational dues based on budget size

Organizational Budget	Annual Dues
Above 1 million	\$125 - 250
1,000,000 – above 500,000	\$80 - 100
500,000 – above 100,000	\$50 - 75
100, 000 – above \$50,000	\$30 - 45
50,000 and under	\$10 - 25

Although membership dues are an important part of Valley Time Trade's budget, no organization will be denied membership because of inability to pay. Any organization may apply to the Core Committee to request a dues reduction. We will work with your organization to find creative ways to maintain membership after the six - month waiver period.

Joining the VALLEY TIME TRADE is easy.

To learn more, visit www.valleytimetrade.org. Every new member needs an in-person orientation and to sign a membership agreement. Please contact Jennifer Ladd, at 413-585-0373 or email jladd@commonwealthcenter.org to set up a time to meet.