
Caring & Connecting During COVID-19

How You Can Help



Dear Friends,

In the most troubled times we can show our concern and support for one another. Volunteering gives us an opportunity to act on that concern: to care for and help each other, especially as we face ever more challenges.

The Volunteer Referral Center is here to provide you with information and connections to help you use your skills and act upon your beliefs for the greater good.

As we strive to create a future of greater compassion, care, justice and equality for all, a reopened New York will need volunteers more than ever.

Volunteer opportunities at the following organizations are included in this newsletter:

- Reading Partners
- Mary Manning Walsh Senior Care
- Union Settlement
- Association to Benefit Children
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC
- Greenwich House
- Trinity's Services & Food for the Homeless
- New York Blood Center

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 nonprofit organizations.

Thank you.

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

Deborah McCandless
President
Volunteer Referral Center
volunteer-referral.org



You Can Make a Difference

Please Consider Making a Donation

[DONATE](#)

Reading Partners

Become a reading partner and make a lifelong impact on a child. Our volunteer tutors range from high school students to stay-at-home parents to retirees. They must be at least 14 years old and able to commit to at least an hour a week to work with their student.

No prior teaching experience is required. We do require that our volunteers

- attend an hour-long tutor orientation session to learn how to be an effective tutor
- pass a background check



Once you complete the sign up process and meet the volunteer requirements, you'll be paired with a student to provide weekly literacy tutoring sessions in a local school. We are currently accepting volunteers for the fall 2020 school year.

Please click the following link for more information and to sign up:
<https://readingpartners.org/volunteer-new-york-city/>

Mary Manning Walsh Senior Care NY Rehabilitation (ArchCare the Continuing Care Community of the Archdiocese of NY)

During this time, Archcare welcomes cards for their community. A positive message to their most vulnerable patients and to healthcare workers will go a long way. Please mail them to ArchCare, 205 Lexington Ave, 3rd Fl, New York, NY 10016.



Union Settlement

Through vital programs, Union Settlement continues to equip their East Harlem neighbors to better their lives and achieve their dreams.

COVID-19 Update: Volunteer Opportunity

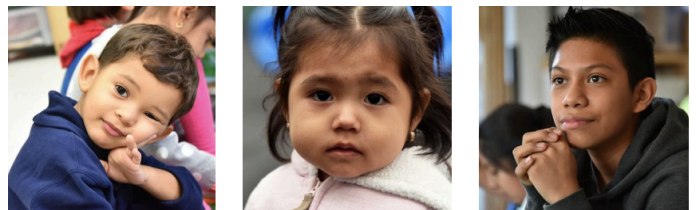
- Pack cold and hot food for Meals on Wheels deliveries (8:30am - 12pm)
- Deliver meals to seniors (10am - 1pm)
- Make telephone reassurance calls

Interested in lending a hand to our East Harlem community? Please reach out to Andrew, their Volunteer Coordinator at ahall@unionsettlement.org.



Association to Benefit Children

Association to Benefit Children's (ABC's) COVID-19 Disaster Response efforts are focused on creating a continuity of care, extending essential services to children while ensuring the safety of all their staff and families.



ABC needs volunteer support to help their children remotely. Opportunities include:

- Address envelopes and/or labels so programs can send children notes of encouragement, pictures of their friends and teachers and letters
- Create and mail birthday cards to our children as their birthdays approach
- Create name placards for children to use in their virtual classroom sessions. (Materials can be mailed to volunteers.)
- Purchase and send supplies to support remote learning (puzzles, wipe off boards, wipe off markers, theme books, magnetic letters, puppets, arts and crafts materials)
- Use particular musical or dramatic talents which will be shared in a zoom session or through the recording of the reading of a story or the recording of the talent. Our children truly love these read-along sessions, and the parents appreciate them a lot since it frees up their time.
- Help compile resources that might be helpful for our children. For example, we've been recommending our youths getting free tutoring from NYPL during the COVID crisis to keep on track at school!
- Help organize virtual events that raise funds and awareness. We have been putting together virtual classes (yoga, makeup) and shows (comedy, concert). If anyone knows of someone who can provide content/ can teach a class themselves, that would be super!
- Help design infographics for social media use. We have been wanting to put important statistics about the face of American poverty on our social media, and we would love the help from anyone that has graphic design skills.

If interested in helping out with any of their opportunities, please contact: Judy Holtzman at jholtzman@abc.org. Please visit their Website: www.a-b-c.org for additional information.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC

Become a Big Mentor NYC's next generation of leaders

Founded in 1904, Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC is the nation's first and the city's largest youth mentoring organization. Their vision is that all youth achieve their full potential. Their mission is to build and support mentoring relationships to ignite the biggest possible futures for youth. Their work is guided by their values of believing in the power of mentoring, putting the kids first, and being excellen



By matching a caring adult mentor, a Big, with a New York City youth, a Little, they are inspiring the next generation of leaders.

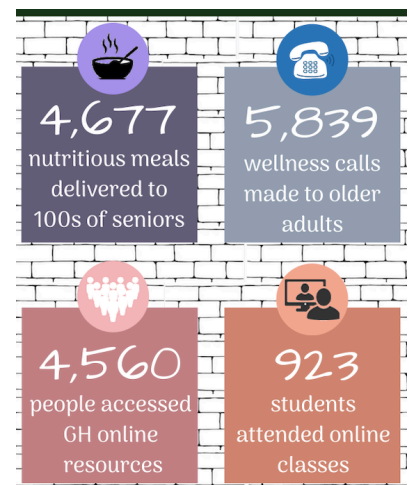
Currently, BBBS of NYC is closely monitoring COVID-19 and evaluating the situation to ensure the safety and well-being of our Bigs, Littles, staff, and all community members. With our community's safety and health as our priority, we will be operating remotely.

How to Apply to be a Big: Email afrager@bigsny.org or click here to sign up <http://www.bigsny.org>

Greenwich House

Greenwich House is helping launch the Neighborhood Network Project which matches volunteers with seniors by phone during the COVID-19 crisis. These regular calls help to fight social isolation, connect older New Yorkers with the resources they need, and build relationships that will bring joy and comfort to seniors and volunteers alike. Greenwich House is focusing its outreach on the greater Greenwich Village and West Village communities.

To learn about the project and to sign up click here: <https://theneighbornetwork.org>



Trinity's Services and Food for the Homeless

Trinity's Services And Food for the Homeless (or SAFH, pronounced "safe") mission is four-fold:

- To provide a reliable source of food for those who are hungry
- To support good nutrition through our meals and with education
- To offer connections to other services
- To strengthen community through shared service



Through their daily soup kitchen and food pantry, they serve around 200,000 meals annually. Their referral center connects families and individuals to services throughout the five boroughs.

People of every background, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, religion, and of any age may enjoy the meal without fear of being turned away.

They have just opened up additional volunteering for the month of June. There are two shifts a week, outside of regular service hours, so as to minimize interaction with staff and guests.

Tuesday 3pm-5pm
Thursday 3pm-5pm

You can sign up by following this link safhnyc.org/serve.
There are unfortunately no weekend or evening volunteer opportunities.

For more information and additional shifts click the link below:
<https://web.godeed.today/organization/59f874b7dd6a57404e5ea7c8>

You may also [click here](#) for more information and additional shifts.

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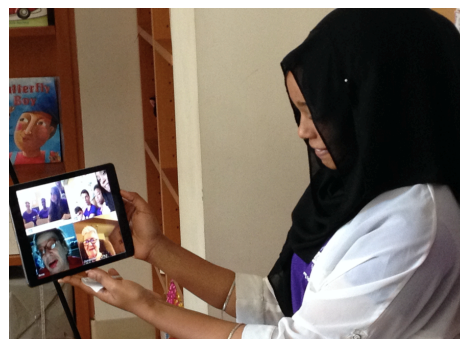
Are you 65+? DOROT is recruiting new adult volunteers for their Virtual Intergenerational Summer Programs with high school teens

If you enjoy spending time with young people, volunteer to share wisdom and laughs with DOROT teens this summer. Join us from your home for weekly intergenerational workshops in storytelling, discussion groups, legacy projects, StoryCorps Connect, or art for a four-week session. Workshops begin on June 22 or July 20.

Following an online orientation, sign up for your preferred activity and session. Familiarity with Zoom and access to a computer, phone or tablet with a working camera is required. Slots are limited and will be filled on a first-come first-serve basis.

Please register for an upcoming information session or contact us with questions at: sharemywisdom@dorotus.org.

Orientatons run June 2nd-June 5th. Register soon! <http://dorotusa.eventbrite.com/>

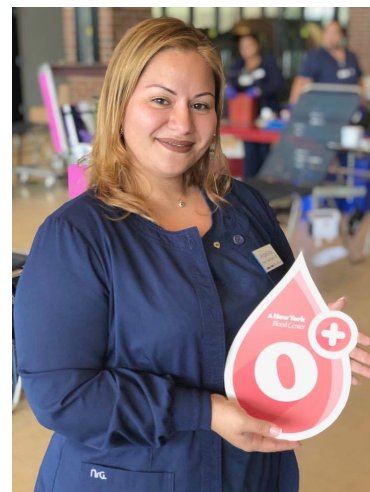


New York Blood Center

The New York Blood Center has issued an Urgent Call For Healthy Donors As Blood Supply Drops To Dangerously Low Levels. See article below: <https://www.nybc.org/news/articles/new-york-blood-center-issues-urgent-call-healthy-donors-blood-supply-drops-dangerously-low-levels/>

Donating blood is safe and it only takes one hour. The blood collection sites are disinfected frequently, and extra precautions are being taken to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19 as per CDC recommendations. NYBC staff are practicing health self-assessments prior to presenting at work and are wearing face masks. Donors are also asked to bring a face mask or face covering when presenting to donate. We are also taking all staff and donors temperatures before they enter the workspace or the donation process. NYBC only collects blood from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation – and who meet other [eligibility requirements](#). As always, people are not eligible to donate if they're experiencing a cold, sore throat, respiratory infection or flu-like symptoms.

To find a location to donate blood and make a reservation, please follow this link: https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/zip?utm_source=nybc&utm_medium=topbanner&utm_campaign=website_links.





Connecting Volunteers and Agencies

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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