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BUILDING CONNECTIONS, FOSTERING CHANGE



Community Volunteer Opportunity

Leadership in the age of transparency must be spread out widely. The Chicago Justice Project sustains a broad network of supporters who take interest in the ripple effects of their day-to-day commitments. Together, we foster change as we connect, compare and assess the crime and safety activities influencing the qualities of life in our communities.

Our mission is focused on taking data created in the daily operations of local criminal justice agencies and turning it in actionable information for communities. To assist us in our work we have created a very active and robust volunteer program that provides opportunities for individuals and groups to become actively engaged in our mission by contributing just a few hours a week. Our program allows volunteers to work from anywhere they can connect to the Internet.

PROJECT

We have created the digital architecture to capture reporting on crime and justice related issues from a variety of media sources in Chicago. While this is a technological achievement the data is not in a format that allows us to create actionable information. What's needed to transition this data from raw to actionable is for our volunteers to assess each media report to determine its applicability to our project and to code the contents.

HOW IT WORKS

- Volunteers login to CJP's website
- Review the media reports
- Judge the applicability of each report
- Code the contents of relevant reports

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES – INDIVIDUALLY OR AS A GROUP

- Make a 6 month commitment
- Attend a 30 minute training – we can come to your office
- Spend 3-5 hours a week reviewing and coding articles
- Attend a single 60 minute feedback meeting with CJP staff

SKILLS

No advanced computer skills are required for volunteers to participate in our project. *Volunteers need only basic computers skills and access to the Internet.*

RESULTS

Volunteer coding will be used to train algorithms to do the coding without human intervention. Once the automated coding is live we will be making the results of that coding available on our site, using the results to produce research reports analyzing the contents of the reporting, and assisting advocates to engage the media to push for more informative and less sensational coverage.

Please contact Laura Boyle at lboyle@chicagojustice.org if you are interested in this volunteer opportunity.