

Harvard Serves Everywhere

VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING

Volume 1 - May 8, 2020

Harvard Serves Everywhere is a pilot program that connects students with virtual volunteer opportunities. If you would like to publicize a virtual volunteer opportunity out to the Harvard community, take two minutes to [list it here](#). We plan to send one more update later this month before resuming virtual volunteer updates again in the fall semester.

Harvard-Based Opportunities

- 1) **Concordium** is an e-support intervention that pairs socially isolated seniors with young adults in order to foster companionship. Conversations are unscripted, as per your schedule, and volunteers will go through basic training. Though you are offering your time to help brighten the day of these seniors, we hope that you also gain a lot from this experience. We, ourselves, have found that we have gotten as much out of our relationships with seniors as we have put in. From advice, to stories, to even apple pie recipes, seniors have a wide range of information and knowledge to share with us. For more information, contact Anagha Kumar at anaghakumar@college.harvard.edu or visit tinyurl.com/theconcordium.
- 2) Harvard has formed a **Coronavirus Visualization Team** that is working to show objective statistics from reliable sources on what has been and what will be most impacted, provide help to organizations fighting on the frontlines, and develop data-driven policy proposals. For more information, contact Lucas Chu at lucaschu@college.harvard.edu or visit <https://scholar.harvard.edu/cvt/about>.
- 3) The **Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic** is doing some comprehensive tracking of federal, state, and local policies related to the food system during the COVID-19 pandemic and could use some student volunteers to help with the tracking and potentially with some analysis and write up of results. If interested, please contact Erika Dunyak at edunyak@law.harvard.edu.

Education

- 1) **CovEd** is a community of undergraduates, postgraduates, students, and educators from colleges/universities across the U.S. who serve as mentors for K-12 students in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, visit <https://www.coved.org/>.
- 2) **EduMate NYC** is a group of college students seeking to support New York City public school students in this time of need by connecting them with free, virtual tutoring. They focus on helping students from low-income, underrepresented, and vulnerable communities. For more information, visit <https://students.edumatenyc.org>.

Public Health

- 1) **American Red Cross** is seeking blood donations as supplies are critically low across the country. Find your blood drive at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>.

Immigrant, Refugee, and Human Rights Advocacy

- 1) **U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants** is seeking volunteers to tutor English and provide professional development training--both to be conducted online. Volunteers can choose to do either or both. For online English tutoring, this is a pilot project that is tentatively starting with online Volunteer Orientation and Training on Monday, May 11. Following it, you will be matched with a pre-literate or literate student or small group to facilitate lesson plans written by our ELL instructor. The medium of instruction to be used is WhatsApp, an online communication platform. The minimum time commitment is 1.5 hours/week, or 3 sessions/week at 30 minutes/session. For online professional development training, the volunteer presenter will assist newly resettled refugees on their job seeking. To name a few activities, they will be given presentations (on topics such as job interview tips and money management) to follow, assist with resume writing or completing job applications, and conduct mock interviews to shake those nervous jitters away. The medium of instruction is undetermined as of now, but it will be online for the meantime. Interpretation services are also available to ensure understanding. There is a flexible time commitment for this opportunity. Please contact volunteer@uscri-desmoines.org for more information.
- 2) **International Rescue Committee** is seeking virtual volunteers to support their Digital Access Project and their Refugee Empowerment Volunteer program. For more information, visit <https://www.rescue.org/volunteer/remote-volunteer-opportunities>.

- 3) **AsylumConnect** is seeking a web developer to help build out a tech resource platform designed for those fleeing persecution due to sexual orientation or gender identity. They are seeking volunteers who are able to devote 5-10 hours per week toward this project. For more information, visit <https://asylumconnect.org/position/web-developer-apply/>.

Environmental Advocacy

- 1) **350.org** supports climate advocacy movements around the world. They work to connect volunteers with local movements. For more information, visit <https://350.org/get-involved/>.
- 2) **Sierra Club** is seeking virtual volunteers for a number of communications-focused environmental advocacy projects across the U.S. For more information, visit <https://clubvolunteer.org/volunteer>.

Supply Drives

- 1) **Feeding America** is organizing volunteers to help with food collection and meal delivery. To find ways to support your local food bank, visit <https://www.feedingamerica.org/take-action/volunteer>.
- 2) **Meals on Wheels** continues to deliver meals to vulnerable people and they are looking for on-call volunteers. Volunteer shifts typically take about an hour between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on weekdays. For more information, visit: <https://meals-on-wheels.com/how-you-can-help-sign-up-to-be-an-on-call-volunteer-driver/>.

Crisis Response

- 1) **Crisis Text Line** is seeking volunteers to respond to crisis situations across the United States. For more information, visit <https://www.crisistextline.org/become-a-volunteer/>.
- 2) **RAINN** is seeking volunteers to support the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline. This hotline provides live, secure, anonymous crisis support to the growing number of people who prefer communicating online through a simple instant message format, giving those affected by sexual assault a safe place to receive support. For more information, visit <https://rainn.org/volunteer>.

Technical and Creative Support

- 1) **United Nations Volunteers** offers a variety of ways for volunteers to use writing, design, research, and technical skills to support organizations around the

world. For more information, visit <https://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en/opportunities>.

Voter Engagement

- 1) Join the **Harvard Votes Challenge** team and promote voting on campus and in your home community. If you want to schedule a training, contact Akhila Yalvigi at ayalvigi@college.harvard.edu.
- 2) **Turnout Nation** is seeking volunteers to increase voter turnout. They are seeking virtual organizers, data analysts, and volunteers with computer science backgrounds. For more information, visit <https://www.turnoutnation.org/volunteer-with-us>.

Connect With Your Mutual Aid Network

Find your local mutual aid network through **Mutual Aid Hub** to meet an immediate need in your home community. For more information, visit <https://www.mutualaidhub.org/>.