

## *Celebrating 32 Years of Expert Placement and Personal Service*



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

Dear Friend,

The holidays are fast approaching and with them a cornucopia of opportunities to give back to our neighbors and community.

Unsure of where to start? The Volunteer Referral Center would be happy to help you review volunteer activities to find one that would be right for you.

So whether it's sending a festive card, delivering a hot meal, or spending time with family while beautifying your local park, VRC can help you find a special way to share in the spirit of the season.

Organizations featured in this edition include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen</li><li>• Central Park Conservancy</li><li>• City Meals on Wheels</li><li>• Prospect Park Alliance</li><li>• Dorot</li><li>• God's Love We Deliver</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grand Central Neighborhood</li><li>• Catholic Charities</li><li>• NY Common Pantry</li><li>• Invisible Hands</li><li>• Met Council</li><li>• Lenox Hill Neighborhood House</li></ul> |
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For more ideas go to our website to see previous newsletters and events at <https://volunteer-referral.com/media-press-room/>

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.

With best wishes for happy and healthy holidays and the New Year,

Deborah McCandless  
President  
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**DONATE**

# Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen



Website: <https://www.centralparknyc.org>

The Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen's mission is to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, seek justice for people experiencing homelessness, and provide hope and opportunity to those in need.

Volunteers are the heart of our whole operation. From packing lunches to serving a hot meal, distributing pantry bags of food to passing out haircut vouchers, it is our volunteers who enable us to be here for our guests.

## **You can sign up to volunteer any weekday.**

Sign up for an available shift on [hask.volunteerhub.com](https://hask.volunteerhub.com). We have shifts available Monday-Friday from 9:15am-1:15pm, and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 1pm-3pm

For more information click here: <https://holypostlesnyc.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

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# Central Park Conservancy



Website: <https://www.centralparknyc.org>

## **Family Volunteer Days**

Grab the kids and get some quality time while giving back! You'll help Conservancy staff keep the Park clean while enjoying the outdoors.

A special opportunity just for families, these volunteer days are a great way for parents and kids to spend quality time together while outdoors. Give back to the Park by helping with tasks like raking or spreading mulch, depending on the season.

Registration opens two weeks before each event. You must show a valid form of ID when you arrive and fill out a waiver form. Space is limited; advance registration is required.

Ages 4+. Minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Families only, maximum of 3 children per parent/guardian.

## **When**

April through June and September through December. Projects are on Saturdays, 10:00 am–11:30 am.

**Contact:** [volunteer@centralparknyc.org](mailto:volunteer@centralparknyc.org)

## **Teen Volunteer Days**

Students are invited to give back to the City by volunteering in Central Park. Help maintain and beautify the grounds through a variety of Park projects.

Students ages 13-18 are invited to give back to their community and promote good stewardship by helping the Conservancy with seasonal projects in Central Park. Projects may include raking, weeding, or mulching depending on the season.

Registration opens 2 weeks before each event. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

## **Qualifications**

Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

On the Thursday prior to each session, volunteers will receive an email with project details, location, and a liability waiver. Waivers **MUST** be printed, signed by a parent or legal guardian, and brought to the session on Saturday. Teens will not be able to participate without a waiver.

Ages 13-18

## **When**

April through June and September through December. Projects are on Saturdays, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

**Contact:** [volunteer@centralparknyc.org](mailto:volunteer@centralparknyc.org)



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## City Meals on Wheels



Website: <https://www.citymeals.org>

Each year, Citymeals works with thousands of kindhearted people of all ages who make an impact on the lives of their frail aged neighbors. In 2020, they dedicated 82,673 hours of volunteer service. Learn more about who volunteers – and how you can get involved.

### **Students**

Whether attending high school or college, students of all ages are welcome to volunteer with Citymeals. Opportunities include meal deliveries, handmade cards and kitchen help.

Click here for more information and to sign up: <https://www.citymeals.org/get-involved/volunteer-with-us>

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# Prospect Park Alliance



Website: <https://www.prospectpark.org>

Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in the mid-19th century, Prospect Park is Brooklyn's flagship park, welcoming more than 10 million visits each year.

Prospect Park Alliance is the non-profit organization that sustains "Brooklyn's Backyard," working in partnership with the City of New York.

## **Junior Volunteer Corps**

Join [Prospect Park Alliance](https://www.prospectpark.org) for fall fun in November! On select Saturdays and Sundays you are invited to join us to rake leaves and tackle litter. Come learn the value of service and meet other families, children, and teens on this day of giving back. Open to families, youth groups, and teens.

Select dates from 10 am - 1 pm. Locations vary, free, registration required.

Click here for more information and to register: <https://www.prospectpark.org/get-involved/volunteer/junior-volunteer-corps/>

## **Green & Go Kits**

Individuals and groups are invited to join Prospect Park Alliance to help keep our park green and vibrant by tackling litter and helping with other greening opportunities—[register](#) to check out Green + Go Kits at various locations around the park. These kits will include all necessary tools.

Requirements and Guidelines:

- Please do not come to the park if you are sick
- The minimum age to borrow a kit is 14 years old
- Supervised children are welcome to participate
- Please bring your own mask, water, and refreshments

Questions? Contact us at [volunteers@prospectpark.org](mailto:volunteers@prospectpark.org)

## **Register Today**

Click here to get involved: <https://www.prospectpark.org/get-involved/volunteer/renew-volunteer-corps/renew-volunteer-corps-registration/>

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# Dorot



## Holiday Package Deliveries for Families

You and your children can share stories and companionship – and a holiday package – to celebrate the season. We match family volunteers with DOROT elders for visits in their homes in Manhattan and Westchester.

Please click to learn more <https://www.dorotusa.org/volunteer/youth-and-family-volunteering/holiday-package-deliveries-for-families>

## Birthday, Holiday, & Caring Cardmaking

Create birthday and holiday cheer for DOROT seniors with handmade greeting cards. DOROT sends beautiful birthday cards, designed and created by our volunteers, to each of the nearly 4,000 older adults we work with each year. Your group members can use their artistic skills to benefit older adults in our community.

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# God's Love We Deliver



Website: <https://www.glwd.org>

The mission of God's Love We Deliver is to improve the health and well-being of men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other serious illnesses by alleviating hunger and malnutrition. We prepare and deliver nutritious, high-quality meals to people who, because of their illness, are unable to provide or prepare meals for themselves. We also provide illness-specific nutrition education and counseling to our clients, families, care providers, and other service organizations.

## **Opportunities for Kids**

There's so many ways to give to support our mission through volunteerism and we understand the importance of getting kids involved with philanthropy at a young age. We work with families, student and community groups, troops and more who want to volunteer. To find out about Thanksgiving volunteering, please click here: <https://www.glwd.org/volunteer/holidays-special-events/>

## **Crafting Love at God's Love – First Sunday of Each Month:**

Young folks can decorate birthday cards and other holiday cards for our clients. No artistic experience required – just a whole lotta love

## **Volunteer at Home, at School, or with a Community Group - Anytime**

Take God's Love with you wherever you go! Young folks can decorate birthday cards, winter holiday cards, Valentine's Day Cards, placemats and more. Thank you to illustrator Lindsey Balbierz for illustrating our placemat and seasonal produce.

Please click here for more information: <https://www.glwd.org/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities-for-kids-and-families/>

## **Field Trip Friday - Third Friday of Every Month**

Want to show your class of students one of the largest kitchens in NYC? Look no further, and bring them to God's Love for Field Trip Friday! Students will tour our kitchen and rooftop garden, and get a chance to put their nutrition knowledge to use with a fun in-house worksheet. Projects are tailored to the age of the group.

## **Create Signs for Our Volunteer Delivery Drivers – Throughout the Holiday Season**

Help our volunteer drivers make deliveries in style this holiday season by drawing "Delivery Volunteer at God's Love We Deliver" signs for their dashboards.

Email [volunteer@glwd.org](mailto:volunteer@glwd.org) to get involved with each of the above opportunities.



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# Grand Central Neighborhood Social Services Corp



Website: <http://www.grandcentralneighborhood.org/about-us/>

The Grand Central Neighborhood Social Services Corporation (GCNSSC) is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization committed to providing immediate relief to Midtown Manhattan's homeless population. Through our Mainchance Drop-In Center, we offer basic necessities (food, clothing, showers, and chairs for respite) and a range of social services including employment counseling, treatment referrals, and housing assistance. Volunteers are a key component to the continued success of GCNSSC. By working within the agency, both groups and individuals can participate in a safe and welcoming environment.

## **Kitchen Services**

Working in the food services area is a great way to get started in our organization. Volunteers who have never worked in a drop-in-center before find this activity to be a good introduction. Plus, volunteers can donate their time in the kitchen any day of the week! **Volunteers must be accompanied by adults 21 or over if they are between the ages of 16-18.**

While we have 3 food services a day, our volunteers only assist the kitchen staff during lunch (11:45-1:30 p.m.) and dinner (3:45-6:00 p.m.). During both of these times, volunteers help with meal set-up, serve meals to clients and light clean up.

If interested, it is important that you schedule a time to come in for an orientation at our 120 E. 32nd St. Mainchance Building.

## **Soup Kitchen Volunteer**

Please note, due to COVID-19, we can no longer accommodate large volunteer groups. We can only accommodate 1 to 2 people per shift. (Lunch or Dinner) . We are requesting all volunteers provide current negative COVID test results to volunteer. To volunteer for the soup kitchen and schedule your orientation, please contact:

the Program Coordinator at [admin@gcnssc.org](mailto:admin@gcnssc.org) or call 212-883-0680 Ext. 108.

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# Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York



Catholic Charities of New York | <http://catholiccharitiesny.org/>

Gobble gobble volunteers!

Catholic Charities is partnering with Wavecrest and the Tenant's Association for a Turkey Distribution.

It will take place indoors at the Bronxworks Betances Community Center. Hand out turkeys to our residents and families so they can make a feast to be remembered for years to come!

Date: 11/23/2021

Time: 6-8pm

Location: 547 E. 146th St. Bronx, NY 10454

What you will do:

- Set up and break down
- Hand out 5-12lb turkeys
- Bag produce and canned goods
- Line management

## **Covid 19 policy:**

- Please wear a face mask (our staff and clients will wear one as well)
- Use hand washing stations and hand sanitizers frequently
- Follow our social distance protocols to keep everyone safe

You need to create an account in order to sign up - Click here for more information and to sign up <https://www.catholiccharitiesnyvolunteer.org/opportunity/a0C6T000013WvtpUAC?>

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# New York Common Pantry

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Website: <https://nycommonpantry.org>

Volunteers are an integral part of the NYCP, and their contributions are invaluable and much appreciated. Without the dedication and tireless enthusiasm of our volunteers, we could not provide our services.

We have opportunities to volunteer in Manhattan and Bronx Choice pantries, as well as our Harlem Hot Meals program.

**Please note: At this time, all volunteers must be 16+.**

Please note that due to COVID-19, all volunteers must wear masks (we can supply) at all times. We have gloves and hand sanitizer and the facilities are cleaned regularly.

In an effort to minimize exposure all staff and volunteers are working in shifts.

If you plan to be a regular volunteer, you may only do so in the following groupings:

**MANHATTAN:**

- A) Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays
- B) Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays

**THE BRONX:**

- A) Mondays and Wednesdays
- B) Tuesdays and Thursdays

For example: If you sign up for a Monday in Manhattan, the only other days you may come in are Thursday and Friday. Be mindful when signing up; since we strive to have the safest workplace possible, we will have to cancel any shifts that don't keep people within their teams.

For questions or to reserve an opportunity for your group or team, please email [volunteer@nycommonpantry.org](mailto:volunteer@nycommonpantry.org).

Please click here for more information and to sign up <https://nycommonpantry.org/volunteer>

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# Invisible Hands



Website: <https://invisiblehandsdeliver.org>

We are committed to fighting food insecurity – a crisis only further exacerbated by COVID. That's why we also partner with food pantries, mutual aid groups, and religious institutions to deliver free food to people in need and address the long-term injustice of food insecurity in New York City and beyond.

## **Delivery Volunteers**

Volunteer to deliver food, medicine, and other necessities to your in-need neighbors on an as needed basis. Download our app to claim nearby delivery requests according to your schedule and capabilities, then head out to shop and deliver! Multi-Stop Volunteers

Volunteers with access to a car in the New York City area are invited to sign up for scheduled deliveries from one of our food pantry partners to make 4-6 pre-routed deliveries to households that rely on our services.

## **Remote Volunteers**

Can't deliver? Speak with recipients on the phone to help place requests, answer questions, and resolve issues or work with a team to match recipients with delivery volunteers and ensure deliveries run smoothly, all from home!

Click here for more information and to sign up: <https://invisiblehandsdeliver.org/volunteer>

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# Met Council



Website: <https://www.metcouncil.org>

Met Council provides comprehensive social services that aid, sustain, and empower 225,000 New Yorkers a year through: benefits enrollment assistance and outreach, crisis social services, family violence services, affordable housing, America's largest kosher food pantry system, and safety home repairs for low-income seniors. Founded on Jewish values; Met Council serves all individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, physical ability, language, religion, or sexual orientation.

We engage and rely on more than 1600 volunteers a year who serve to support the work of Met Council. Volunteers support the critical services that are provided on a daily and monthly basis to clients. Opportunities such as food ordering, pantry stocking, food packaging, and friendly phone calls to clients are volunteer services that provide a positive experience to our clients that otherwise could not be provided by staff alone. Specifically, skilled volunteers in particular areas are critical for adding to Met Council's ability to provide full comprehensive support, including, performance art volunteers, court companion support, tax prep, and friendly meals with senior residents. Our vision is to engage volunteers with specific skill sets who can provide ongoing critical support to our clients and staff.

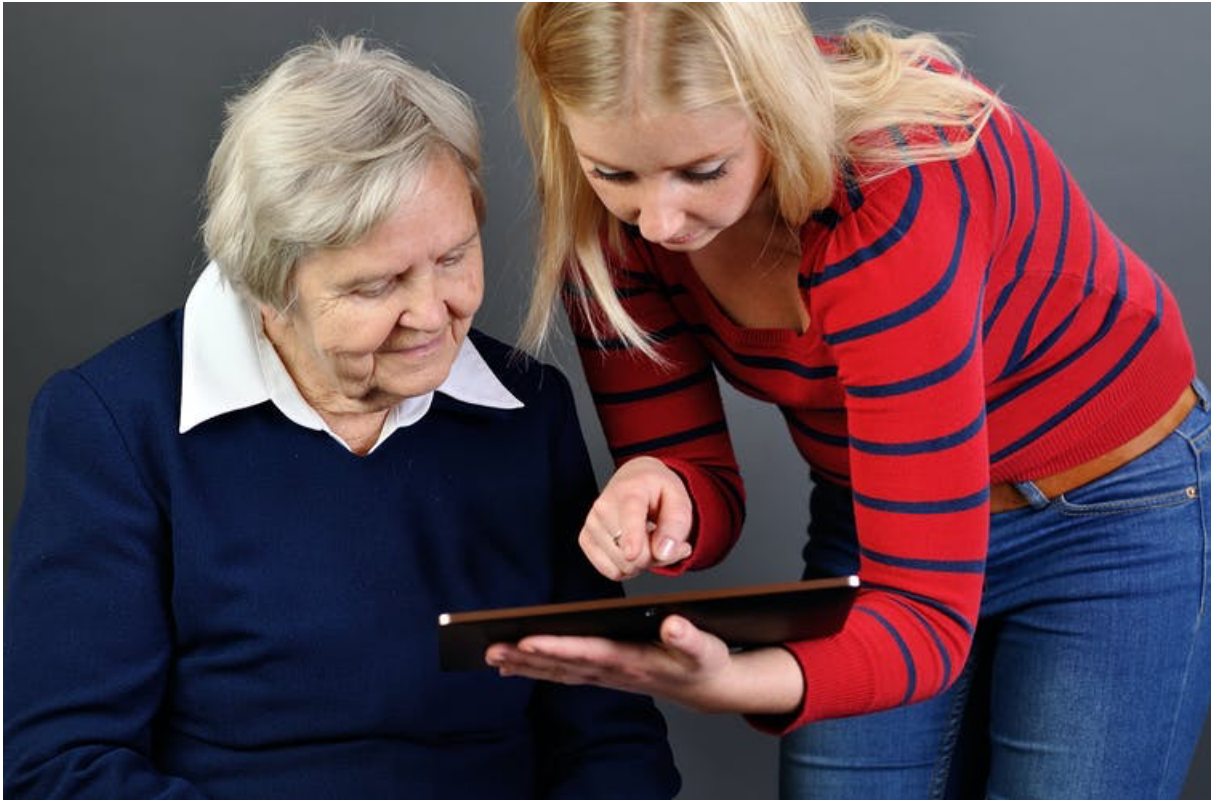
## **Emergency Volunteering with Met Council**

During any emergency, those struggling to make ends meet become even more vulnerable. We are committed to continuing to provide the necessary services to our clients at this time. To do so, we require additional volunteers to support essential services, food distributions, and deliveries.

<https://www.metcouncil.org/get-involved>

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# Lenox Hill Neighborhood House



Website: <https://www.lenoxhill.org>

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is a 127-year-old settlement house widely recognized as one of New York's premier human services providers. Founded in 1894 as a free kindergarten for immigrant children, the Neighborhood House now serves 16,000 in need each year through a wide array of effective and integrated services--social, educational, legal, health, housing, mental health, nutritional and fitness.

We are seeking Technology Instructors to provide weekly, vital one-on-one technology assistance to our older adult clients. Common support issues include how to effectively use cell phone, tablet and computer functions, using email, texting and word processing efficiently and organizing & managing digital files. The time commitment is one weekday per week from either 9:00am-11:00am or 1:00pm-3:00pm. Volunteering is done in person at one of our Senior Centers, East 54th or East 70th Street in Manhattan and adheres to all appropriate safety protocols including either proof of vaccination or weekly Covid-19 testing for volunteers.

This is a great opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of older adults by increasing their comfort level with and knowledge of technology, thereby giving them the skills and confidence to manage information and more fully engage with family and friends.

If this opportunity is of interest to you, please contact Anthony Snowden, Volunteer Director at [asnowden@lenoxhill.org](mailto:asnowden@lenoxhill.org) or 212-218-0487.

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## *Need More Ideas?*

The Volunteer Referral Center has been helping New Yorkers of all ages find great volunteer opportunities for 32 years. With over 300 partner agencies, VRC will guide you to a perfect match.

To schedule a free appointment sign up at <http://volunteer-referral.com/volunteer-opportunities-2/>

Click here <https://volunteer-referral.com/media-press-room/> to check out our Caring & Connecting During COVID-19 newsletters for more volunteer opportunities.



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