Share Your Gifts All Year-Round

Thanksgiving is a wonderful holiday, with time to reflect on gratitude and to share our bounty with others. Many of us have more time than money to share, and thousands of people are motivated to get out and serve, making November and December the busiest months of the year for volunteering.

You can imagine the wonderful holiday meals, parties, food baskets, and gifts provided by volunteers. Our Holiday Giving Tree alone will supply more than 13,000 gifts for older adults, people with disabilities and children – provided by generous people like you.

Because these holiday activities are so popular, there are often not enough volunteer spots to go around. Many nonprofits have more volunteers than they need now, and then not enough in January and February.

This newsletter is filled with interesting ways to serve, but if you can’t find just the right thing on just the right day, don’t be discouraged...be flexible and creative! Think beyond the traditional volunteer role that you have in mind.

Nonprofits need people behind the scenes to make phone calls, help in the office, assist with marketing plans and serve on the board. There are a thousand opportunities (and more listed every day) at VolunteerMilwaukee.org.

Still can’t find the right opportunity? Here are some other ideas:

• Bake cookies and make a friendly visit to a lonely neighbor or friend.
• Practice some songs with your musical friends and call a nursing home or senior center to entertain.
• Coordinate a collection of breakfast or high protein foods for a food pantry.
• Head up a collection of warm hats and gloves and donate them to a shelter.
• Work on a political campaign, get out the vote, or write to a legislator about a cause that’s important to you.
• Watch for ways you can help in the paper, on the news, and in the neighborhood. You’ll see lots of things to do!

Make a commitment NOW to volunteer after the first of the year, and throughout the year. The nonprofit organization and the people they serve will be very grateful.

VolunteerMilwaukee.org  414.273.7887  opportunities@volunteermilwaukee.org
Holiday Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing Opportunities November-January

**Music or Crafts**
Share your skills and provide music that our elderly and disabled clients will enjoy, or assist with craft projects. Weekday mornings or afternoons.
- **Aurora Adult Day Center** - Melissa Owen (414) 290-5494, melissa.owen@aurora.org

**Resident Activity Coordinator**
Help with senior activities including bingo, board games, crafts, baking/cooking, field trips and social events. Weekdays.
- **Family House** - Ralpheal Gordon (414) 264-6458 dantegordon@hotmail.com

**Prepare A Meal**
Plan, purchase and prepare weekend breakfast or an evening meal at the shelter for homeless men.
- **Guest House of Milwaukee** Renee Pasciak - (414) 345-3240 x 168 renee@guesthouseofmilwaukee.org

**Share Music or a Friendly Visit**
Sing, play an instrument or CDs for hospice patients, or share stories and play games to elevate the mood and reduce tension.
- **Home & Hospice Advantage** Rita Matute - (262) 746-6950 x 2658 rmatute@homeandhospiceadvantage.com

**Pre-Arrival Household Setup**
Transport furniture and household items and set up an apartment for arriving refugees. Access to a truck is helpful.
- **International Institute of Wisconsin** Tiffanie Henderson - (414) 225-6220 refugees@iiwisconsin.org

**Provide Comfort or Coordinate a Meal**
Welcome guests at our hospital hospitality house, or plan, prepare and serve a meal. Food is provided.
- **Kathy’s House** - Maggie Morse (414) 453-8290, blc756@yahoo.com

**Eyeglasses Fitting**
Help fit adults who are homeless with donated eyeglasses. Training in November/December.
- **Repairs of the Brace** MacCanon Brown - (414) 342-0582 mb.repairers5812@sbcglobal.net

**Outing and Events Guide**
Be a guide for someone attending an outing or event.
- **Vision Forward Association** (formerly Badger Association) Mary Holsten-Stepp - (414) 615-0103 m.stepp@badgerassoc.org

**One-Time Opportunities**

**Help Feed the Homeless November 2-December 23**
Assist with breakfast preparation, set up, serve and clean up. 7:00-10:30 a.m.
- **The Gathering of Southeast Wisconsin** Kasia Drake-Hames - (414) 272-4122 kdrakehames@thegatheringwis.org

**Red Kettle Bell Ringers Through December 24**
Ring the bell to encourage giving and assist with donation kettles. 2-hour shifts.
- **The Salvation Army** - Julie Beierle (414) 302-4300 x 217 julie.beierle@usc.salvationarmy.org

**Thanksgiving Food Drive November 18-19**
Unload, sort and box food items for economically challenged families.
- **Council for the Spanish Speaking** Maribel Murillo - (414) 384-3700 mmurillo@spanishcenter-milw.org

**School Food Distribution November 15, December 6**
Bag Meals for Minds food items and distribute lunches to school children. 3:00-6:30 p.m.
- **Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin** Rebecca Hahn - (414) 831-6310 rhahn@feedingamericawi.org

**Stuff the Bus Food Drive November 23**
Collect food donations at Pick ’n Save or unload and sort donations at Feeding America warehouse.
- **Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin** Jenny Mendenhall - (414) 831-6345 jmendenhall@feedingamericawi.org

**Help Feed the Homeless November 28, 30**
Assist in preparing dinner, set up, serve and clean up after dinner. 3:30-6:00 p.m.
- **The Gathering of Southeast Wisconsin** Kasia Drake-Hames - (414) 272-4122 kdrakehames@thegatheringwis.org

**Holiday Dance November 18, December 2**
Help adults with disabilities with dancing and/or serve snacks. 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- **Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin** Amy McGlothlen - (262) 953-2215 amym@eastersealswise.com

**Senior Center Holiday Decorating November 29, December 1-22**
Decorate our Wilson Senior Center for the holidays (November) or spread cheer by visiting and singing carols to our seniors any weekday morning (December).
- **Interfaith Senior Centers** Marcia Taddey - (414) 282-5566 mtaddey@interfaithmilw.org

Find more volunteer opportunities at VolunteerMilwaukee.org

Volunteer Center of Greater Milwaukee  *414.273.7887*
A Service of the Nonprofit Center
Holiday Decorators
November 30
Help our program participants decorate the office for the holidays. 9:30 a.m.-Noon.
Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin
Amy McGlothlen - (262) 953-2215
amym@eastersealswise.com

Children’s Day with Santa
December 17
Help children create holiday crafts; assist photos with Santa; wrap gifts. 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care
Delma Vega - (414) 977-5000
delmv@stanncenter.org

9th Annual Broomball Tournament - December 3
Help with registration or serve lunch. 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
Anton Timms - (414) 267-8111
antont@boysgirlsclubs.org

Holiday Decorating at Washington Park Senior Center - December 6
Put up Christmas tree, decorations and window décor to help create the holiday spirit for seniors. 9:00-11:30 a.m.
Interfaith Senior Centers
Katie Sufferling - (414) 933-2332
ksufferling@interfaithmilw.org

Holiday Dinner with Santa
December 7
Set up, serve dinner, help with crafts, be Santa’s helper or clean-up. 5:00-8:00 p.m.
Bay View Community Center
Kimberly Schubring - (414) 482-1000
kschubring@bayviewcenter.org

Youth Program Winter Wonderland
December 9-10
Welcome guests, serve meals, help Santa, lead games and crafts. Shifts a.m. or p.m.
YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee
Erik Kennedy - (414) 274-0724
ekennedy@ymcamke.org

Holiday Party Assistance
December 12
Play games with children, serve meals, help with craft activities or take photographs for transitional housing families. 5:00-8:00 p.m.
YWCA of Greater Milwaukee
Marva Johnson - (414) 442-1247
marva.johnson@ywcamilw.org

Toys and Cookies
December 12-13
Use your large vehicle to pick up gifts, or bake 2 dozen cookies, or pack and deliver cookie boxes.
Bay View Community Center - Linda Nieft
(414) 482-1000, nieft@bayviewcenter.org

Christmas Family Feast
December 20, 23, 25
Decorate, set up, assist with food prep or greet and serve Christmas dinner to feed 8,000 people. 4-hour shifts.
The Salvation Army
Joy Alexander - (414) 302-4300
joy_alexander@usc.salvationarmy.org

Holiday Lunch at Washington Park Senior Center - December 22
Prepare and serve a holiday lunch to seniors and help with clean up. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Interfaith-Senior Centers
Katie Sufferling - (414) 933-2332
ksufferling@interfaithmilw.org

McGovern Park Holiday Celebrations - December 22, 30
Decorate, prepare snacks and serve lunch to seniors, then join us for holiday fun. 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Interfaith-Senior Centers - Linda Batzler
(414) 527-0990, lbatzler@interfaithmilw.org

Food Sale Assistant
November 14-16, 18-19, December 8-9, 12-13, 16-17, 20-21
Assist with mobile market food sales throughout Milwaukee. Unload the truck, set up food and customer service.
SHARE Wisconsin - Alisha Klapps
(262) 439-4447, aklapps@sharewi.org

Lunch Preparation Assistant
November 16-17, December 14-15, January 25-26
Cook and serve lunch for warehouse volunteers in our kitchen, then clean up.

Make Food Loads
November 15-17, December 13-15, January 23-26
Pack organic produce or monthly food orders. A great opportunity for groups, teens and adults.

Count Food Loads
November 19, December 17, January 28
Count food loads to ensure accuracy and help move loads onto trucks.
SHARE Wisconsin - Bill Timken
(262) 439-4442, btimken@sharewi.org
Outdoor Work - Wheel-n-Chip Society - January 3, 10, 17, 24
Chip trails, trim bushes, mend fences or work on other maintenance projects. 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Wehr Nature Center - Jo Williams
(414) 425-8550, jo.williams@ces.uwex.edu

Holiday Party at Kelly Senior Center
January 6
Set up, serve and clean up at our festive luncheon for seniors. 1:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Interfaith Senior Centers
Jane Czarnezki - (414) 481-9611
jczarnezki@interfaithmilw.org

Read Stories, Clean or Paint
January 16
Read stories to preschool children, clean up or paint a room at a YMCA.
YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee
Erik Kennedy - (414) 274-0724
ekennedy@ymcamke.org

Fire Safety Outreach - January 16
Canvass neighborhoods and distribute fire safety information. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
American Red Cross - Veronica Carter
(414) 345-8653, carterv@wi-redcross.org

I Came, I Saw, I Baked
Week of January 16
Bake treats for out of town guests of local hospitals who are staying at Kathy’s House.
Kathy’s House - Maggie Morse
(414) 453-8290, blc736@yahoo.com

Sort Books For Kids - January 17-20
Sort, label and shelve donated books any morning or afternoon.
Next Door Foundation - Pam Edyburn
(414) 562-2929, pedyburn@nextdoormil.org

Once Upon a Time or Just Chillin’ Waukesha - January 17, 21, 28, 29
Help girls use art to tell a story; make a mask, mural or puppet; strap on snowshoes and help with snow painting.
Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast
Megan Buehler - (414) 443-3913
mbuehler@gswise.org

Dotty’s Crafters - January 25, 31
Prepare craft materials for preschool programs and special events. 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Wehr Nature Center - Jo Williams
(414) 425-8550, jo.williams@ces.uwex.edu

Little Artists Family Art Club
January 25
Qualified instructors needed to teach art to children and parents. 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Bay View Community Center
Kimberly Schubring - (414) 482-1000
kschubring@bayviewcenter.org

Winter Fest - January 29
Help with indoor or outdoor hands-on activities for families to celebrate winter.
11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Wehr Nature Center - Jo Williams
(414) 425-8550, jo.williams@ces.uwex.edu

Find more volunteer opportunities at
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Volunteer Center of Greater Milwaukee ★ 414.273.7887
A Service of the Nonprofit Center

Save the date – April 12, 2012 – for our
30th Annual Volunteer Celebration and Luncheon
This year recognizing innovative volunteers