



Connecting Volunteers and Agencies

*Celebrating 33 Years
Expert Placement
Personal Service*

Caring & Connecting Newsletter - Fall Edition



Dear Janie,

Autumn is here and there are many wonderful volunteering opportunities in New York City. Organizations featured in this [Caring & Connecting Newsletter](#) include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• League of Women Voters• Actors Theatre Workshop• Housing Works• Catholic Charities Community Services• Reading Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden• Cherry Kids• Fortune Society• DOROT |
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Everyone can contribute something—the Volunteer Referral Center can help you find that special way to be engaged and make a difference.

Call us at (212) 889-4805 or [visit our website](#) to learn more.

Deborah McCandless, President

Carolyn Ng, Executive Director

Volunteers Are The  Of New York City

Please consider [supporting us](#) to help ensure that VRC continues to perform its vital role, connecting and counseling individuals and groups who want to serve.

[DONATE](#)



Website: <https://www.lwv.org/local-leagues/lwv-new-york-city>

The League of Women Voters of the City of New York is a non-partisan organization whose purpose is to promote informed and active citizen participation in government. Our mission is to expand our outreach and increase all New Yorkers' participation in local communities and government through civics education, the "vote", and issue advocacy.

Volunteers make everything they do possible. You can volunteer with the League whether or not you choose to join the League as a dues-paying member. We are always seeking people who care about the rights of others and making democracy work for all.

Volunteer Opportunities

- Set up and staff voter registration tables at various organizations and locations throughout the five boroughs.
- League Speaker at educational events (only League members will be contacted for speaking engagement opportunities).
- All members and non-members can volunteer at voter registration events.

Let's work to improve New York State's ranking as 46th in the nation for voter turnout. Voter registration is vital even in years when there's no presidential election: every year people become eligible to vote by turning 18, moving to New York or becoming citizens, and there are important upcoming NYC and state elections.

Sign up to volunteer here: <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/city-new-york/volunteer-opportunities>

Actors Theatre Workshop



Website: <https://www.actors theatreworkshop.org/>

The **Actors Theatre Workshop (ATW)**, founded by Thurman E. Scott, is a NYC award-winning non-profit theater, education institution, and community center that has been a vital resource for many in the community, including at-risk youth, for over 32 years.

October Painting Project Please [sign up here](#) to assist us on **Saturday 10/22** in repainting the lobby of their 5000 square foot professional theater facility, so that the children and adults who visit this space have a warm and orderly environment.

If you cannot join on this date, but you are eager to organize a painting date when you and a group are available, let them know in the [RSVP form](#) and we will contact you to organize a painting date.

Builders of the New World ("BNW") Program This unique theater arts education program has changed the lives of children living in the NYC shelter system. With your help, we are planning a festive creative class on **Wednesday, December 14th** - complete with food, gifts, and activities to make the holidays memorable.

ATW is seeking experienced professionals as skills-based volunteers in Marketing, Fundraising, HR, Production, Photography/Videography and many more areas to help deliver our children's program. We are also seeking mentors who would like to train creatively with us to work 1:1 with children in our Dec. 14th holiday class. To attend an information session and join this program, [apply here](#).

Holiday Decorating and Preparation There are plenty of other ways to get involved during the holidays. [Sign up here](#) for any of their one-day volunteer opportunities, such as wrapping gifts for the children, decorating our theater, serving or cooking food, transporting gifts, and more!

Housing Works



Website: fashion-for-action-2022

Housing Works is a healing community of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Our mission is to end the dual crises of homelessness and AIDS through relentless advocacy, the provision of lifesaving services, and entrepreneurial businesses that sustain our efforts.

Volunteer at Fashion for Action 2022

This November, Fashion For Action is back at Housing Works' flagship shop in Chelsea and they're looking for volunteers to help for a shift or two between **Tuesday, November 8th through Sunday, November 13th**.

This ultimate shopping soirée will bring together industry influencers, personalities, and some of the "must have" fashion essentials of the year. The evening presents the perfect blend of fun, fashion, and feel-good fundraising.

All proceeds will benefit Housing Works and our mission to end the dual crises of homelessness and AIDS.

All participating volunteers will receive a Fashion for Action t-shirt (event night and public sale days) and a 25% off discount coupon at the end of their shift.

The address of the event space is 143 West 17th Street between 6th and 7th Avenue.

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

Volunteers Needed at Processing and Distribution Center (PDC)

There are some volunteer opportunities available at Housing Works' PDC in Long Island City, Queens for the following days. Volunteers will assist with sorting, pricing, and arranging items.

Wednesday, October 26th - 10am to 1pm

Thursday, October 27th - 10am to 1pm

Friday, October 28th - 10am to 1pm

For more information and to sign up contact:

Yama Oge (she/her/hers)

929-425-7361 / volunteer@housingworks.org

Catholic Charities Community Services Archdiocese of New York



Website: cccsny.org

Catholic Charities Community Services is currently responding to an influx of **asylum seekers** here in New York City.

We need personable, professional volunteers to help our Case Management team with administrative duties and client-related activities. You will primarily be escorting and greeting asylum seekers, handing out bagged lunches, or performing various office tasks to aid the case management team in the new navigation center.

What you will do:

- Greet asylum-seekers warmly--you may be the first friendly face they've seen all week
- Perform administrative duties in a fast-paced environment
- Escort clients to and from the case management floor
- Sit and communicate with clients in waiting rooms and show them around the building
- Distribute snacks, drinks, goods, swag bags, and lunch offsite at a nearby location

Preferred Skills:

- Spanish, Portuguese, and French skills highly preferred
- Empathetic, friendly demeanor
- Ability to maintain professionalism under pressure
- Flexibility to pivot between tasks
- Comfort with crowds and engaging with people from diverse cultural backgrounds
- Ability to stand/walk around for a few hours
- You might be escorting asylum seekers to a nearby Catholic Charities agency to grab a free bagged lunch after appointments
- Experience with immigrants and refugees is a plus!

Schedule:

Monday-Friday

1. 10am-1pm
2. 1pm-4pm

ONE volunteer will be escorting families to a nearby site for bagged lunches throughout both shift times

Location: American Red Cross Building
520 W 49th Street New York City, NY 10019

If interested in volunteering for this opportunity, please contact Kim Olund
at kimberly.olund@catholiccharitiesny.org

Reading Partners



Website: readingpartners.org

Reading Partners is an educational nonprofit that mobilizes community volunteers to provide one-on-one literacy tutoring to aspiring readers ages 6 - 10. The goal is to empower everyone to become lifelong readers.

Becoming a Volunteer Tutor

Becoming a volunteer tutor requires no experience as Reading Partners provides an easy-to-follow curriculum that includes all of the books, worksheets, and set-by-step lesson plans to teach an effective lesson.

While volunteering, there are Program Coordinators at each reading center and a Volunteer Hub for support and coaching along the way for the volunteers as an ongoing resource.

Reading Partners offers **three tutoring options**:

- **In-person tutoring** that takes place at one of the designated reading centers,
 - **Virtual tutoring**,
 - and a **Hybrid model** which includes a digital platform and in-person tutoring.
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- The volunteer should have a positive attitude toward learning, diversity, and students and an ability to interact effectively with diverse student populations.
 - Age requirements: 14 to unlimited age. Reading Partners asks for a commitment through the school year but there are also occasional opportunities for one-day volunteers.
 - Reading Partners asks for 2 sessions per week which last 45 minutes with a student from K through 4, and the volunteer will work with the same student at the same time and place each week.

Currently Reading Partners has reading centers in 4 boroughs (except Staten Island). Volunteers can ask to be attached to a reading center in a school and borough of their choice and every effort will be made to meet this request.

Training and other Requirements: There is a Train the Tutor 1.5 hour orientation that must be completed to understand the curriculum that is utilized.

If the volunteer is over the age of 18, they must complete a Background Check which may cost \$42.00. Reading Partners may be able to provide a volunteer coupon which waives that fee.

There are two online forms that must be completed on the website: <https://readingpartners.org/volunteer-new-york-city/>

Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden



Website: mvhm.org/about-us/ Location: 421 East 61st Street, NYC

The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden celebrates life in 19th-century New York and educates the community through relevant interpretation and preservation of the only remaining historic day hotel in Manhattan.

Volunteer Tour Guide

- Guide visitors and groups through Museum period rooms, pointing out furniture and other objects and putting them in the context of 19th century social history.
- Tours typically last 60-90 minutes and include the garden if the group is interested.
- Help in Museum gift shop.

Skills

- Comfortable with the public and public speaking
- Need to be able to stand for long periods
- Ability to navigate stairs
- Must be an engaging speaker, interested in NYC history

Contact: Nancy Hinkel / nhinkel.mvhmg@cda1890.org / 917-845-1573

Cherry Kids



Website: cherrykidsinc.org/home

Cherry Kids has built a solid reputation as an ideal choice for parents looking for **after school** and **summer programs**. Their year-round program encourages character building, and is designed to help children with social skills and life skills.

Volunteer Teacher's Assistant Needed

- Assist teacher with daily classroom routine
- Keep preschoolers engaged in classroom activities
- Assist preschoolers with developing age-appropriate social skills and cognitive development
- Minimum age: 21

Time Requirement: 4 hours - Monday - Friday

Location: 413 East 120th Street, 2nd Floor, NYC

Contact: Cherry Baldwin / chebaldw@aol.com / 804-614-6554

The Fortune Society



Website: fortunesociety.org/our-services/

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

Mock Interview Volunteer

The goal of the Mock Interview Volunteer is to help the Employment Services team assist job-seeking clients as they prepare for re-entering the workforce. Volunteers, working either one-on-one or in a group setting, provide in-person assistance to clients who are in Fortune's 2-week Job Readiness Workshop.

When: Fridays, from 1pm-4pm in person

Where: The Fortune Society, 29-76 Northern Blvd, LIC, NY

Tasks:

- Meet with clients in person at our Long Island City service center location
- Act as potential employers during mock interviews
- Determine hard and soft skills
- Provide encouraging comments to clients using the feedback form
- Teach clients how to answer difficult questions related to their justice-involvement
- Create a respectful and comfortable environment for clients

Preferred Qualifications:

- Comfortable with talking about sensitive topics with our community members
- 5+ years of professional interviewing experience
- Ideal candidate would express sincere sensitivity toward the populations represented in The Fortune Society and assist them without bias
- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Bonus: Spanish fluency
- Must be 18+ of age

Must attend full 3 hour sessions 2x per month and commit a minimum of 6 months. Must show proof of completed COVID-19 vaccination (boosters not required).

To apply: **[Click here to complete an online application](#)**

After completing online application, email Ashley Otto aotto@fortunesociety.org for more information.

DOROT



Website: <https://www.dorotusa.org> Location: 171 West 85th St., NYC

DOROT serves Seniors in Manhattan and Westchester County whose social networks are shrinking and need social connections. Services offered include one-time opportunities, seasonal opportunities, friendly visiting programs, help with learning technology, and legacy projects.

Legacy Project - Help an Older Adult Create a Lasting Legacy

- Legacy project volunteers work 1-1 with DOROT client to create an oral or written history, photo album, video, or recipe collection (whatever the client selects) to record meaningful memories.
- Pairs meet for 6-8 one hour sessions in person or by Zoom.
- Volunteers should have excellent listening skills and good follow-through. Writing, videography, or photography experience is a plus.

Solo Aging Program, Aging Alone Together

Help solo agers plan for the future as an Aging Alone Together host or facilitator. Hosts welcome and foster connections between participants. Facilitators lead small group discussions.

- Aging Alone Together is a 6-week program focused on maintaining social supports, health care decision-making, end-of-life choices, aging in place, and making a move. Each weekly session lasts approximately two hours.
- Hosts and facilitators should have experience with group work and will participate in training specific to the program and their role.
- A commitment to assist with 3+ 6-week series is requested. This program is offered in person and by Zoom.

Join the Response Team

- Help with errands, go on neighborhood walks, celebrate birthdays, and more.
- Fill special requests from DOROT older adults and social workers.
- Response Team volunteers receive regular emails when new opportunities—remote and in person—arise and sign up for those that match their interests and availability. All in person activities are on Manhattan's East or West Side. A commitment to 8+ activities, typically 1 hour per activity, is required.

Intergenerational Workshop

- Build community with other age 65+ volunteers and with high school students by participating in DOROT's intergenerational Programs.
- Connect with peers and Gen Z while sharing common interests.
- Choose from workshops such as storytelling, music, art, and current events. Workshops are 1-2 hours weekly, in person at DOROT or via Zoom, and start the week of October 19th.

For In-person volunteering opportunities, proof of vaccination and one booster for COVID is required.

There are two Orientation Sessions offered per month by Zoom, one during the day and one at night—consult the website for specifics. **www.dorotusa.org/volunteer** or e-mail to **volunteers@dorotusa.org**

Need More Ideas?

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

Click here to check out our previous Caring & Connecting newsletters for more volunteer opportunities.



Volunteer Referral Center | 161 Madison Avenue, Suite 5SW, New York, NY 10016 | 212-889-4805 |
www.volunteer-referral.org | info@volunteer-referral.com

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