

## What is Time Banking?

Contrary to barter, which trades goods or services based on monetary value, Time banking involves a system of reciprocal service exchange that uses units of time as currency. Time bank credits earn no interest and have no equivalent monetary value, and exchange of hours through a time bank are tax-exempt. Time Bank services are considered charitable acts informally traded among members of a group. Everyone's skills, whether they are a lawyer, a house painter or can pick weeds, are worth one "time dollar" per hour. It is up to the members to join, earn and exchange credits, all on their own time. The philosophy of modern time banking organizations is based on 5 principles: respect for all, everyone in the community is an asset, work may be beyond a monetary price, reciprocity in helping local community members, using the benefits of social networks.

According to TimeBanks USA, work has to be redefined to value whatever it takes to raise healthy children, build strong families, revitalize neighborhoods, make democracy work, advance social justice, and make the planet sustainable. The mission of TimeBanks is to nurture and expand a movement that promotes equality and builds caring community economies through inclusive exchange of time and talent. Currently there are 380 Time Banks registered internationally with TimeBanks USA.

MISSION STATEMENT: Time Bank of Bucks County aims to bank on each other's expertise and strengths by providing gifts of time and talent in a pay it forward model. A time currency based on equality as a means of sharing our wealth will seed the empowerment of Bucks County artisans, land stewards, growers, technicians, educators, professionals and service providers to maximize the prosperity of our local community and the bounty of the land in which we live. We envision that the interdependence of the community members will enhance food, home and land security in Bucks County.



<http://buckscounty.timebanks.org/>

Julie M. Fagan, Ph.D., (610) 847-2411  
Time Bank of Bucks County Coordinator  
[timebankofbuckscounty@gmail.com](mailto:timebankofbuckscounty@gmail.com)  
Time Bank of Bucks County is a  
**TimeBanks Network Affiliate**  
[www.TimeBanks.org](http://www.TimeBanks.org)



*Introducing the*

## Time Bank of Bucks County

**Give & receive services without \$  
It is your time that gets "banked"  
No Cost to Join!**



## How Does a Time Bank Work?

Time Banking is an exchange economy, where services are provided based on TIME and are “banked” in secure network software. This is unlike bartering where 2 parties agree to provide items or services worth x dollars.

First, you decide what you would like to offer – maybe you are a lawyer and could offer an hour consult or maybe you could pull someone’s weeds or walk their dog for x hours. Hours that you worked would then get “banked”. You can now use your hours to have someone do work for you. Need a room painted, help from a licensed electrician or plumber? Or maybe you’d like to start piano lessons or have your child tutored for that upcoming chemistry test. You would then look for these services on the bank and contact them directly. You report your hours offered and received. All for free! If you desire a service that is not listed, seek out a provider and request that they join our Time Bank. The more the merrier! How wonderful is this!

A member needs to both earn and spend time –although “debt” and “credit” are allowed, both are capped at 25 hours. This ensures flow of community sharing.

You may buy or sell things with Hour Credits and “charge” for the hours it takes to produce something in HCs, and charge the cost of the materials in regular dollars. However, to maintain the TimeBank’s tax exempt status, no equivalency between a HC and regular dollar can be made.

Anyone can join – businesses, non-profits, homemakers, skilled tradesman, professionals, artisans. Minors may be members. Even though no one is being "employed", services performed by minors should comply to PA's Child Labor Laws <http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=553527&mode=2>

We do not do background checks on any of our members. The decision to provide and receive care is the responsibility of the member based on the relationship of trust, mutual support and respect. It is the individual responsibility of each member to meet and/or screen members offering child or elder care. Likewise if you are offering this service you may be asked to provide your own background check.

## Log On To the “Time Bank of Bucks County” & Sign Up!

### Step by step procedure:

To join, log onto URL:

<http://buckscounty.timebanks.org/>

Click “create a new account”

1. You will be taken to the account creation
  - Create a username that you will remember
  - Enter your email address
  - Create your password
  - Enter your First and Last Name
  - Select how you heard about us

- Select the days/times of the week that you might be generally available (you can change this).
  - Fill in your address (at least put your town and zip if uncomfortable with providing full street address).
  - Provide a phone number (that will be helpful to those providing or giving you service)
  - Read and agree with terms and conditions
  - Finally enter a code that will be given on the site for verification
2. After you have created your account, our coordinator will accept your membership and you’ll receive an email. Check you inbox and your spam folder. Avoid future emails going into your spam folder by adding the Time Bank in your contacts.
  3. Now you are ready to participate and share your skills with the community. Click on Give & Receive and go to post a service ad. Post offers – what you could provide to a fellow community member and what services you’d like to receive.
  4. If you need a painter (or a plumber, lawyer, electrician) and don’t see a service provider for that expertise, then contact someone you know that provides such services and ask them to join the “Time Bank of Bucks County”. You do not need to reside in Bucks County to be a member.
  5. Spread the word!