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Personal Service*

Caring & Connecting During COVID-19 How You Can Help During the Holidays



Dear Friend,

As we approach Thanksgiving and the holiday season there is much to be thankful for.

First WE THANK YOU for making a difference by volunteering your time and talents to help others. We also thank our nonprofit partner agencies for the innovative ways they have created to deliver services, sustenance and connections for the most vulnerable New Yorkers.

Volunteers Make It Happen!

And finally we thank you for considering a year-end gift to our **KEEPING IT PERSONAL** technology campaign, enabling VRC to provide its services free-of-charge and one-on-one into 2021 and beyond. Your gift will help ensure that VRC continues to perform its vital role as a volunteer pipeline, connecting and counseling individuals and groups who want to serve, with our more than 300 partner agencies.



You Can Make a Difference

DONATE

Here are ways to care, connect and make a difference in NYC this time of year.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• God's Love We Deliver• Citymeals on Wheels• Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dorot• Sunnyside Community Center• Catholic Charities• Met Council |
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For previous newsletters listing volunteer opportunities, go to <https://volunteer-referral.com/media-press-room/>

SAVE THE DATE!

Make a plan for Friendsgiving: Thursday November 19, 7:30-8:30 pm ET

Sign up [here](#)



If you missed our **Volunteering is Ageless** webinar, a recording will soon be available on our website.

Thank you and best wishes,

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

Deborah McCandless
President
Volunteer Referral Center
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God's Love We Deliver

GLWD is dedicated to cooking and delivering individually-tailored meals and providing the nutrition counseling that their clients require at a time in their lives when they need it most.

Holidays & Special Projects

Help make Thanksgiving 2020 a joyous day for their clients! GLWD will be in various locations around the city distributing a classic Thanksgiving feast with all the fixings to each of their clients. As always, we send each client an extra meal to share safely with a loved one or a friend. All locations will be practicing strict social distancing and all deliveries will be contactless. [SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER](#)



Small Group Volunteer

Small group volunteer opportunities are now available! Click [here](#) for more information. Please contact [Roberto Guerrero](#) with any questions or concerns and please see our [Individuals page](#) to sign up for an individual opportunity.

Cards for Caring

During COVID-19, to show their clients how much you care about them, design and hand-decorate "Cards for Caring".

For more information click here: <https://www.glwd.org/volunteer/holidays-special-events/cards-of-caring/>

Citymeals on Wheels

Citymeals on Wheels is committed to providing homebound elderly neighbors with nourishing meals and vital companionship. In addition to delivering food, their holiday [volunteer opportunities](#) include [send Citymeals on Wheels cards](#) as well as making cards and gifts for those in need. Volunteer Opportunities include:



Meal Delivery

Delivering meals on foot within walking distance from local senior centers

Friendly Visiting

Pairing kindhearted individuals with their isolated neighbors in need of companionship

Handmade Cards

Crafting cards to deliver on holidays, birthdays and special occasions

Senior Chat

Contacting our frail aged neighbors over the phone during a weekly call.

Senior Script

Responding to mail from our meal recipients with warm personalized letters

For more information and to sign up, click [here](#).

Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen

As New York's largest emergency food program, [Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen](#) serves a hearty and nutritious meal to 1,000 homeless and hungry New Yorkers every day, and they're always looking for volunteers.

There are two options for volunteering: Soup Kitchen & Pantry.

Soup Kitchen: Volunteers fill 600-700 lunch bags that include a salad, a hot meal, a piece of fruit, juice, and a snack. Some volunteers help distribute the combined bags to our lunch guests from the outside courtyard. Also during the "Soup Kitchen" shift, Volunteers help to pack 3 full bags of Pantry, that include non-perishables, produce, and frozen protein items. These bags are distributed during the Pantry shift later.



Pantry: Volunteers place bags in the carts of our Pantry clients, in order for them to be carted home. Some volunteers will also work at the registration table, greeting and registering our guests.

Who can volunteer right now?

We are asking that volunteers at a [higher risk](#) for severe illness from COVID-19, and those that live with people who are at a higher risk, stay at home during this time.

What is happening at the Soup Kitchen during COVID-19?

Due to the risk of COVID-19, we have transitioned our daily meal service to a "grab-and-go" hot meal distribution. We have also expanded our pantry program to meet the increased need in our community.

Please click here for information regarding requirements for volunteers at this time: [holy-apostles-soup-kitchen-volunteering-during-covid-19-faqs](#)

Individual volunteer sign up [here](#)

Group Volunteers sign up [here](#)

Dorot

DOROT is a nonprofit organization addressing the challenges of an aging population. We serve our clients with a diverse range of programs and services.

We deliver those programs and services through intergenerational connections with volunteers of all ages.

Thanksgiving Meal Delivery

Deliver a Thanksgiving meal and share warmth & companionship over the phone with an older neighbor! If you are 18 - 64 years of age sign up to volunteer with DOROT today! Note that each volunteer must register separately. Groups that want to volunteer together should decide in advance on a convenient time.

Here's how it works:

- Pick up the meal at DOROT.
- Drop off the meal at the senior's front door on the Upper West Side or Upper East Side.
- Connect with the senior by phone to share good wishes for the holiday season!

Dates: Sunday, November 22 & Monday, November 23 - *Sign up for the date and time that works best for you!*

Click [here](#) for more information and to Register.



Sunnyside Community Services

Our clients are homebound older adults living in Queens and have identified that they are experiencing loneliness in some capacity. Since we have suspended all in-home visits due to the pandemic, we are engaging clients in our Senior Chat program. To reduce feelings of loneliness, we match our clients with one Senior Chat volunteer who they speak to over the phone and/or video chat with once per week. Our Senior Chat program provides friendship to older adults virtually but we also offer monthly trainings and individualized support to our Senior Chat volunteers.

Contact Information

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volunteering@scsny.org

Emma Finn, MSW
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Program Coordinator for Friendly Visiting, Pet Pals and Senior Chat
Direct 929-335-7911 | [718-78 4-6173](tel:718-784-6173), ext. 510



Catholic Charities

Want to help families receive turkeys and food just in time for the holiday? Then we need your help!

Turkey Distribution Volunteers

Catholic Charities is looking for able bodied and enthusiastic volunteers to support the Annual Catholic Charities of New York Turkey Distribution. This much anticipated event in Harlem feeds hundreds of families in need throughout New York.

For the safety of all, this event will be held outdoors under our COVID-19 policy guidelines.



Schedule: November 23, 2020 and November 24, 2020

Place: Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Community Center, 34 West 134th Street, bet. Lenox & Fifth Avenues.

What you will do:

- Set up and clean up
- Sanitize work station areas
- Distribute turkeys, fruit, vegetables, and grains
- Smile and have fun

Qualifications:

- Be comfortable greeting our guests and giving directions
- Able to lift a minimum of 30 lbs
- Capable of standing and walking for long periods of times outdoors
- Comply with our COVID 19 safety precautions

For more information, sign up [here](#).

Met Council

Met Council in partnership with Yeshiva University and its extended network, will continue to assist New York City's most vulnerable communities of homebound seniors and Holocaust survivors for the duration of the Covid-19 crisis. Beyond Met Council's usual work of supplying millions of pounds of free food to 149 pantries and special distribution sites, they are now delivering free groceries directly to the homes of our 500 homebound Holocaust survivors and our over 1,300 homebound seniors living in their low-income senior housing buildings. In addition, Met Council will provide over 4,000 emergency kosher food packages at 10 New York City food distribution sites. Volunteers are critical in making this possible.



Thanksgiving Food Packaging - Greenpoint

Met Council Kosher Food Delivery Drivers Needed

Met Council will be packing at least 500-2,000 packages per day. Thanks to a new partnership with UberEats, each box will be packaged and loaded by a volunteer into an UberEats vehicle to be delivered to the homes of NY's most vulnerable, seniors and Holocaust survivors. This will be a true life-line for anyone who is homebound.

The Greenpoint Fulfillment Center will have morning and afternoon shifts available for volunteers ages 14-59, Sundays through Thursdays. PPE will be distributed to all volunteers on site. Interested in volunteering? Click the sign up link to get started.

For more information and to sign up please click [here](#)

DONATE



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