

Holiday GUIDE 2023



CONNECT WITH A CAUSE

The Holidays are the time of the year when we give thanks and gather with family and friends. It's also a great time to remember others in the community. **Supporting a local nonprofit is a great place to start.** Consider volunteering with a nonprofit near you to help ensure that the holidays can be special for everyone. **You can find lots of ways to give back by searching our [VolunteerNow database](#).** Here you'll find both seasonal Holiday opportunities and close to 300 ongoing ways to volunteer and support local nonprofits year-round. Our unique volunteer database allows you to find opportunities that are both actionable (align with your schedule, transportation needs, and skill set) and to connect with organizations and mission areas most meaningful to you.

GIVE TIME AND ATTENTION

Can you support a community member with a home visit or a friendly call? Many local nonprofits support homebound residents with programs that make it easy for you to connect with someone who needs support. For example, **Capital Caring Health's program for Flower Delivery and Companionship for Hospice Patients:** [Learn more about that program here](#). There are also programs that allow you to provide support without leaving your home. You can become a **Hotline Counselor for Fairfax County**. This important work links callers to critical medical, legal, shelter and social services and calls can be forwarded to your cell or home phone: [Find more information on this vital program here](#).



DONATE FOOD, CLOTHING OR MONEY

Many people want to help but don't know where to give. Donating food, clothing or even money can be an easy way to contribute. Donating has never been easier. **Now you can support food insecurity in our community without shopping and delivering food through Fairfax County's virtual Stuff the Bus program:** [Find more information here to connect with food pantries online](#). Every donation counts! Your donation will help ensure that these food banks have the resources needed to support local families over the holidays.

ACTS OF KINDNESS

Every action matters! Engage in ways that feel right for you. This can mean different things to each one of us. For some, it's volunteering, for others, it's simple acts of kindness like checking in on an elderly neighbor, or maybe it means shopping locally this year to support small businesses in your community? **Doing good comes in many forms. Learn more about meaningful opportunities to engage your civic muscle with the Points of Light Civic Circle Guidebooks:** <https://www.pointsoflight.org/civic-circle/>. Here you'll find both inspiration and practical information on how to give back in ways that are most important to you.



MAKE VOLUNTEERING A FAMILY EVENT ON MLK, JR. DAY

Held on the third Monday in January, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the only federal holiday observed as a National Day of Service — a “day on, not a day off.” **Each year, Volunteer Fairfax hosts Give Together, a family-friendly volunteer event aimed at sparking volunteer spirit with young people through fun, engaging service projects.** Families come together to learn about local nonprofits, their mission and work and to complete several service projects together. Passports are stamped as projects are completed and there is a special reflection on service and MLK, Jr.'s legacy. **Join us on January 15, 2024 for this special annual event. Registration will open in early December.**

SHARE AND PROMOTE TO REACH MORE PEOPLE

Stay informed on the volunteer and donation needs of nonprofits across Fairfax County by following us on social media. “Like us” and share posts to help us amplify and meet community needs.

