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Tonya Yates, right, describes volunteer activities to employees who approach the Division Ambassador Committee's table at Central City Division 1.



DAC Seeks Employee Volunteers for Community Outreach Events

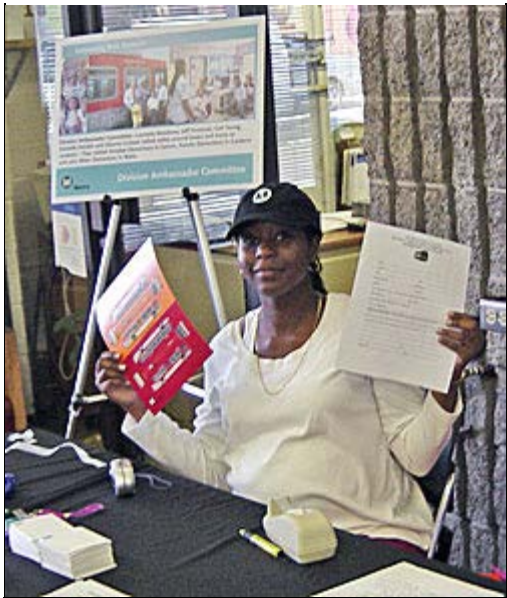
By Reina V. Slutske

(Feb. 15, 2006) The Division Ambassador Committee (DAC) is recruiting Metro employees to volunteer in community outreach events.

Volunteers go to different community events, such as health fairs and rail/bus line openings, and pass out transit safety information, including coloring books with bus and rail safety tips for kids. Sometimes, they attend career days at schools to teach kids about safety.

"A lot of volunteers have kids, so they want to inform other kids on how to act on the bus and how to be safe around the bus," said volunteer Felicia Roberts.

"The program started about 17 years ago with the Rapid Transit District," said Community Relations Manager Helen Ortiz. Then known as the Division Advisory Council, it drew dedicated and committed volunteers who won national recognition for their efforts in fighting graffiti and vandalism



on buses.

120 volunteers

In recent years, DAC has been most active in the South Bay Service Sector. Approximately 120 employees at Arthur Winston Division 5 and Carson Division 18 have become volunteers, donating their time off to help increase transit awareness in their communities.

Felicia Roberts displays fliers and booklets at the volunteer recruiting table for the Division Ambassador Committee at Central City Division 1.

Currently, DAC is trying to gain ground in other divisions, most recently sending volunteers to visit Chatsworth Division 8 and Central City Division 1, and planning to expand to Westside divisions in the future.

“We’re trying to do in each division what we’re doing in South Bay,” said volunteer Tonya Yates.

The focus of today’s DAC has turned to safety.

“We still believe that anti-tagging and vandalism are important and DAC still teaches those, but we might as well promote other messages, too,” said Rich Morallo, communications manager for the South Bay Service Sector.