



*Connecting Volunteers and Agencies*

*Celebrating 31 Years of  
Expert Placement and  
Personal Service*

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

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Dear Friend,

Here are more ways to care, connect and make a difference in NYC.

- Dorot
- Self Help Virtual Senior Center
- Hunger Free America
- Samaritans of New York
- Reclaim Our Vote Campaign
- Vote NYC

For previous newsletters listing many additional volunteer opportunities, go to <https://volunteer-referral.com/media-press-room/>

VRC reopens September 8 and we look forward to meeting with you, ready to do what we do best, connecting volunteers with nonprofit agencies who need them. You can meet with us, by appointment, in our CDC compliant office or by phone. Please call us at 212 889-4805 or email [info@volunteer-referral.org](mailto:info@volunteer-referral.org) to request an appointment.

There is also a special event ***Build Your Resume for Success by Volunteering!*** September 21, 6:30-7:30. This event is for those who are looking to build, sharpen or update their resume and interviewing skills required to secure new opportunities in 2020. Please [register here](#) for this free zoom event.

Please consider making a donation to ensure that VRC continues to perform its vital role as a volunteer pipeline, counseling and connecting individuals and groups who want to serve, with our more than 300 partner agencies.

Best wishes,

Patricia Girardi  
Executive Director  
Volunteer Referral Center  
[volunteer-referral.org](http://volunteer-referral.org)

Deborah McCandless  
President  
Volunteer Referral Center  
[volunteer-referral.org](http://volunteer-referral.org)



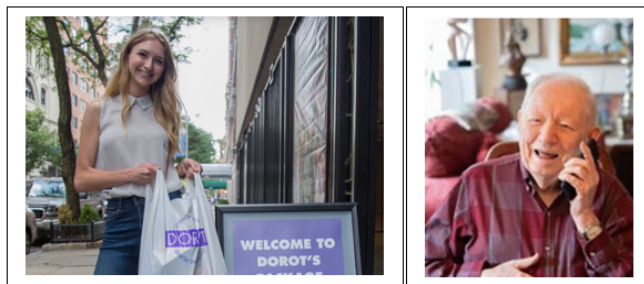
**You Can Make a Difference**

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# Dorot

Now more than ever, our older neighbors are looking forward to receiving packages, calls and cards to let them know we care. Make an impact on the lives of isolated seniors in our community this September – from home or in person!

## **Volunteer with DOROT's Modified Rosh Hashanah Package Delivery & 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance.**



### **Dates: Thursday, Sept. 10, Friday, Sept. 11 and Sunday, Sept. 13.**

Drop off a package and share warmth & companionship over the phone with an older neighbor this Rosh Hashanah. Here's how it works:

- Sign up for the date and time that works best for you!
- Pick up a package of treats outside the DOROT office & drop it off at the door of an older neighbor on the UWS of Manhattan.
- Call the senior by phone to share stories, memories, and good wishes.

Sign up here: <https://www.dorotusa.org/volunteer/visit-and-connect/rosh-hashanah-package-delivery-911-national-day-service-and-remembrance>

## **Create Handmade Cards in honor of 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance. Express gratitude to our nation's veterans by creating handmade cards that offer reflection, thanks and heartfelt wishes.**

- Check out these [Cardmaking Tips](#)!
- Create handmade cards with positive, uplifting messages.
- Mail cards & this [Cardmaking Form](#) to DOROT by **September 18<sup>th</sup>**.

Click here for more details: <https://www.dorotusa.org/volunteer/visit-and-connect/9-11-national-day-service-and-remembrance>



# ***Self Help Virtual Senior Center***

***(a community-based program of Self Help Community Services)***

## **What is the VSC?**

The Virtual Senior Center is open 24/7! Classes take place daily, year-round online at [vsc.selfhelp.net](http://vsc.selfhelp.net). Participants use their personal computer to log into the VSC whenever they choose, review the calendar of classes, and join whatever interests them.

## **Virtual Classes: Subject of your Choice!**

Lead a virtual interactive class for homebound seniors 60+ on a topic of your interest from your device. All you need is a topic, one hour and computer with a webcam (we'll supply the login). See, hear and speak to Older Adults while leading a class on a topic of your interest(i.e.history, news, exercise, art/music appreciation, wellness, brain games, travel, social sciences, etc.!).

Wonderful way to share your interests conveniently. What's your interest: History, music, art, healthy, sciences, a hobby or other? The classes are created to be interactive. Flexible day, evening or weekend scheduling.

Classes are available in English, Mandarin Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and Korean. In each class all participants can see, hear and speak to each other and the facilitator in real time.

Each class attracts an average of 20 attendees, although our most popular classes draw up to 45 participants. Satisfaction with VSC programs is high; the average class rating is 4.57 out of 5.

**Contact:** [cchessen@selfhelp.net](mailto:cchessen@selfhelp.net), Carmella Chessen, (718)559-4378

**For More information:** [Click here](#)



## ***Hunger Free America***

HUNGER FREE AMERICA™ (formerly known as the New York City Coalition Against Hunger) is a nonpartisan, national nonprofit group working to enact the policies and programs needed to end domestic hunger and ensure that all Americans have sufficient access to nutritious food.

Join us as an anti-hunger volunteer group for this September's Hunger Action Month. Volunteers will have an array of virtual and in-person opportunities to take action against domestic hunger all month long. Hunger Action Month provides a unique opportunity for volunteers to bond over service and to make a meaningful impact in the lives of the 37 million people who struggle with hunger in this country.



If you would like to register as a volunteer group please fill out the following Google form (<https://forms.gle/CbxTj5DL3huJmbFK9>). To browse our volunteer opportunities (with more to come!) please visit the [Hunger Action Month Calendar](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Erika Hernandez Burke at 646-553-5893 or email [ehernandezburke@hungerfreenyc.org](mailto:ehernandezburke@hungerfreenyc.org)

## ***Samaritans of New York***

Have you been looking for a meaningful way to help others? At Samaritans, you will make a significant and lasting impact while helping others on our 24-hour emotional support and suicide prevention hotline.

Volunteers love the personal satisfaction that comes with helping individuals that need and appreciate your compassion and support as well as the camaraderie of working alongside like-minded, caring individuals. We know your time is valuable. Rest assured, it will be very well-spent at Samaritans!

Samaritans is currently accepting applicants for the October 2020 Hotline Training Class. If you are interested in becoming a Samaritans volunteer, please contact us to attend the next orientation for this class on:

Thursday, September 10th  
Tuesday, September 15th

Samaritans greatest need is for qualified applicants who are available to work at least one five-hour weekday morning or afternoon a week.

If you are interested in becoming a Samaritans Hotline Volunteer, please go to: <https://samaritansnyc.org/volunteer/> to fill out an application.



***VOTE NYC***

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on August 20th signed into law sweeping election reforms that will make it easier for New Yorkers to vote and be counted in November. The three-part package includes new measures allowing absentee ballot applications to be submitted to the Board of Elections immediately, expanding the necessary protections to allow a voter to get an absentee ballot due to risk or fear of illness including COVID-19 and ensuring all absentee ballots postmarked on or before Election Day or received by the Board of Elections without a postmark on the day after the Election will be counted. Ballots with a postmark demonstrating that they were mailed on or before Election Day will be counted if received by November 10.



**Election Day is November 3, 2020!**

**Let's Get Out the Vote!** Now more than ever it is important that everyone's voice be heard. Your vote counts!

## How to Register to Vote

You can register to vote online, in-person, or by mail. For information on deadlines and qualifications to register to vote, click here: <https://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html>

**How to Obtain an Absentee Ballot** You can vote even if you cannot get to the polling place on Election Day. You must postmark, apply online, email or fax completed application for the General Absentee ballot by October 27, 2020. You may apply in-person by November 2, 2020. Ballots will be mailed beginning on/after September 18, 2020.

To obtain an absentee ballot online, click here: <https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov>.



# Reclaim Our Vote Campaign

## How will we RECLAIM OUR VOTE in 2020?

This year, Reclaim Our Vote plans to expand its volunteer base and work towards a 20 percent increase in turnout among voters of color in at least four states, and a significant percentage increase in others. We started working towards this goal in 2019, in North Carolina and Virginia; in 2020 our target states are North Carolina, Texas, Arizona, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia; our tools include postcards, phone banks, textbanks, geofencing, GOTV billboards in key areas, canvassing, rides to the polls and election monitoring.



**Please sign up to volunteer for Reclaim Our Vote today.** Because we all need a voice—and every vote matters, now more than ever.

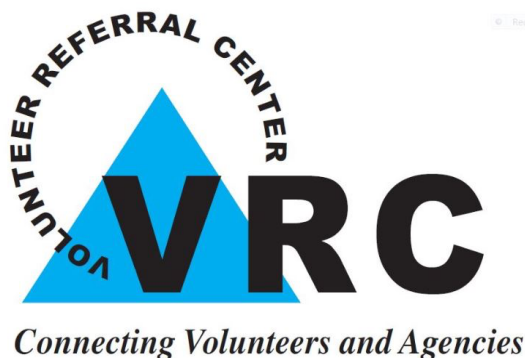
<https://actionnetwork.org/forms/reclaim-our-vote-signup>

Questions: email [rov@peopledemandingaction.org](mailto:rov@peopledemandingaction.org) (please reference this web site when contacting us at this address)

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Volunteer Referral Center | 161 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016 | 212-889-4805 | [www.volunteer-referral.org](http://www.volunteer-referral.org) | [info@volunteer-referral.com](mailto:info@volunteer-referral.com)

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