

Caring & Connecting During Covid-19: New York City's Giving Heart

Dear Friend,

New York City's mask mandate has been lifted for many indoor spaces—that means more New York City nonprofits need you!

The Volunteer Referral Center can help you find the right volunteer opportunities for you, both in-person and virtual.

Share your passion—create art, write a grant, photograph an event. Be a mentor, be a stylist, be someone's guide.

Whether you decide to volunteer to work in one of NYC's beautiful green spaces, virtually at home, or in a hospital setting, NYC needs your skills and your heart. VRC can help you find a special way to be engaged and make a difference!

Organizations featured in this edition include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free Arts• Hospital for Special Surgery• NYC H2O• Lighthouse Guild | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governors Island• Bottomless Closet• GallopNYC |
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For more ideas, go to our website to see previous newsletters and events <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. Our benefit is March 24! We'd love to see you there.

Best,

Deborah McCandless
President
Volunteer Referral Center
volunteer-referral.org

Carolyn Ng
Executive Director
Volunteer Referral Center
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Free Arts



Website: <https://freeartsnyc.org>

FREE ARTS NYC empowers youth from underserved communities through art and mentoring programs to develop their creativity, confidence, and skills to succeed.

As a volunteer in the **Portfolio Mentorship Program**, you'll have the opportunity to mold a young artist while developing your own skills as an artist and educator. During monthly sessions, you'll guide your mentee through the technical and artistic process of creating a visual arts portfolio, practice interview and audition skills, and serve as a positive role model.

By the end of the program, you will both have shared and strengthened your arts background and your mentee will have applied to an arts high school or college!

APPLICATION FINAL DEADLINE: March 1, 2022

Mentor Applicant Requirements:

- BFA, MFA, or working knowledge of foundational art skills
- Minimum 1 year NYC residence
- Portfolio development experience

Time Commitment:

- Pairs will meet twice a month for 2-3 hours from *April–December* ****PLEASE NOTE: The 2022 program is planned to be a hybrid model of in person and virtual****
- Approx. one additional hour each week communicating, creating lesson plans, and completing Free Arts NYC online evaluations or monthly phone calls
- Attendance to H.S. Open Houses, Interviews & Auditions, where possible

Click here to apply: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKQUUNNN1JL8d0z7LBSCq1Jkf-KJlviKA1iILXA3PK9iZjLg/viewform>

Interested, but have some questions? Reach out to volunteer@freeartsnyc.org.

Hospital for Special Surgery



Website: <https://www.hss.edu/about.asp>

As a leader in musculoskeletal health and among the top-ranked organizations for orthopedics and rheumatology, we're proud of what we've achieved. Now more than ever, our guiding principles are helping us in our search for exceptional talented candidates who align with our unique workplace culture and who want to maximize the abundant opportunities for growth and success.

As all HSS volunteers and interns are required to be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 and the seasonal flu, we encourage you to get your shots now.

Current opportunities for volunteering/interning:

- **Patient Navigation and Transport:** The volunteer is responsible for creating a welcoming environment by greeting all patients and visitors upon arrival and taking temperature checks. Escorts patients and/or families to various destinations in the hospital. Identifies, resolves, or reports patient issues to appropriate areas for prompt and effective resolution that can help elevate the service excellence standards of the hospitals. Creates a mechanism of patient feedback and starts administering it. Maintains confidentiality of patient information at all times in compliance with HIPAA. Provides general information about hospitals and their amenities as well as the neighborhood resources (food, transportation, accommodation, etc.).
- **Patient Accounting:** The purpose of the department is to ensure that money is collected from insurance companies and patients who have received services from the Hospital. It is critical that all of these interactions are conducted in a professional, courteous, efficient manner with attention to detail. Volunteers will be responsible for correcting invalid patient addresses, working with a computer patient database, preparing reports as assigned and other basic tasks in support of the department's mission.

Volunteers/interns must be 16 years of age or older. Please note we will have more volunteer/internship opportunities in the near future.

Please click here for information regarding the steps required to volunteer at HSS:
<https://www.hss.edu/volunteer-in-new-york-city.asp>

If you have any other questions, email volunteering@hss.edu or call 212.606.1228.

NYC H2O



Website: <https://nych2o.org>

NYC H2O's mission is to inspire and educate New Yorkers of all ages to learn about, enjoy and protect their city's local water ecology. Through providing public and school programs at historic reservoirs, parklands, watersheds, bays, rivers and wetlands, we encourage diverse citizens to advocate for responsible public policy.

Upcoming Opportunities:

Landscaping at the Estate of Frederick Law Olmsted - Olmsted-Beil House, 55 Orchard Lane South 6133 - Staten Island

- Sun, March 13, 2022
- 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM EDT

Click here for more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/volunteer-landscaping-at-olmsted-beil-house-tickets-266870576077>

Volunteer cleanup on Arthur Kill Road in Staten Island - Arthur Kill Road, Staten Island -

- Saturday, March 12 - 10 am - 12 noon

Click here for more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arthur-kill-road-cleanup-tickets-256046139897>

Oakwood Beach Cleanup - Oakwood Beach, Tarlton Avenue, Staten Island

- Saturday, March 19 - 10 am - 12 noon

Click here for more information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oakwood-beach-cleanup-tickets-233612319737>

Don't forget to wear your mask!

Stay tuned for more opportunities in the next coming months!

Lighthouse Guild



Website: www.lighthouseguild.org

Lighthouse Guild is dedicated to providing exceptional services that inspire people who are visually impaired to attain their goals.

Volunteer Resources Program Assistant

This position is ideal for a student 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 student will know the essentials of recruiting, screening, placing, orienting, training, and cultivating volunteers for an organization.

Photographer

Volunteers will take photographs during Lighthouse Guild programs and events to be used by our departments. Photographs of Lighthouse Guild clients, services and events increase awareness about the organization, and supplement written materials in documents and advertisements. This position is ideal for a professional photographer seeking to expand their portfolio while providing support to an established non-profit organization. Must provide own equipment: camera, lenses, flash accessories, etc., and Photoshop editing skills preferred. Please see our site for more info.

Project Assistant ~ Grant Writer

This position is ideal for a student or volunteer with strong writing skills and an interest in philanthropy, who also possesses a commitment to service. The intern will help research, identify, and apply for capacity building grants to support the mission of the Volunteer Resources Department of Lighthouse Guild. At the conclusion of this internship, the student will know how volunteer programs build the capacity of an organization and have the experience of researching and writing grants. The ideal candidate is available approximately 12-20 hours per week and will be present in the office 3 or 4 days per week for at least 4 hours per day. Please see our site for more detail about this opportunity.

For more information and to apply, click here: <https://lighthouseguild.org/about-us/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/>

Governors Island



Website: <https://www.govisland.com/>

Governors Island is a 172-acre island in the heart of New York Harbor. Just minutes from Lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn waterfront by ferry, the Island is a popular and unique destination with an award-winning park complemented by dozens of historic buildings, year-round educational and cultural facilities, a rich arts and culture program and 22-acre National Monument managed by the National Park Service.

Governors Gardener

Got a green thumb? As a Gardening Volunteer, you will assist the Trust for Governors Island Horticulture Staff in caring for the Island's sprawling meadows, young forest groves, ornamental flowerbeds and landscaped hillsides. Governors Gardeners:

- Perform seasonal gardening tasks including planting, pruning, weeding, watering, raking, mulching and transplanting (all require ability to bend, lift, and kneel)
- Learn to identify and remove invasive plants
- Create a catalogue of Island biodiversity by photographing and documenting animal and plant life on the Island
- Serve as a friendly, helpful and informative resource for visitors

Corporate Volunteering

Looking to get your whole team or company involved?

Check out our [Corporate Opportunities](#) and bring your group out to Governors Island for a fun, fulfilling and rejuvenating day outside the office.

Apply here: <https://app.betterimpact.com/Application?OrganizationGuid=2ac58a29-d593-4b6f-b7fa-79fcd982bcbd&ApplicationFormNumber=1>

Bottomless Closet



Website: <https://bottomlesscloset.org/>

For more than 20 years, we have helped empower New York City women in need to enter the workforce and achieve success. Through our one-on-one attention, we provide them with the tools and resources they need to get back on their feet. Two decades on from when we were founded, our services are needed today more than ever.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

- Bilingual Volunteers (especially Spanish-speaking volunteers)
- Inventory Assistance
- Administrative Support
- Evening Availability

Please click here <https://bottomlesscloset.org/volunteer/> to find out how you can help with:

- Clothing Consultation and Coaching
- Inventory Management
- Educational Curriculum
- Professional Expertise
- Client Follow-Up

If you are interested in volunteering with Bottomless Closet, please reach out to Pam Kulnis, Program Director via email at pkulnis@bottomlessclosetnyc.org. Kindly share a bit about your background and experience, as well as the type of volunteering (remote, in-person, workshop, etc.) you are interested in.

If your company or organization is interested in volunteering with Bottomless Closet as a group, please click here: <https://bottomlesscloset.org/corporate-partners/>

Gallop NYC



Website: <http://gallopnyc.org/>

GallopNYC uses equine-centered therapy to help riders in NYC with disabilities walk, talk and learn, inspiring them to live their lives as fully, independently and productively as possible.

Childcare Volunteer - Wednesdays, March 16-June 22 - 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at an outdoor facility (weather permitting)

We are looking for volunteers ages 16+ that can supervise and engage up to 4 children (ages 2-10) through reading, arts and crafts, and/or playing games, while staff and parents are participating in therapeutic riding lessons.

Ideal candidate has:

- Experience working with children
- Early Childhood experience
- Interest in Early Childhood / Education / Human Services / Psychology
- Ability to spend time active outdoors (this is an outdoor facility)

Support Therapeutic Lessons

Therapeutic horsemanship teaches the skills of horseback riding and horse knowledge to build developmental, emotional, social, and physical skills for each individual rider. Through weekly sessions, Gallop helps riders walk, talk, learn and have FUN!

- **Side-Walking Volunteer:** Assist the instructor during therapeutic riding sessions by working directly with the riders. Act as an intermediary between the rider and instructor by assisting the rider in carrying out the instructor's directions.
- **Lead-Walking Volunteer:** Support therapeutic lessons by lead-walking horses and supporting instructors with lesson preparations.

Requirements:

- Age 16+ or by instructor permission
- Ability to stand and walk for an extended period (at least 30-minute intervals)
- Ability to briefly jog with the horse and rider

Click here: <http://gallopnyc.org/ways-to-volunteer-as-an-individual> for more information and the registration/orientation process.

As per the city's executive order for city funded programs every person that is working or volunteering at ALL GallopNYC locations (GallopNYC Lindenwood (Sunrise Stables), GallopNYC Forest Hills, and Prospect Park-Bowling Green must be vaccinated. Masks will be worn at all times, unless alone in a stall doing physical work.

Administrative Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help GallopNYC staff with office work ensuring that rider and volunteer paperwork is recorded and handled appropriately. You'll be trained in data entry through our record-keeping system, Salesforce. Interested? Follow the steps below to get started.

- Create your account [here](#)
- Email us at volunteer@gallopnyc.org and share availability for orientation and volunteering
- Look out for an email from us to set up the orientation

Need More Ideas?

The Volunteer Referral Center has been helping New Yorkers of all ages find great volunteer opportunities for 33 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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