Volunteer Recruitment: Boost Morale of Volunteers

✓ Once a week (depending on employee schedules), set up a DVD in the lunchroom and show a funny movie during lunch. If time is limited, show reruns of comedy sitcoms such as “Friends,” “Seinfeld,” etc.

✓ Whenever possible, hold meetings outside the center – at the coffee shop down the street or at a local park/outdoor location.

✓ Keep your memos, notes and reminders positive. If it has to address a problem, make sure to mention what is going well in the center.

✓ Take candid pictures of volunteers doing their different tasks around the office and post them on the center’s bulletin board.

✓ Bring your smile to work. You’ll be surprised at the difference it makes when the manager consistently has an upbeat attitude.

✓ Let employees dress casually as much as possible. Being comfortable while at work will lead to more tasks accomplished and a freer vibe around the center.

✓ Be very clear on requirements, tasks, expectations, goals and duties for each person, yet do not micro-manage. Open doors are a must, and managers must appear approachable.

✓ Random free foods (donuts or bagels in the morning), specialty drinks (soda, juice, etc.), and other unexpected perks are great morale boosters.

✓ Have new employees give you the dates of their birthdays and any other important events coming up (graduations, anniversaries, etc.). On those dates, have all employees sign a card or bring in a special treat.

✓ Let them know their opinions matter. Have volunteers participate in surveys about what they think could be improved around the center, what they think survivors need and how they think they could help make it happen.