COVID-19 & Virtual Volunteer Opportunities

COVID-19-RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

- **Skills-based Volunteering** is also something to consider. Currently, nonprofits need to divert their resources to the rising needs of the community; volunteers with particular skills can provide them with infrastructure support and capacity – whether it's moving forward a technical or functional project that would otherwise move to the back burner or supporting their work handling the crisis directly. This is a time when skilled volunteers are needed the most and a great way to continue to engage with the community when traditional, in–person volunteering becomes less viable.
  - [Catchafire](#)
  - [Compass](#)
  - [Skills for Change](#)
  - [Sky's the Limit](#)
  - [Taproot+](#)
  - [Tech Soup](#)

- **United Way** is recruiting for help:
  - As we navigate the COVID 19 crisis, there are a lot of needs that are becoming apparent. People are asking [what they can do to help](#). United Way is currently collecting information from volunteers who are able to help in the following areas: childcare, student tutoring, food assistance/delivery. They also have opportunities for families to do at home as we practice social distancing. Please register to let United Way know how you can help. As opportunities arise, you will be contacted. You can find your local United Way [here](#).

- **United Way Maryland**
  - The United Way 211 Maryland Helpline is getting an UNPRECEDENTED number of calls from people who are worried, who are concerned, and who need our help to connect to vital resources. The 211 team works 24/7 and is answering the thousands of calls that are coming in related to COVID-19.
  - You can help. They're looking for social workers, crisis managers, counselors, and/or those with backgrounds in human services who can volunteer to answer high-volume calls and direct people to resources.
  - There will be a virtual training and all volunteering can be done remotely. Volunteers must have access to their own computer, high-speed internet (computer must be hard wired into your modem via ethernet cable) and a headset with microphone (which can be provided, if necessary).
  - [REGISTER HERE](#) and you will receive additional information.

- [Business Volunteers Maryland](#) has links to many volunteer opportunities

- Due to an outpouring of generous responses to the request for sewn masks, Deaconess created a database to help connect individuals and companies making masks to those organizations needing masks.
- Maryland Unites provides opportunities to help in the state

- Serve Illinois is the central source for Illinois residents to volunteer and how to stay safe while doing so

- Giving DuPage is the volunteer portal for volunteer events in DuPage County, IL

- Make Masks has all the information you need to help make fabric masks that will be donated to healthcare providers.

- My Block My Hood My City in Chicago is looking for volunteers to do wellness check-in calls for seniors. We will provide info for five seniors and a wellness survey to work through. Click here to sign up.

EXISTING VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ANIMALS

The Friendship Pet Pantry in Chicago is looking for volunteers to help Identify underserved populations in need of pet food pantry resources and, with other pantry volunteers, consider how best to meet their needs.

The Anti-Cruelty Society , located in Chicago, is helping volunteers make a difference from home! If you're a volunteer looking to help animals in the community, consider joining the Pet Patrol team, which they recruit for on a seasonal basis. This group of animal advocates helps them review and reach out to people posting about animals for sale on Craigslist. This is a great special projects team to join if you're interested in making a big impact in the Chicago pet community. You can also craft DIY toys to donate to the organization.

DISASTER

The American Red Cross always has needs for volunteers to act as digital advocates. Volunteers can help generate donations to the Red Cross while shopping for themselves online or by setting up online fundraisers. Volunteers can also help spread awareness by repost
their social media content.

Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) Key data needed by humanitarian workers addressing critical needs during a crisis, such as a natural or man-made disaster, as well as data needed by other development workers and researchers, is often trapped in PDF documents. Volunteers extract this data into a database so that it can be easily found, helping anyone to visualize trend lines across regions or countries and compare this data to other indicators.

Humanity Road volunteers use Internet and mobile communications technology to collect,

verify and route information online during disasters. They provide public safety information as well as directing the public to governmental and aid agencies that are providing assistance for the disaster. Each year, disasters around the world kill nearly 100,000 and affect or displace 200 million people. Many of the places where these disasters occur are literally 'missing' from any map and first responders lack the information to make valuable decisions regarding relief efforts.

Missing Maps is an open, collaborative project in which you can help to map areas where humanitarian organizations are trying to meet the needs of vulnerable people.

ENTREPRENUERS AROUND THE WORLD

Bpeace is a U.S. nonprofit that recruits business professionals to help entrepreneurs in countries emerging from war to create and expand businesses and employment (particularly for women). Volunteers need a particular area of expertise regarding business development or project management and pay a monthly membership fee.

Cherie Blair Foundation Online Mentors Online mentors are successful businesswomen in the U.K., and mentor online women entrepreneurs in developing countries.

Grow Movement recruits online volunteer business consultants from around the world to work via Skype, phone and email to empower African entrepreneurs in Uganda, Rwanda and Malawi, helping them with business skills, enabling them to run their organizations more effectively, increase profitability and create jobs in their communities.

GENERAL SKILLS

Doe Network Devoted to assisting official law enforcement agencies in solving cold cases concerning unexplained disappearances and unidentified Victims from North America, Australia and Europe. Online volunteers also help translate documents into various languages.

Mozilla/Firefox Did you know that this web browser is produced by a nonprofit organization? "We believe in the power and potential of the Internet and want to see it thrive for everyone, everywhere." Mozilla involves hundreds of online volunteers, and "you don't have to be a C++ guru (or even know what that means!)" to contribute as an online volunteer.

The OpenMRS community is a worldwide network of volunteers from many different backgrounds including technology, health care, and international development. Together, they are working to build the world's largest and most flexible technology platform to support delivery of health care in some of the most challenging environments on the planet.

The SIFMA Foundation is dedicated to fostering knowledge and understanding of the financial markets for individuals of all backgrounds. Their InvestWrite program is an innovative national writing competition for students in 4th through 12th grade. InvestWrite

integrates critical thinking and language arts components that help reinforce the financial decision-making skills that students learn in the classroom. Volunteers will act as judges to help recognize students throughout the nation for their newly acquired investment knowledge. The program is currently seeking volunteer for APRIL 2020.

Wikipedia, the largest online volunteering initiative in the world. To volunteer, you simply find an article you have some knowledge of and add information to the entry. Note that Wikipedia now strongly encourages all additions to any entry be attributed to a verifiable source. Available in Spanish, French, German, Polish, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese and more!

The Zooniverse is the world's largest and most popular platform for people-powered research. This research is made possible by volunteers. With its wide-ranging and ever-expanding suite of projects, covering many disciplines and topics across the sciences and humanities, there's a place for anyone and everyone to explore, learn and have fun in the Zooniverse. To volunteer with Zooniverse, just go to the Projects page, choose what interests you and get started.

HEALTH, WELL-BEING & EMPOWERMENT FOR ALL

7 Cups is an on-demand emotional health service and online therapy provider. Become an online listener. 7 Cups provides free, 24/7 emotional support to millions via online chat. We want to make sure nobody has to face their problems alone. Having someone like you to listen can be all it takes to make a real difference.

Bridge Communities is a dynamic, grassroots, non-profit organization committed to transforming the lives of homeless families through partnering with talented, resourceful individuals and groups in our community. Their program of housing, mentoring and empowering families focuses on moving them towards a goal of self-sufficiency. Please contact us at corporaterelations@exeloncorp.com if you are interested in learning more.

Amnesty Decoders is operated by Amnesty International, this network of digital volunteers helps conduct research into global human rights violations. Volunteers have used their phones and computers to find evidence of drone strikes, and flag abusive tweets to women politicians in India.

Art with a Heart has images to download and print – all you need to do is color away! Sharpies are best! Color the images and then return them to Ariel Nathan, Constellation, 1310 Point Street, 19th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21231 and they will be incorporated into a community created, colorful piece of art!" (Ideal for individuals and virtual groups)

Communities In Schools (Chicago) identifies and mobilizes existing community resources and fosters cooperative partnerships for the benefit of students and their families. It serves as a bridge between schools and businesses, faith groups, and other nonprofit agencies, identifying and mobilizing local resources to provide a range of services such as: mentoring, tutoring, health care, summer and after-school programs, family counseling, and service learning. This organization has its footprint across the country.

Be My Eyes is a platform that allows volunteer helpers from around the world to "be the eyes" of someone visually impaired via live video chat.

Chicago Debates is a nonprofit that partners with Chicago Public Schools to establish and support competitive policy debate programs in schools throughout the city. There are currently over 90 schools that participate in debate, including middle and high schools. You can volunteer as a virtual tournament judge.

Binky Patrol is a national non-profit 100% volunteer organization with no paid staff. They provide new, soft, handmade, washable blankets to children in need from newborn to 17 years of age. Because these blankets go to critically ill children and all blankets must be new, fragrance and smoke-free, with no pet hair or dander.

Boys & Girls Club of America has a Pass A Note initiative where you can take a few minutes to encourage and inspire Club kids with a few words to inspire kids while school is out.

Chemo Angels is looking for Card Angels (longer commitment) who send their assigned patient at least one card, letter, or note a week.

Crisis Text Line is a free 24/7 national crisis-intervention and counseling service conducted exclusively through SMS text. Volunteers use the nonprofit's web-based platform to provide emotional support to texters who are dealing with a wide range of issues– bullying, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, and more. Prospective volunteers go through screening and a lengthy self-paced training. Once completed, volunteers are required to sign up to take one four-hour shift each week for a year.

DoSomething empowers young people to enact social change both online or off. Volunteer online through social media campaigns and by crowdsourcing community solutions for issues such as mental health, bullying, environmental protection, etc.

Eldercare Lifetime Connections Program works with volunteers to facilitate telephone activities for older adults living at home in Central Texas.

Live Your Dream offers flexible online action opportunities for you to advocate, raise awareness, and participate in a global movement to empower women and girls.

Meals on Wheels Chicago has a Love Notes Program where volunteers to write notes to the elderly and disabled recipients of MOWC. These notes are included in the delivery of meals to seniors.

The Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) is the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1.800.656.HOPE and the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline. Online volunteers who staff the online hotline must complete an in-person training course facilitated by RAINN, complete a background check, and be on time for shifts.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is looking for volunteers to Send a free online card to the kids of St. Jude. Choose an e-card featuring layouts inspired by patient art. Then, select a pre-written message, or write your own!

TED Translators are a global community of volunteers who subtitle TED Talks and enable the inspiring ideas in them to crisscross languages and borders. Bring TED into your language! Join the global community of volunteers.

Trevor Project is an online, social networking community for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth ages 13-24, and their friends and allies. Online volunteers monitor the TrevorSpace site in an effort to maintain a safe online space for young LGBTQ people. The 40-hour training for online volunteers is provided quarterly.

Help to bring personalized voices to people with speech impediments or who have lost their voice! VocaliD is aimed at designing personalized synthetic voices so that people with severe speech impairments can use a voice that fits their body and personality. Share your voice and help drive innovation in voice technology through VocaliD.

LITERACY

BookShare.Org offers thousands of books to people with reading disabilities. As an online volunteer you can either scan books to be added to the collection or edit books that have been scanned.

Dialog to Learn connects low-income elementary school students with local professionals to improve their reading and writing skills. As a Digital Buddy, volunteers commit to writing 1-2 emails every week (10-20 minutes) for the duration of a cycle (8-10 weeks minimum).

Distributed Proofreaders These online volunteers turn public domain books into online books, mostly for Project Gutenberg. Many volunteers work on a book at the same time and proofread each other's work.

IntoBooks is an online mentoring program where students and their adult mentors read the same books and then discuss them online. It's part of the ePals program.

Learning Ally Many audiobooks are created with text-to-speech software that scans text from computer files and uses synthesized human voices to read the text aloud. However, illustrations or figures used throughout the books are not included. Online volunteers type those figure descriptions into the text, enabling students to receive ALL book material, not just the text.

LibriVox is a nonprofit that coordinates online volunteers to record audio versions of public domain books.

Translators Without Borders recruits volunteers who want to translate texts into different languages for NGOs and nonprofits.

Career Village An online platform where students ask career questions that are answered by people working, or that have worked, in that field. All you need is a LinkedIn account to start helping students become better informed about the career decisions they are facing.

icouldbe.org is meant to connect the energy and expertise of mentors from various professions with the most vulnerable students in the U.S. educational system.

iMentor matches every student in our high schools with a committed college-educated mentor, equipped to guide that young person on their journey to college graduation.

Infinite Family, an online mentoring program matching adults and families in the U.S. with at risk, impoverished children in South Africa.

MicroMentor matches small business owners with business mentors. Volunteer mentors should have three years of business ownership experience, or five years of management experience, or several years of professional experience in a specialized skill. The program is part of MercyCorps.

Lawrence Hall is a community-based service agency embracing at-risk youth and their families by instilling resilience, healing and changing lives for good. They are in need of youth mentors.

MentorNet, a division of Great Minds in STEM (GMiS), strategically matches STEM students and professionals in compatible online mentoring relationships.

UPchieve is a free, online platform that connects low-income high school students in the US with live, volunteer coaches (that's you!) any time they need it. The volunteer experience was designed to be ultra-flexible, so you can help students from anywhere with an internet connection: whether that be from your desk at work or from the comfort of your couch!

TECHNOLOGY & ENGINEERING

Chicago Student Invention Convention is a free invention education curriculum and program reaching 5,000 Kindergarten-8th grade students from 60 schools, youth centers, and library branches. We seek invention judges to join us online on Saturday, April 25th to provide feedback and scores for students' original inventions.

Volunteers are a key element of NPower's program success. As part of preparing our students for a career in technology, we engage tech professionals throughout our program to share their knowledge, experience, insight, and advice. Interacting and learning from professionals in the industry is a crucial part to our students becoming well rounded

professionals. Connect with NPower students in-person or virtually, in small or large group settings, and for short or long-term projects. NPower can create a customized volunteer experience suited to your team's needs that readies each student for career success.

Crisis Commons / CrisisCamp mobilizes technology volunteers to work together to create disaster response and learning events with volunteers, who collaborate to aggregate crisis data, develop prototype tools and train people on how to use technology tools to aid in disaster response. Online volunteers need to be experienced, credible IT experts and need to sign up before a crisis.

FOSS Manuals online volunteers produce free manuals about Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in their own language. To date, they have completed 120+ manuals in more than 30 languages, such as French, English, Farsi, Dutch, and Finnish.

Geeks Without Bounds is an international coalition of passionate problem solvers working together using technology to assist people whose survival is threatened due to violence, neglect, or catastrophe. Online volunteers need to be experienced, credible IT experts and need to establish a relationship with this organization before a crisis.

TechSoup has a series of discussion groups where nonprofits ask questions about technology. You can log into the community at any time and try to help nonprofits and volunteers with questions about software, databases and more. TechSoup also needs volunteers to transcribe its most popular archived webinars.

The Coding School empowers the next generation of leaders and problem solvers through code. The organization is run completely by volunteers. From our recruitment team to our grants & partnership team, your time and skills are invaluable to maximize our impact. While we have volunteer opportunities for all interested, at present, we would greatly benefit from law and accounting expertise.

VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY

American Corporate Partners provides veterans with mentoring through ACP AdvisorNet – an online network of volunteer advisors who commit to sharing their business expertise and advice with military veterans and their immediate family. Veterans can post questions related to employment, career development and small business

Hire Heroes USA works to create job opportunities for U.S. military veterans and their spouses. Most of their volunteers participate remotely helping with mock interviews, career counseling, or providing guidance on job searches, preparing resumes and filling out applications.

Operation Gratitude works to forge strong bonds between Americans and their Military and First Responder heroes through volunteer service projects, acts of gratitude, and meaningful engagements in communities nationwide. Virtual volunteers can write letters and make paracord bracelets and other items.

ARCHIVES, GENEALOGY & MAPS

Ancestry.com's World Archives Program (AWAP) provides free software to its volunteers to access already-scanned images and transcribe them into a common, publicly-searchable database. The Ancestry World Archives Project's online volunteers use their passion for genealogy to help others discover their roots.

The National Map Corps (TNM Corps), part of the U.S. Department of the Interior, asks citizen volunteers to collect data on structures and use it to add new features, remove obsolete points and correct data for The National Map database.

OpenStreetMap is a free editable map of the whole world. It is made by online volunteers. Anyone can contribute to its geographical database.

Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens is an online database of thousands of images in the Smithsonian's Collections Search Center. By correctly tagging an image regarding the types of plants in the image, the structures, objects, people, or any details you notice, you help make that image more useful to professional catalogers in museums, archives and libraries.

The Smithsonian Digital Volunteer program engages the public in making its collections more accessible. Digital volunteers transcribe historic documents and collection records to facilitate research and preserve these valuable assets for future generations.

Map Rectifier Project by the New York Public Library. This geo-rectification toolkit creates layered digital maps utilizing all the information available about a certain geography from sources as varied as Google's satellite imagery and centuries-old fire insurance land maps. Volunteers index information that records how many floors a building once had or what a street was named at different points in time, and the resulting layered digital map shows the aggregate results.

The Field Museum in Chicago is offering virtual opportunities to its corporate members. Make an impact from the comfort of your own home! Corporate group volunteers are trained to transcribe scientific labels from botanical specimens using an online citizen science platform. Help the Field Museum to make its collection of more than 40 million artifacts and specimens available for research and around the globe. Volunteers will also enjoy interactions with Field scientists while they work! Please reach out to corporaterelations@exeloncorp.com if you are interested.

SEARCH ENGINES FOR VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNTIES

All for Good is Points of Light's database of thousands of volunteer opportunities, many of which can be completed remotely. To find virtual opportunities, make sure to put "virtual" in your keyword search under "More options" when searching.

Create the Good is an initiative by AARP to help its members get connected with nonprofits and causes. Anyone can use the site to find virtual volunteering activities in support of a variety of organizations. Enter either "virtual" or "online" in the keyword search, chose any for distance and date and leave your postal code blank.

Crowd4U is a micro volunteering and crowdsourcing platform, an all-academic open and generic platform for "Crowdsourcing for Good," providing a task pool for microtasks for academic and public purposes. Crowd4U also serves as a testbed for developing advanced crowdsourcing technologies.

Idealist has many volunteer tasks listed on its site that can be completed online.

Microvolunteeringday This site is designed to provide opportunities that can be done from anywhere and online. It also has a downloadable activity pack and social media guide.

United Nations Volunteers' online platform connects volunteers with organizations working for sustainable human development. Volunteers contribute their skills online to help organizations address development challenges.

Global Citizen is a movement of engaged citizens who are using their collective voice to end extreme poverty by 2030. Global Citizens learn about the systemic causes of extreme poverty, take action on those issues, and earn rewards for their actions — as part of a global community committed to lasting change.

VolunteerMatch uses their website to bring good people and causes together. Search through their database of thousands of volunteer opportunities and be sure to look for those opportunities that are virtual.

Jersey Cares increases civic engagement in New Jersey by coordinating volunteer opportunities to address community-identified needs.