



## 2014 Volunteer Report

The Center for Volga German Studies (CVGS) targeted the development of a volunteer program in Goal #3 of its 2013 – 2018 Goals and Objectives. The Center's Volunteer Coordinator, Valerie Miller, worked with CVGS Director Brent Mai and other volunteers to document the list of projects and activities that are currently in process or will become a priority in the next couple of years. The target areas of projects includes research and writing of various aspects of Volga German history and culture, data entry, archival/library projects, conference and event planning and other on-going projects, such as translations, photo identification, cataloguing family gifts, and continuing to develop the list of potential contacts for the Center. One of the most important projects the Center is involved in deals with requests from patrons for assistance in finding their ancestral roots. These requests come via e-mail, phone or in person.

Beginning mid-year, the volunteers met with the volunteer coordinator to review the positive aspects of volunteering at the CVGS, as well as suggestions for enhancing the volunteer program. Volunteers agreed that assisting others to discover their heritage and the opportunity to share all that the Center does with others is a personal benefit to them as well.

Beginning in August 2014, CVGS volunteer program implemented the use of time sheets to track the amount of hours given by each volunteer. In addition, information about volunteering at the CVGS was developed and shared at each of the conferences sponsored by the CVGS.

By the numbers – hours given to the CVGS by its volunteers:

- \* August – 138 hrs.
- \* September – 241 hrs.
- \* October – 196.25 hrs.
- \* November – 117.5 hrs.
- \* December – 130.5 hrs.

Projects included:

- \* Preparation for and assistance at CVGS conferences
- \* Working at the CVGS booth at Deutschesfest
- \* Genealogy work with patrons of the CVGS
- \* Archival of donated collections
- \* Artwork for CVGS projects
- \* Entry of Volga German colony data into the CVGS database
- \* Research and writing of German origins