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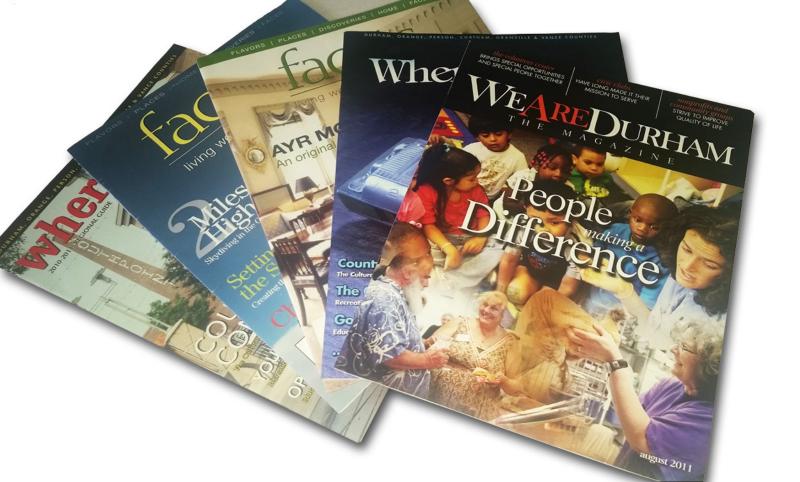
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DURILAM — There's consething special about Durbons something about this old tobacco from that binds its people together in pursuit of a common nood. Darhamies spend more of their time volunteering than do residents of any other city in North Carolina

an average of 49.4 hours each year according to the Corporation for National and Community Services Folks went to give back," sold Kim Shine, executive director of the Volunteer Center of Darham. They feel like they have a lot to be thankful for and that feeling of ground back to the community is an important part of

It was that demand by eager Ball City volunteers and the great need of area dopposits that in 1972 inspired the incorporation of the Volunteer Services Bureau of Durham, the precursor of the Volunteer Center. Non; nearly 30 years later, the center helps connect

between 4,000 and 5,000 volunteers with more than 600 agencies each year. Most of those nonprofits are in Dutham, but agencies from as far as Mecklenberg and Cumberland counties enlist the center's help in identifying volunteers. the Walinteer Center, a United Way agency, works

with nonprofits to post opportunities on its website. http://www.thevolanteerconter.org. on which potential approximation agencies and activities that match their interests and skills. The center offers a variety of volunteer opportunities, from one-time engagements to those that require long-term commitments. There are also opportunities for a tange of demographics, from children, to college students, to retired people In addition to its website, the center posts opportunities

The Tomorrow's Community Leaders ceremony

ecopates the contentations of youthe war more participated in the center's Mayor's Award program, in patiespaced in the course's anome award programs in which students spend 100 or more hours of their summer in which students contribute 50 or more hours of The youths involved in Volunteer Center programs

last year contributed a total of more than 35,000 service hours. Show said. That figure is poised to rise this year. with nearly 600 students participating in the Mayor's Award program – almost 200 more than in 2010 it's important to instill a love of service in youths early

in their lives - both for the community's benefit and for

For young people, volunteering is a way to nurture their leadership skills, she continued, or call it a legacy

While the Volunteer Center is best known for making Notine the transfer center is used known and thousand volunteer-nonprofit connections, it also offers human service programs and works to provide nonprofits with the resources they need to be successful. Shaw said.

The center teams up with the county's Department of Social Services on such Durham traditions as Share Your Christmas, a program in which community members help make disadvantaged families' holiday wish lists



