



*Celebrating 31 Years of  
Expert Placement and  
Personal Service*

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

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# Happy Holidays from the VRC

Dear Friend,

We hope you are safe and sound and optimistic about the progress being made in our fight against COVID.

2020 has been a tough year for everyone, but we are committed to helping our volunteers find great opportunities and our partner agencies find great volunteers.

We are grateful that the spirit of service is thriving in NYC, as our partner agencies and volunteers step up to serve our communities in response to the COVID pandemic. The Volunteer Referral Center is honored to partner with community-based nonprofit organizations taking action. New Yorkers will always organize and help their neighbors in need, and in challenging times like these, service unifies our city. Please see the list of volunteer needs, below.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NY Common Pantry</li><li>• AARP</li><li>• Learning Ally</li><li>• New York Department of Corrections</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visiting Neighbors</li><li>• Carter Burden Network</li><li>• Bigs &amp; Littles NYC Mentoring</li><li>• Ronald McDonald House NY</li><li>• New York Presbyterian Hospital</li></ul> |
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For previous newsletters listing volunteer opportunities, go to <https://volunteer-referral.com/media-press-room/>

## VRC Makes It Happen!

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.

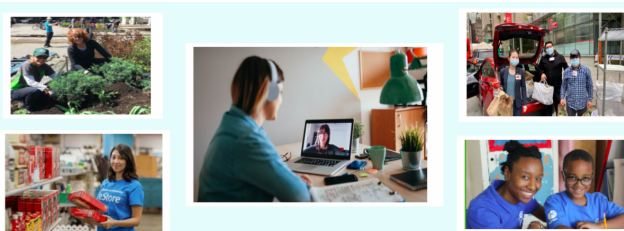


**You Can Make a Difference**

**DONATE**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Monday January 25 at 3:00 pm EST

**Build Your Resume for Success  
by Volunteering!**



Whether seeking a volunteer opportunity or a new job, the Volunteer Referral Center can help you be prepared. Join us January 25 at 3:00 pm EST for Build Your Resume for Success by Volunteering. This event is for those who are looking to build, sharpen, or update their resume and interviewing skills required to secure new opportunities in 2021. RSVP by phone or online after January 6, 2021.

If you missed our **Volunteering is Ageless** webinar in November, click [here](#).

Thank you and 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)

## ***NY Common Pantry***

Common Pantry meets the emergency needs of our local community by providing healthy food, kinship and support to help overcome poverty-related challenges.

You can volunteer in many different ways, from supporting an event to helping us distribute food to clients each week or serving lunch on a Wednesday.

Here are ways you can help:

### **Weekly Food Distribution**

Every Wednesday we distribute food to clients from 1 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. On Thursdays our distribution hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Volunteers help stock shelves, bag groceries, and assist clients as they shop for their favorite items.

### **Monthly Produce Distribution**

Produce Day volunteers help us provide thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables to hundreds of neighbors in need. Join us for distribution on the third Monday of each month from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers help unload the produce, bag it and distribute to clients. Groups of up to 30 people are welcome. This is a great corporate volunteer activity!

### **Food Drives**

Host a food drive at your school, club or place of work or worship. We can provide containers, signage and our wish list. You can also connect with one of our grocery store partners to host a food drive right at the store. Contact us at 917-720-9700 in advance to coordinate your drive.

For more information and to sign up, please click here: <http://www.commonpantry.org/volunteer/>



# AARP

## **Tax-Aide Volunteer**

Giving back feels good. Especially when it's for a cause as worthwhile and rewarding as AARP Foundation Tax-Aide.

We're looking for volunteers who want to make a difference by directly helping people who can't afford to pay for professional tax preparation — and often miss out on much-needed tax breaks and refunds as a result.

You don't have to be a tax pro to volunteer with us.



## **Training Provided**

Experience isn't required — we train volunteers, offer IRS certification, and provide ongoing support in a welcoming environment.

## **Virtual or In-Person**

Volunteer in-person and on-site at one of our locations, or go remote and help online with virtual opportunities.

## **Flexible Hours**

Give back when it suits your schedule — choose weekdays or weekends, mornings, afternoons or evenings. It's just a few hours per week.

For more information click here: [https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2006/volunteer\\_aarp\\_tax\\_aide.html](https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2006/volunteer_aarp_tax_aide.html)

Click here: [Sign Up Today](#)

## ***Learning Ally***

Learning Ally helps to build a strong foundation for independent, engaged learners who are empowered to achieve socially, emotionally and academically, regardless of background or learning difference.

### **Authentic Voice Narrators**

We are casting voices for African-American, Latinx and other culturally-diverse stories that need authentic voices. We're looking for diverse voice-over artists and experienced narrators!

Check below for a link to our Literature portal if you want a preview of projects you may be able to narrate. [Authentic Voices Apply Here!](#)



### **Professional Audiobook Narrators**

We still want experienced audiobook narrators who can narrate juvenile fiction or textbooks! [Pro Narrators Apply Here!](#)

### **Are you fluent in Spanish?**

We also need narrators fluent in Spanish and English who can read Spanish language textbooks [Spanish Narrators Apply Here!](#)

If you would like to be notified when more opportunities become available, please fill out the form below. New opportunities may include video and audio editing projects, Quality Assurance (QA) on completed audiobooks, etc.

### **Volunteer Interest Form**





# ***New York Department of Corrections***

The Department of Corrections relies on an array of volunteers to provide a variety of activities, programs, and services that promote rehabilitation, personal growth, and character development of those incarcerated.



These community-based organizations, groups, and individuals share a commitment to promote activities that contribute to the reduction of recidivism. Volunteers accomplish this by sharing their unique talents, skills, and knowledge, and by adapting to the challenges of a jail setting. Currently volunteers provide religious, social, educational, recreational, and other services that enhance personal development and create links between those incarcerated and their communities. The Department is open to other suggestions.

## **Services provided include but are not limited to:**

- Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous Groups
- Alcohol/Drug Counseling
- Alternatives to Violence Training
- Culinary Program
- HIV/AIDS Education Counseling
- Horticultural Program
- Individual/Group Counseling
- Job Readiness
- Legal Services
- Library Assistance
- Life Skills Classes
- Literacy Assistance
- Parenting Classes
- Pastoral Counseling
- Self Development Classes
- Transitional Assistance
- Vocational Training

## **PERSONS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING THEIR SERVICES:**

- must successfully complete a background investigation
- must not be actively on parole or probation, and must not have had a criminal record within the last 3 years

Persons interested in volunteering their services and/or in need of additional information should contact office of Volunteer Services at [718-546-0453](tel:718-546-0453).

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## ***Visiting Neighbors - Be An Elf!***

All it takes is a few hours a week to make a difference in the life of an elderly neighbor, as well as your own life.

### **WHY VOLUNTEER**

Our services are available to anyone 60 years and older who can easily interact with others. We serve seniors in lower Manhattan, South of 30th Street, from the East River to the Hudson. Our Friendly Visiting program also serves seniors living in the Forest Hills/Rego Park community of Queens.



Whether you can make a commitment of a few hours every week, or just help out occasionally, there are many ways for you to become involved with the elderly community. You can volunteer weekly and be matched with one senior, or if you'd prefer, you can be designated as "on call."

### **Students Are Welcome!**

You don't have to be over 18 to join us. We welcome high school and college students, either through school-sponsored activities, or individual participation.

### **Holiday Opportunities**

Throughout December, by delivering gifts and spending time with our Seniors, our volunteers will brighten the holidays for many who would otherwise be spending them alone. To become one of our amazing "elves" or even transform a corporate team, contact Howie Square at [\(212\) 260-6200](tel:2122606200) or email him at [HSquareVN@aol.com](mailto:HSquareVN@aol.com).

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# ***Carter Burden Network***

Carter Burden Network promotes the well-being of seniors 60 and older through a continuum of services, advocacy, arts and culture, health and wellness and volunteer programs, all oriented to individual, family and community needs. We are dedicated to supporting the efforts of older people to live safely and with dignity.

Since all in-person volunteering at CBN is suspended, we are currently offering virtual volunteer opportunities such as Virtual Bingo, Trivia and Themed Karaoke. To learn more about how you can get involved, [click here](#).

For more information call 212-879-7400 or email [contactus@carterburdennetwork.org](mailto:contactus@carterburdennetwork.org).



## ***Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring***

Founded in 1902, Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring strives to transform the lives of children through one-to-one mentoring, while strengthening entire families.

COVID -19 UPDATE: PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING AND PROCESSING VOLUNTEERS. WE ARE CONDUCTING PHONE SCREENINGS AND WILL HOLD VIRTUAL INTERVIEWS AS WE'VE SUSPENDED ANY IN PERSON MEETINGS TILL FURTHER NOTICE. THE SAFETY AND HEALTH OF ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS AND FAMILIES IS OUR MAIN PRIORITY\*



Hundreds of families seek mentoring services through Bigs & Littles NYC Mentoring each year - we can't serve them without volunteers like you!

While we are in need of volunteers across the 5 boroughs, we have a pressing need for male volunteers especially in Manhattan. We have over 100 boys waiting to be matched with a mentor.

For more information and to sign up to volunteer click here:  
<https://bigslittlesnyc.org/volunteer>

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## ***Ronald McDonald House New York***

Ronald McDonald House New York provides temporary housing for pediatric cancer patients and their families in a strong, supportive, and caring environment which encourages and nurtures the development of child-to-child and parent-to-parent support systems.

Volunteering can take place from anywhere with our Virtual Volunteer Opportunities! Organize a Virtual Race with your friends and colleagues to benefit the House or host a Virtual Dinner Party with our families to play games or do fun activities with our kids!



Virtual Activities RMH-NY is proud to have volunteers who donate their time to provide a variety of Workshops and Sessions for the families in our community. These pre-recorded videos and live calls range in topic and aim to reduce stress, encourage strength, well being, positivity and fun.

For more information on how you can Volunteer Virtually, please contact Dani Starfield at [dstarfield@rmh-newyork.org](mailto:dstarfield@rmh-newyork.org).

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## ***New York Presbyterian Hospital*** ***(NYP Victim Intervention Program)***

NYP Victim Intervention Program Advocates are individuals of at least 21 years of age, who all share a commitment to support survivors and advocate on their behalf through the Emergency Department experience.

Advocates are specifically trained to be first responders to survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and family violence. They provide information and emotional support to survivors as well as to survivors' support systems.



Advocates complete a 40-hour training in order to learn about the dynamics of abuse/violence, how to assist a survivor in safety planning, and how to provide crisis counseling.

2021 training will take place virtually on the evenings of February 16th, 23rd, and 25th, and all day on February 20th, 21st, 27th, and 28th.

Advocates sign up for on-call shifts to respond immediately to the Emergency Department and meet survivors in a timely manner. Advocates must be able to respond to the Emergency Department within 30 minutes. Transportation reimbursement is provided.

If you are interested in becoming a Victim Intervention Program Advocate or are interested in learning more about the program please contact our Advocate Program Coordinator, Gwenn Gideon, at [gwg9007@nyp.org](mailto:gwg9007@nyp.org).



DONATE



*Connecting Volunteers and Agencies*

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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