

*Celebrating 31 Years of
Expert Placement and
Personal Service*

Caring & Connecting During COVID-19 **How You Can Help**

Dear Friend,

As we approach May 15 and the end of the full New York State on Pause period, it is clear that although much progress has been made in combating COVID-19, New York City will not be among the first to reopen.

The resiliency of New Yorkers is legendary, and we salute all who are working on the front lines or volunteering to help reduce the impact of the virus. We also mourn the loss of those we've lost to the pandemic.

All of us at the Volunteer Referral Center eagerly await the day when we can meet with you in person. We look forward to returning to what we do best: counseling and connecting those who want to help with those who urgently need their help and sustaining our vital network of individuals, families, agencies and communities throughout New York City.

In the meantime, our nonprofit community of 300 nonprofit organizations continues to innovate new ways to care for and connect with those in need. Whether you are tech-savvy or old-school, you can help others and yourself to stay connected and make a difference.

Several opportunities are featured in this newsletter. Please see the list below.

We will continue to provide this vital link during this crisis, gathering information to share with you in support of our communities.

You can also help us sustain our services by making a donation to the Volunteer Referral Center, now celebrating 31 years of connecting volunteers with NYC nonprofit organizations.

Thank you.

Patricia Girardi
Executive Director
Volunteer Referral Center
volunteer-referral.org



You Can Make a Difference

Please Consider Making a Donation

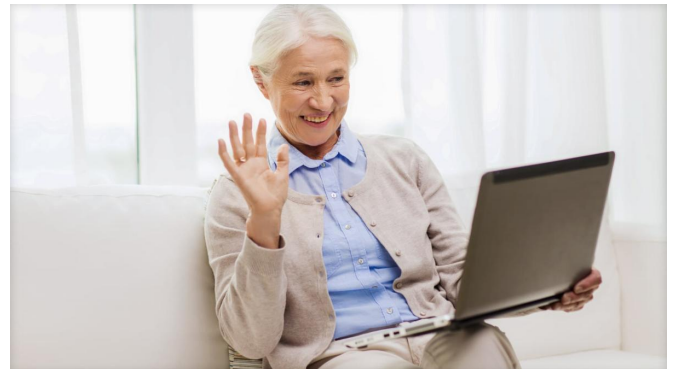
DONATE

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is a 126-year-old settlement house that provides an extensive array of effective and integrated human services—social, educational, legal, health, housing, mental health, nutritional and fitness—which significantly improves the lives of thousands of people in need each year, ages 3 to 103, on the East Side of Manhattan.

Friendly Visiting Virtually

Due to current conditions, Friendly Visiting is operating virtually over the phone or through video chat. With so many more older adults isolated at home right now, we have an even greater demand for volunteers!



Staff from our Friendly Visiting program continue to match and coordinate more than 70 volunteers who are now providing weekly phone calls and face time conversations with Geriatric Care Management clients. Many amazing volunteers who contacted the organization in recent weeks are being matched with clients to provide this wonderful support for our most isolated clients. Please [click here](#) if you are interested in becoming a Friendly Visiting volunteer.

Learning Ally

Help Create Audiobooks for Student Success!

Calling all Book lovers! At Learning Ally, volunteers create audiobooks for students with learning differences; member students may be blind or have a vision impairment, or have a learning difference like dyslexia. If you like listening to audiobooks, enjoy learning new things, or have a great voice, this is the volunteer opportunity for you!

They are looking for friendly voices that can read aloud with fluency, which is critical to comprehension for students with learning differences. For some subjects and textbooks, especially at the high school and college level, our narrators may need subject area expertise.



Right now they are exclusively looking for African American voices who are interested in providing support with the recording. Ideally they are looking for volunteers with some drama, acting experience. They also provide training for those with no experience. Youthful voices are ideal! See more information in this [**4-min video.**](#)

For More information and to sign up: [Click here](#)

AARP

Digital Fraud Fighter

Digital Fraud Fighters are volunteers that will utilize fraud content shared by the AARP National Fraud Team to broadcast information across a multitude of digital platforms. Digital Fraud Fighters will help to raise awareness of the latest scams targeting people of all ages with an emphasis on the 50+.

While the minimum expected time requirement is only 1-2 hours a week, you are invited to share as much content as you choose while you are online. Reliable phone, internet access, and an email address are required.



Contact: Jeff Abramo at FWN@aarp.org

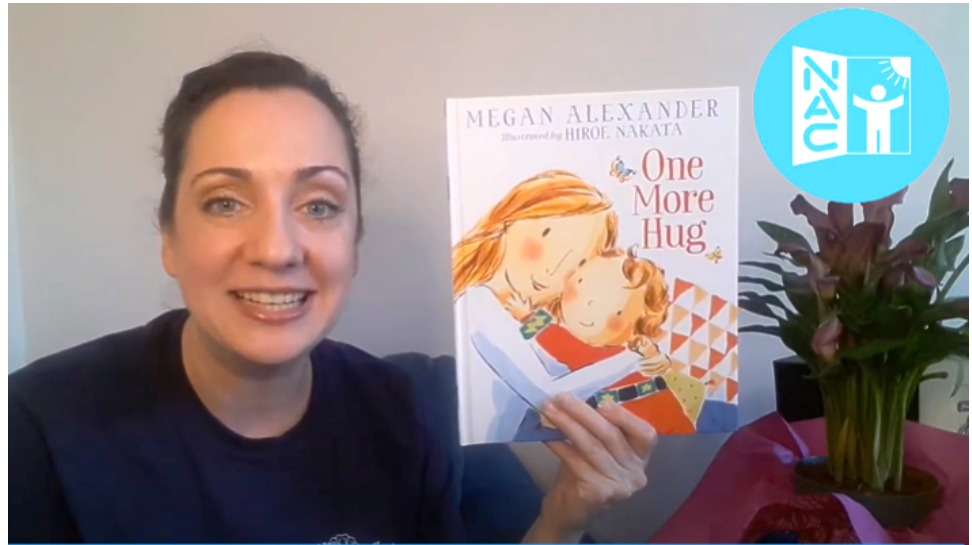
New Alternatives for Children

Create a Virtual Storytime Library for Vulnerable Children!

New Alternatives for Children (NAC) serves families that have at least one child with special needs, often in combination with mental health, behavioral and/or developmental diagnoses as well.

"Story (Any) Time"

In response to the current pandemic, NAC will be bringing "Story (Any) Time" to our children. We are building a library with uploaded videos of staff and volunteers reading stories out loud. The children can log on and listen to your story – at any time!



To become a volunteer, just follow these simple steps:

- Record yourself (audio or visual) reading your favorite children's book. If you don't own such a book – check out this link <https://www.nypl.org/books-music-movies/ebookcentral/simplye> to get an ebook. Many NAC clients are bilingual learners, so we welcome readings in Spanish too.
- Please provide a very short explanation about why you like your chosen book. When you have finished your recording, please email volunteers@nackidscan.org. After we receive your email, we will send instructions on "How To Upload" your story.

NAC children and youth are aged 0-21, and you are never too old to enjoy a great tale. By sharing your favorite story with NAC children, you are not only opening their eyes to the magic, joy, and beauty in a compelling book – but also reminding them there are many people who care!



Goddard Riverside

Delivering Letters to Local Seniors

Goddard Riverside, the social service nonprofit that works with seniors and others in the neighborhood, has been delivering letters to people who live in its senior home or receive delivered meals from the agency.

"Like the rest of us, many older adults are struggling with a sense of isolation. But social distancing is especially important for them, so we really appreciate everyone pitching in to help them feel valued and connected to the community while they stay safe," said Executive Director Roderick Jones.

The letters go to people living at Phelps House, its older adult residence at 593 Columbus Avenue at 89th Street, and to people who receive meals delivered to their home, Goddard tells us. Both children and adults have sent letters. The kids also send drawings.

To participate, send your letter to:

Goddard Riverside
Attn: Older Adults Project
593 Columbus Avenue
New York, NY 10024



Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring

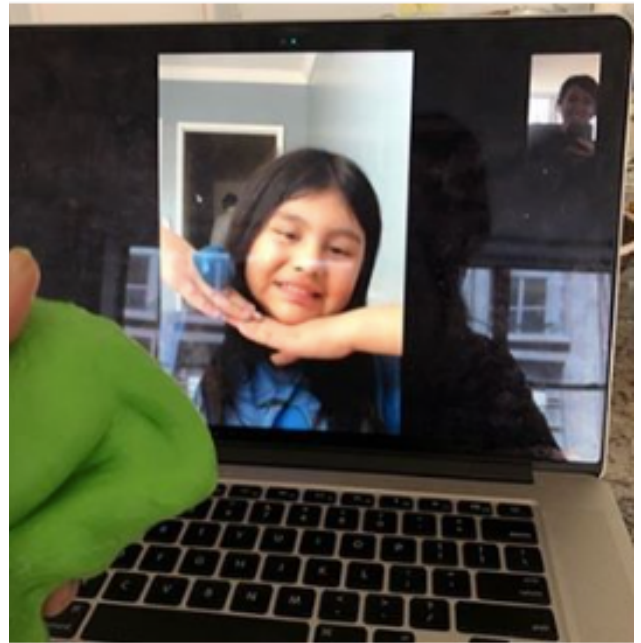
Change a Life. Change Your Life. Become a Mentor!

In Bigs & Littles NYC's keystone mentoring program, youth ages 7-19, are carefully matched with a Big Sister or Big Brother who serves as an adviser, role model, and adult friend.

Bigs & Littles, during this challenging time, is moving forward with the first phase of the application process which is the phone screening, and will hold off on scheduling any in person interviews for the safety and health of all of our volunteers and families .

Bigs are ...

- 21 years old or older;
- interested in mentoring a Little of the same gender, age 7-17, who lives in the five boroughs;
- willing and able to finance match outings (low or no-cost outings are highly encouraged);
- willing to pick up / drop off Little for outings if the Little doesn't travel independently.
- Bigs are from all walks of life! Spanish speakers are highly encouraged to apply.



If Interested visit their website at: [BigsLittlesNYC/volunteers](https://BigsLittlesNYC.com/volunteers), or call 212-475-3291 x211 or visit them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Mentoring not a good fit right now? Get in touch to learn how you can support us with volunteer recruitment, donor cultivation, and other engagement opportunities at Bigs & Littles NYC.

CityMeals on Wheels

Since 1981, Citymeals has provided homebound senior New Yorkers with the nourishment they need. Citymeals delivers weekend, holiday and emergency meals to frail aged New Yorkers, ensuring they never go a day without a nutritious meal and a warm visit.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Volunteers are needed to deliver meals to our homebound seniors. Deliveries are done on foot within walking distance of the meal centers and should take 3 hours.
- Meal Packing

Please note,

- Some meal deliveries will require the use of your own vehicle
- Arrival times cannot be adjusted.
- Upon arrival, please ask for the contact.
- All volunteers need to bring their own mask, as they are a limited quantity. At the moment, we do not have any afternoons, evenings or weekend deliveries.

Please click [here](#) for dates, time and locations.

If interested, please contact awaildman@citymeals.org, sheila@citymeals.org or eloise@citymeals.org.

You MUST reply with the following information:

- Date(s)
- Task(s)
- Number of volunteer(s)
- Are you delivering with your own vehicle?



The Actor's Theatre Workshop

The Actors Theatre Workshop (ATW) is an award-winning non-profit theatre, community center and educational institution that teaches innovative educational techniques and theatre principles to adults and children from all walks of life; produces classical and contemporary plays and documentary films that maintain the highest artistic standards; and develops new dramatic works that examine the social issues of the day.

Join ATW As a Virtual Volunteer

Over the last three weeks, ATW students and staff have been staying connected and continuing ATW's creative journey in the virtual space of video meetings, classes, training sessions, and remote volunteer projects.



Volunteers provide support for ATW management, development, and production activities. The program begins with a one to two week training in theatre operations and is enriched by reading essays written by ATW's Artistic Director and Founder Thurman E. Scott, as well as viewing video tape documentaries of past programs and productions.

If you're looking for an opportunity to make a change, join ATW as a volunteer! Please fill out a [**volunteer application**](#). Upcoming info sessions will be held by video chat.

New York Common Pantry

During this time, New York Common Pantry continues to stay open 7 days per week, giving out hot meals and pantry. The pantry at 8 East 109th Street runs from Wednesday-Saturdays, and our pantry at 1290 Hoe Avenue, Bronx, Thursday and Friday. Take-away hot meals are being served Mon-Fri at 2:30PM and brown bag lunches on Saturday and Sunday at 4PM. New guests are signing up for our services every day.

New services like home delivery and bulk drop offs are constantly being added, and we need a few great volunteers at both of our locations during the week. Gloves and masks are being provided, and their facilities are regularly cleaned. To minimize any risk, staff and volunteers are on split shifts.



We are looking for individual volunteers who can come in during the week from 9-4ish (lunch is supplied). Everyone should follow CDC guidelines and be able to answer a self evaluation on COVID symptoms that will be provided.

To sign up to volunteer please contact Debby at [**dlowenstein@nycommonpantry.org**](mailto:dlowenstein@nycommonpantry.org). Do not be discouraged if there isn't an immediate opening once you sign up; the Pantry's needs are constantly changing and you will be put on a waiting list.

VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired is a nonprofit rehabilitation and social service organization whose purpose is to develop and implement programs to assist people of all ages who are blind or visually impaired to lead independent and active lives. It also educates the public about the capabilities and needs of people who are blind or visually impaired, so that they may be integrated into all aspects of community life.

VISIONS Virtual Volunteer (VVV)

The VVV Team is seeking virtual volunteers:

- to provide mock job interviews for blind job seekers,
- hiring managers to review and critique resumes for blind job seekers,
- supervisors willing to take a virtual blind college student intern for the summer, and
- virtual volunteers to speak about the work they do, what is required to do the job they do, what they like and don't like about their work, to give blind job seekers insights into the world of work.



For more information please email Michael Cush mcush@visionsvcb.org and Heather Hanlon hhanlon@visionsvcb.org or leave a message at 212-625-1616 for the VISIONS Workforce Department.

VISIONS Borough Advisory Board

The VISIONS Borough Advisory Boards are composed of community volunteers who work to increase awareness for the organization and assist with local fundraising to support our services. The boards meet about 6 times a year, either in person or by phone. To learn more about our Borough Advisory Boards, please contact rmelendez@visionsvcb.org or call (212) 625-1212 ext. 135.

For more information about VISIONS, please visit www.visionsvcb.org.

March of Dimes

For 80 years, March of Dimes has helped millions of babies survive and thrive. Now we're building on that legacy to level the playing field for all moms and babies, no matter their age, socio-economic background or demographics

Send a Note of Hope

A note to a mom or dad or to a family with a baby currently in the NICU sharing your advice, experience and words of encouragement; or a note to healthcare providers, nurses, and staff who are on the frontlines making sure that moms and babies are receiving the best possible care. Download the template and write your own. [Submit Digitally](#) or [Download The Template](#)



Do It At Home Cloth Face Coverings - Wearing a mask is an additive protective measure and should not impact the need to continue social distancing and for individuals to follow hand washing guidance. This how-to guide includes tutorials for making cloth mask coverings as a protective measure for COVID-19. Click here: <https://www.marchofdimes.org/materials/DIY-cloth-mask-coverings-how-to-guide.pdf>

Become a Mentor or Mentee

Join the March of Dimes community Facebook group and become a mentor or mentee. Mentors and mentees will be able to share support, offer advice, connect with families who had similar experiences, and get helpful resources and information from March of Dimes. Click here to join: [Join today](#)

Click Here For More Information on all the ways you can help: <https://www.marchofdimes.org/volunteers/volunteer-opportunities.aspx>

Historic House Trust of New York City

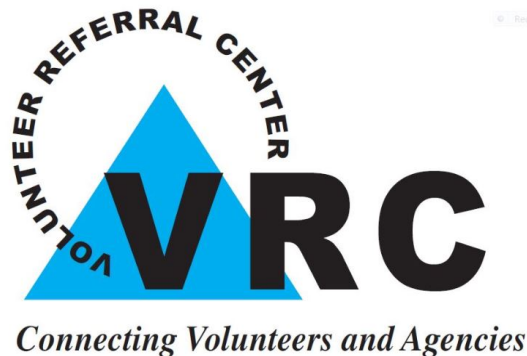
On June 19, 1989, Mayor Edward I. Koch, Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern, and Cultural Affairs Commissioner Mary Schmidt Campbell announced the creation of the Historic House Trust of New York City, a not-for-profit organization that would assist the City in operating, maintaining and restoring 15 historic house museums on City parkland. The Van Cortland House Museum is one these historic houses located inside Van Cortlandt Park at Broadway at West 246th Street, Bronx.



From Your Couch

Want to put your idle hours to good use? Join the cadre of volunteers assisting the **Van Cortland House Museum** in transcribing the elegant script of Captain Leonard Bleekers Company Account Book, with entries from as early as 1779

Sign up at: information@vchm.org



Volunteer Referral Center | 161 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016 | 212-889-4805 | www.volunteer-referral.org | info@volunteer-referral.com

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