



*Celebrating 32 Years of
Expert Placement and
Personal Service*

Caring & Connecting During COVID-19 How You Can Help



Happy New Year from the VRC!

Dear Friend,

With the new year comes bright new hope in our fight against COVID-19.

As we await our turn for the vaccine, the need for volunteers grows. We can help you find volunteer opportunities, virtual as well as in-person, in NYC.

Be a mentor or be a friend. Be engaged and make a difference!

Play virtual chess with a teen or be a virtual friendly visitor to an isolated senior, teach a Spanish class, help prepare tax returns, share your skills in education and employment services or development and communications.

These are just a few of the opportunities you'll find in this newsletter.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dorot• Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center• Invisible Hands• Goddard Riverside | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jewish Board of Children and Family Services• Vision Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired• FamilyKind• Lighthouse Guild• Fortune Society |
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If you need more ideas, contact us at 212 889-4805, to schedule a free personal consultation with one of our interviewers. Or go to our website to see previous newsletters at <https://volunteer-referral.com/media-press-room/>

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is
what are you doing for others?"

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please consider supporting us to 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

Thank you and best wishes for a healthy New Year.

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

Deborah McCandless
President
Volunteer Referral Center
volunteer-referral.org

Dorot

DOROT alleviates social isolation among the elderly and provides services to help them live independently as valued members of the community. We serve the Jewish and wider community, bringing the generations together in a mutually beneficial partnership of elders, volunteers and professionals.



Response Team

DOROT's Response Team Members help older adults by running errands (picking up library books, bringing packages to the UPS store, etc.). Additionally, volunteers in this program can also help with birthday deliveries in which they would bring a birthday cake (provided by DOROT) to a senior and then call that person later in the day for a friendly chat. Those who would like to take part in this program must attend an Information and Orientation Session, submit to a background check and provide references.

Online Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers for Intergenerational Engagement: We are always looking for volunteers, age 65+, to take part in our intergenerational programs with middle and high school students. This type of volunteering might include joining a weekly discussion group with older adult volunteers and teens so they can learn from one another. Prospective volunteers would need to attend an Information and Orientation Session to get started.

Intergenerational Chess Program

DOROT's Intergenerational Chess program is about strengthening skills and creating friendships across the chessboard. Each week older adults will play chess with experienced chess players who are in grades 6-12. Every week, the participants will sign on to a Zoom call. Once in the Zoom call, each student will be paired with an older adult to play chess using a virtual chessboard. These students will form meaningful connections, gain community service, and develop hands-on interpersonal experience.

To learn more, click here: <https://www.dorotusa.org/our-programs/at-dorot/intergenerational-after-school-chess>

Caring Calls

Remote Tech Volunteers, etc.: We are very much still running our Caring Calls and other remote volunteer opportunities. Again, those who are interested must attend an Information and Orientation Session to get started. (See link above.)

Please [click here](#) to attend an Information and Orientation Session for all the above opportunities.

Stanley Isaacs Neighborhood Center

The Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center is a non-profit, multi-service organization focusing primarily on the needs of children and low-income families, out-of-school and out-of-work youth, and aging New Yorkers including the isolated and homebound elderly.



Volunteers connect with our neighbors and staff to provide essential support in our community. For groups, or to join our volunteer roster, please email Marin Correa at mcorrea@isaacscenter.org.

Volunteer with our Meals on Wheels program Monday–Thursday at the Center: 415 E. 93rd Street. Come once or come regularly, alone or with a group. Questions? Please contact Director of Food and Nutrition Services Khristel Simmons at ksimmons@isaacscenter.org

7am – 9am - Assist kitchen team with packing meals for delivery. Sleeves and closed-toed shoes required.

9:45am – 1pm - Deliver meals to our homebound seniors within 10 blocks of our site. Walkers and drivers with cars are both welcome.

10am – 1pm - Assist kitchen team with packing cold packs (juice, milk, fruit, bread, etc.

Make calls to local seniors from your own home.

Join our roster and we will email you when we have an opportunity. Questions? Please contact Clinical Director Aaron Rooney at arooney@isaacscenter.org.

Invisible Hands

Invisible Hands began as a Facebook post - an offer from three twenty-somethings to help neighbors pick up groceries as COVID-19 began to spread throughout New York City.

Grocery Deliveries

You can perform deliveries if you are feeling healthy, have not traveled out of the country, to a high-risk state or come in contact with a sick person in the past 14 days, and have been practicing social distancing.



Can't make deliveries? **You can also volunteer remotely.** Please fill out this form <https://invisiblehandsdeliver.org/volunteer> to let us know you can help from home.

Since this is a constantly-developing situation, everything is subject to change. This work is flexible and on an as-needed basis, so please sign up even if you're not sure what your life will look like in a few weeks. We're all in the same boat. Once you sign up, you'll receive a link to join a Slack workspace, where we'll contact you when requests in your neighborhood(s) come in. After you confirm a request, we'll give you further details and put you in touch with the delivery recipient. It's all opt-in!

Calling Accounting Allstars and Artists

Are you an accounting allstar that would like to help us out? Or an artist that wants to donate their work? We are always looking for people to volunteer their special skill sets! You can fill out this form <https://invisiblehandsdeliver.org/other-talents>.

**Contact: team@invisiblehandsdeliver.org
(732) 639-1579**

Goddard Riverside

Goddard Riverside strives toward a fair and just society where all people can make choices that lead to better lives for themselves and their families. We serve more than 20,000 New Yorkers each year with programs ranging from Early Childhood Education to Senior Centers.



Volunteering During COVID-19

Letters to Older Adults

Send a handwritten card or a note to help older adults isolating at home feel connected to the community. Send card or note to: **Goddard Riverside, Attn: Older Adult Project, 593 Columbus Avenue, New York, NY 10024.**

Calling Older Adults

Our older adult programs are seeking volunteers who speak Russian, Spanish, Cantonese, or Mandarin to call and chat with seniors. When: Monday - Friday. Requirements: Must be able to speak Russian, Spanish, Cantonese, or Mandarin. Contact Brianne Kilpatrick at BKilpatrick@goddard.org; please specify which language you speak.

Tutoring

Goddard Riverside's Star Learning Center provides one-to-one academic tutoring for students in grades 2-12 from underserved communities. The center's goal is to help each child improve academically and foster a positive attitude toward school and learning. What will you be doing? One-to-one academic tutoring. Volunteers should be able to commit two hours a week, be at least a sophomore in high school, and be comfortable using a computer. To become a tutor, please fill out an online application. You will be contacted by Star Learning Center.

Sign up after February 1, 2021

- [Tutoring Application: School](#)



Jewish Board of Children and Family Services

During this time of crisis, there are many ways that we can help the people we serve – children in the foster care system, children and adults with mental illness, and people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



The staff at our programs who provide direct care for people are in urgent need of supplies to keep themselves and the people they serve safe and healthy. Supplies can be dropped off at The Jewish Board's main offices at 135 West 50th Street. Needed items include: **Masks, gloves, sanitizer, non-perishable food and paper goods (toilet paper and paper towels).**

Create Masks for Programs

There is an urgent ongoing need for DIY non-medical masks for Jewish Board clients and staff. Don't know how to make a mask? [The CDC has instructions on how to create masks with and without sewing.](#) Your completed masks may be sent to any of the locations Click [here](#)

Your time, talent and efforts are greatly appreciated—thank you for your support. Please email us at volunteer@jbfcs.org so we can recognize your hard work.

Send “stay at home” supplies for people who live in our residences

On any given day, about 2,000 people of all ages call a Jewish Board residence home. We pride ourselves in making these places truly feel like home, and we are striving to make this time of social distancing as comforting as we can for the people who live with us. You can help by providing:

- For adults: books, puzzles, activity books (i.e. crosswords, word search), board games, cards, dominoes, adult coloring books & colored pencils.
- For kids: Art supplies, DVDs, a Wii, Playstation or Xbox with games & controls, games, puzzles, books, tablets.

Join us as a Virtual Volunteer or Activities Leader

Social distancing doesn't mean our clients need to be bored, or lonely. Virtual activities can be fun, wildly creative, and serve as a crucial substitute for in-person connections. We are open to your creative ideas, such as:

- Creating a “project in a box” (art, cooking, or other activity)
- Sending a video message of love and support to our clients
- Filming a video lesson on your phone – cooking, crafting, or anything else you want to share!
- Leading (in real time) an activity via Zoom: exercise, music, or more!
- Hosting a (virtual) scavenger hunt, contest, karaoke competition, or other fun game.

For donations of goods and volunteer activities, email us at connect@jbfcs.org to get matched with a program or to talk about other ways you can help. We are grateful for all creative ideas and help.

Vision Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired's 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 in their homes and communities and educate the public to understand the capabilities and needs of people who are blind or visually impaired.

Virtual Volunteer Opportunity

Teach very basic spanish to group of blind and visually impaired seniors using virtual platform. The class will take place using google meet and will last for 8 weeks. No teaching experience necessary.



Requirements

Must be over the age of 18 and complete volunteer screening application and attend a virtual volunteer orientation.

Our volunteer needs

We need volunteers who are free Monday - Thursday, morning, afternoon and evening and Friday, afternoon and evening..

Volunteer opportunity location [135 West 23rd Street, NYC](#)

Contact:

Natasha R. DeLeon, Volunteer Coordinator: [646-486-4444](tel:646-486-4444) ext: 213

Organization's website: <http://www.visionsvcb.org>

FamilyKind

FamilyKind is a nonprofit organization empowering children, parents and couples before, during and after separation or divorce — no matter their family configuration, or financial situation.

FamilyKind is seeking a volunteer to help with administrative responsibilities. **This opportunity will be conducted virtually.** They will gain experience and preparation to navigate the nonprofit world and increase awareness of services for separating, divorcing and never married families.

This internship will be supervised by FamilyKind's Director of Parent Services.

Responsibilities may include:

- Attend team meetings
- Organize files in Google Drive and Dropbox
- Assist with gala responsibilities
- Observe parenting classes and help with administrative class responsibilities
- Assist with service evaluations
- Assist Director of Parent Services with placing clients in appropriate services.
- Interact with judges and attorneys, when the opportunity arises.
- Work on other assignments from the FamilyKind team, as needed

***Contact: Giseel Rodriguez, Associate Coordinator of Parent Education
FamilyKind, Ltd. 212.769.3057***



Lighthouse Guild

Lighthouse Guild is the leading not-for-profit healthcare organization dedicated to addressing and preventing vision loss. Our mission is to provide exceptional services that inspire people who are visually impaired to attain their goals.



Volunteer Opportunities Include:

- **Tax Preparation Program Assistant**

This short term position will help with execution of the tax program for people with vision impairment. The ideal candidate will be responsible for responding to client inquiries, scheduling appointments, assisting with virtual tax document submission and managing the onsite tax preparation event, if necessary.

- **Volunteer Resources Program Assistant**

This position is ideal for an individual with an interest in or experience with non-profit management, human resources administration or business management, who also possesses a strong customer service orientation and communications skills who is interested in an opportunity with critical responsibilities in a busy department. The ideal candidate will help implement and administer the volunteer recruitment activities for Lighthouse Guild. At the conclusion of this placement, the volunteer will know the essentials of recruiting, screening, placing, orienting, training and cultivating volunteers for an organization.

- **Reading Services Program Assistant**

This position will help implement and administer the Reading Services Program by coordinating schedules, receiving clients and volunteers and ensuring the smooth running of the program. In addition, this position will assist with matching clients and volunteers. The responsibilities will range from outreach to potential clients, identification of candidates for the program and recruiting and placing volunteers to support the program's reading needs.

For information about qualifications and how to apply for these opportunities, please click [here](#).

Fortune Society

Fortune Society's mission is to support successful re-entry from incarceration and promote alternatives to incarceration, thus strengthening the fabric of our communities.

We have volunteers that assist Fortune's Education Services, Employment Services, Development Dept., Communications Dept., just to name a few.



In response to COVID-19, most of our volunteer opportunities are conducted remotely. Our service programs are offered Monday-Friday from 9-5pm with a few opportunities on weekday evenings. We welcome applicants with justice involvement. Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years old.

In the application, you may choose **up to three programs** you would like to apply to and can add additional information about any other service interests you may have. It can take up to one month for us to review your application, and not all applicants will be contacted for an interview. All volunteers and interns must complete onboarding paperwork, online training, and a volunteer orientation. Some programs require a background check and additional training.

Volunteer Opportunities (on website) include:

- Curriculum Assistant
- Donor Relations Assistant
- Clerical Assistant
- Administrative Assistant

High Need Opportunities (not on website) include:

- HR Administrative Assistant
- Employment Services Administrative Assistant
- For more information and to apply, please click [here](#): **Volunteer Opportunities**

To contact Fortune Society with any questions or comments, please click [here](#).

DONATE



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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