

RSVP NEWS

HOLIDAY EDITION

MAKE A NEW HOLIDAY TRADITION

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The Holidays are here! Time for delicious treats, cozying up by the fire and gathering with family and friends. As you all give throughout the year, you are aware that this is not “the most wonderful time of the year” for everyone. The winter season offers plenty of ways to volunteer and give back to the community. Not only does volunteering help share the holiday love, it will also it will put an even bigger smile on your face.

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This edition is filled with ways to volunteer with family and friends to help our neighbors all thought the community. You may even want to plan your own new holiday tradition! Here are some ideas, compliments of stitch.com, to get you started:

Sponsor A Family In Need

While the holidays are meant to be merry, for some individuals they can be difficult. Some families can’t afford to give gifts to their children or even put food on the table. Fortunately, Family-to-Family allows you to sponsor a household in need through a variety of ways. Go grocery shopping for “your” family and ship the food, or even just donate money for their grocery expenses when their food stamps run out. Either way, you’ll find satisfaction in knowing that your generosity has helped a whole family find a little more joy during the holidays. Another option is to partner up with one or more friends and sponsor a family together! That way, you all can have a fun outing while grocery shopping and picking out foods to send.

Offer A Hand To The Homeless

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, over 610,000 people experience homelessness in the United States. While families are coming together under one roof during the holidays, those without a place to stay can find it a particularly difficult time. Homeless shelters offer plenty of volunteer opportunities during this winter season – serving food, building homes, donations, soup kitchens, and more.

CONT.

Serve Those Who Served

Serving the veterans who fought for our lives and safety can certainly be a rewarding experience. The VA Hospital and the newly created WNY Freedom Lounge is looking for donations or volunteers to help with various projects and transportation services dedicated to veterans .

Organize A Food Drive

As the winter season rolls around, many charitable organizations and churches run food drives in order to help families in need have meals for the holidays. Donating canned foods to a local food drive certainly makes a difference. But you can have an even greater impact by organizing your own food drive for the less fortunate. Besides, it's simple and fun!

Donate A Gift To A Child

Unfortunately, many children from low-income households don't receive gifts during the holiday season. The Toys for Tots Foundation seeks to fight this issue and help bring joy to these deserving kids. The foundation collects toys from drop-off centers across the nation and delivers them to children in need of a special gift this season. You can be the reason a child smiles on Christmas by dropping off a toy, or even get involved in the operation by volunteering locally.



Your kindness is appreciated
 All throughout the year
 And it is not just at Christmas time
 That your actions bring good cheer

We know we are so fortunate
 Here at RSVP
 To have you week in week out
 As our valued volunteer

Warm wishes for a
 Very Happy Holiday
 From all of us at Eire County RSVP!

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Amherst Meals on Wheels, Inc.
370 John James Audubon Pkwy
(716) 636-3065



Daychair: These volunteers are responsible for putting participant labels on meal bags and lids and organizing the bags and lids in the delivery order. They also load coolers with the cold meals and give hot meal bags to the appropriate route drivers and deliverers.

Hours: 8:15 – 11:15

Packers: Volunteers are responsible for making sandwiches, scooping salads, fruits, puddings, packaging bread or rolls depending on daily menu items. After all items are prepared and chilled they are packed into the cold meal bags. Volunteers also provide assistance with the packaging of the hot meals.

Hours: 8:15 – 11:15

Drivers and Deliverers: These volunteers work in teams of two to deliver the cold and hot meals to the participants. They work from a route list to deliver meals to people living in a region of the Town of Amherst. Participant contact information and a route map are provided.

Hours: 10:30 – 1:00

Schedulers: Volunteers assist Volunteer Coordinator with finding substitute drivers and deliverers when the regularly scheduled volunteers are not available. Calls are made from home when it is convenient for the Scheduler and the replacements are communicated to the Volunteer Coordinator to put on the “official” schedule. A list of substitute’s names and phone numbers is provided.

Hours: Set your own

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

University Presbyterian Church Food Pantry
 3330 Main Street
 Buffalo, NY 14214
 (716) 836-7660

Volunteers work on a Tuesday or Thursday from Noon - 4:00pm, one afternoon a month (or as many as you wish). Volunteers work with 3 or 4 other volunteers guiding clients through the "store" to help them choose their groceries. Other duties include greeting and checking in clients and stocking shelves.

Springville Concord Elder Network (SCENE)
 40 Commerce Drive
 Springville, NY
 (716)592-2768

Data Entry: Volunteer in the office or from your home to input survey results. This is a short term opportunity.



HOLIDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Buffalo City Mission
 100 E. Tupper St., Buffalo
 (716) 854-8181 x419 or x408.

Hambone Express

Telephone Receptionists: Help schedule incoming call requests for the delivery of meals to those in need in the community.

December 12,14,16 from 9:30am to 12:00noon and on December 7,8,9,12,13,14,16 from

1 :00pm to 3:30pm. These volunteers would need some computer experience and be comfortable on the telephones to take the meal reservations from our community in need for Christmas Delivery.

Delivery teams: This volunteer opportunity is for individuals or groups who would like to help deliver meals to the community on Christmas Day. Every 15 minutes between the hours of 8AM and 10:45AM, over 135 teams will be deployed, delivering a total of 4,000 meals. We Need Your Help! Bring a friend and/or family member and join us in this time of giving.

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Salvation Army
960 Main St, Buffalo,
[\(716\) 883-9800](tel:7168839800)

Holiday Party Help: 5 volunteers are needed for a Party on Friday, December 9th (8am-2pm)

8:30 -9:30- serve breakfast
10-11:30- need a bingo caller and individuals to pass out prizes
12-1- serve lunch
1:30-2 prepare dessert bar and help Santa pass out gifts

Boxes of Love Headquarters
318 Breckenridge Street Buffalo, NY 14213 (Near Grant Street)
(716) 854-1001.

Help Prepare Boxes of Love Gift Wrapping & Making Grocery Bags:

Tuesday December 6th 4 PM – 9 PM

Wednesday December 7th 4 PM – 9 PM

Friday December 9th 10 AM – 1 PM

Tuesday December 13th 4 PM – 9 PM

Wednesday December 14th 4 PM – 9 PM

Thursday December 15th 4 PM – 9 PM



Help Distribute Boxes of Love:

Friday, December 9 - 2:30 PM
Frederick Douglass 234 Jefferson Ave Buffalo, NY 14204

Saturday, December 10 - 12:00 PM
Belle Center 104 Maryland Street Buffalo, NY 14201

Sunday, December 11 - 5:30 PM
Stuyvesant Apartments 245 Elmwood Ave Buffalo, NY 14222

Help Distribute Boxes of Love (Cont.):

Friday, December 16 - 5:00 PM

Buffalo Dream Center 286 Lafayette Ave Buffalo, NY 14213

Saturday, December 17 - 12:00 PM

Buffalo Dream Center 286 Lafayette Ave Buffalo, NY 14213

Monday, December 19 - 3:00 PM

Magdalene Project 1910 Falls Street Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Tuesday, December 20 - 5:00 PM

BDC Outreach Center 437 Masten Avenue Buffalo, NY 14209

Wednesday, December 21 - 7:00 PM

Christmas Outreach to the Homeless

Meet at the park across from the downtown bus station.

On North Division near Oak Street

Thursday, December 22 - 2:00 PM

West Buffalo Charter School 113 Lafayette Ave Buffalo, NY 14213



Serve Christmas Dinners:

Buffalo, NY Saturday, December 24 at 1:00 PM Buffalo Dream Center 286 Lafayette Avenue Buffalo, NY 14213

Niagara Falls, NY Thursday, December 22 at 2:00 PM Magdalene Project 1910 Falls Street Niagara Falls, NY 14303

Camp Good Days & Special Times

Project taking Place at Walden Galleria Mall—Lord & Taylor Inside Mall Entrance

(716) 206-0709

Volunteers are needed now till 12/23 to cover 2.5-3-hour shifts at the Walden Galleria Mall, selling Kazoos and Holiday ornaments, that were painted by our campers, to mall shoppers. It's a lot of fun and will get you (and your group) into the holiday spirit! Your volunteer service will help us continue to offer FREE programs to children and families affected by cancer. We have several shift openings! Volunteers under age 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

We wish you all a very happy and safe Holiday! Thank you for another year of your dedication. We wish you a new year filled with peace, joy, and the same happiness you bring to the world.

Pat and Carrie