

April 7, 2020

Volunteers and Donations Needed During COVID-19



Giving Support

During this difficult time, we are being reminded of how connected we are and how important it is to take care of one another. This crisis is continuing to impact so many individuals and families in ways that could not be prepared for. Despite the extremely challenging circumstances, it is important to look at the numerous individuals and organizations that are working diligently to serve community members that are being impacted by COVID-19 and its effects. These organizations are now learning to adapt to serving larger amounts of people and are needing support to continue helping during this time. If you are healthy and able, think about volunteering your time or donating resources to an organization that is working to fight the effects of this crisis, thank you for reading.

Volunteer or Donate

Food Banks and Food Pantries

Food Banks throughout the country are working extremely hard to provide our families with food security during this uncertain time. They are needing to serve more individuals, require new measures of sanitation, and use more protective equipment to serve the most amount of people in the safest ways possible. Food Banks and Food Pantries are in need of resources and volunteers to continue helping our community.

[The Northern Illinois Food Bank](#)

[Neighborhood Food Pantries](#)

[Loaves & Fishes](#)

Donate Blood

Blood centers are experiencing a significant drop in donations during this time. In order to continue filling the blood supply needed for procedures and medical services, blood donations are in high demand.

There are many locations available to donate. You are able to [search them by location through the American Association of Blood Banks website.](#)

Shelters

It is important to take care of some of our most vulnerable populations and ensure that they are safe during this time. There are multiple organizations that are working tirelessly to serve these individuals and provide essential resources, shelter, and care. They are in need of resources to continue working for our neighbors.

[Hesed House](#) a shelter for the homeless.

[Mutual Ground](#) a domestic violence shelter.

[Family Shelter Services](#) a domestic violence shelter.

Personal Protective Equipment

Our healthcare workers are putting their lives on the line every single day by being at the forefront of this fight.

If you are a business or individual that is able to donate PPE, [please visit this website](#) or please email PPE.donations@illinois.gov.

Seniors

It is critical that we protect our seniors during this time. There are organizations out there serving to ensure our seniors have access to necessary resources. If you are unable to donate or volunteer, please check in on senior family and neighbors. Connection is absolutely necessary.

[Meals on Wheels](#)

Mutual Aid Groups are also great ways of connecting directly with those who are in need. Such as [Chicago Suburbs Mutual Aid](#) and [Raising Kane County](#).



[Raising Kane](#) is a local organization that has organized different volunteer and donation opportunities in Kane County serving different populations.



[Serve Illinois](#) for opportunities to volunteer or donate during the COVID-19 crisis.

Volunteer from Home

If you would rather do your volunteering from home, there are many important options available for you.

Donate. The long term economic impact for our communities both in the private and nonprofit sector has the potential to be severe. You can support these businesses and nonprofits financially through donations.

Donate to the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund: The United Way of Illinois and the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations, in collaboration with the Office of Governor JB Pritzker, are establishing the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund to raise funds from individual, corporate, and foundation donors to be disbursed to nonprofit organizations across the state serving individuals, families and communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here to donate.](#)

Other Important Actions

Complete the census: The census is now available online. Census data directs billions of dollars of funding into communities each year, and Illinois is at risk of losing significant funding and other impacts. Do your part while you're at home and be counted!

Check in on your neighbors through call or text: As more and more people experience extended isolation, call and check in on your neighbors. Write an "old fashioned letter" to someone. It's important that we stay connected while practising social distancing. In fact, if you are anxious or overwhelmed, take action; build connections. It will go a long way in reducing stress.