



NonPartisan Coalition

- Strengthening Communities
- Advocating for Government that Serves the Community

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Please visit our web site at:

www.NonPartisanCoalition.net

Contact us at:

NonPartisanCoalitionNPC@gmail.com

Taking Care

With extraordinary times comes the need for extraordinary measures. Many people have difficult choices to face. Community leaders need to balance their desire to help others with the reality that their own needs may need to come first right now.

For those that are still able and willing to reach out and help others, there are many ways you can help from home.

Donate to: Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc.

<https://www.laureladvocacy.org> “We are here for the families and individuals who will undoubtedly be needing extra support with basic needs as we navigate this public health crisis.”

Donate to Beltsville Adventist Community Center: <http://www.beltsvillesda.org/bacc>, “If you are struggling with food, rent, job loss or need emergency help we are here for you. The Beltsville Adventist Community Center (BACC) exists to help those in the Beltsville community and beyond take the next step towards financial independence.”

Donate to Capital Area Food Bank: <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org>, Each year they source and distribute food for over 30 million meals across the DMV.

Donate to DC Area Diaper Bank: <https://greaterdcdiaperbank.org> “We’re on a mission to empower families and individuals throughout D.C., MD, and VA by providing a reliable and adequate source of basic baby needs and personal hygiene products.”

Board of Directors Report

- The Board of Directors met on Feb. 29th. It was the unanimous decision of the Board that the name of our organization needs to reflect how we have grown and how we have narrowed our focus. We are working on finding the right words to show our focus on communities.
- Suggestions can be submitted to:

NonPartisanCoalitionNPC@gmail.com

Web Site- Check it Out!

- Thanks to Carol Relitz our web site has undergone a big change! We are truly becoming a place where community members can find resources. Please visit our web site at:
www.NonPartisanCoalition.net
- Submit articles for our web site or newsletter to:
NonPartisanCoalitionNPC@gmail.com

Our Leadership Team

Carol Jenkins- founder

Jeff Jenkins- co-founder

Anita Brown- recording secretary

Joseph Jones- vice president

Carol Relitz- web administrator

Ways to Volunteer From Home

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/living/story/virtual-volunteering-ways-volunteer-home-time-coronavirus-69741410>

LIVING March 24, 2020

Ways to volunteer from home and how to help food banks during coronavirus

With the novel coronavirus keeping many at home due to self isolation, many across the country have felt many emotions over the past few days. And while worrying over the constant change from the pandemic, many are also worrying about others, but feel a sense of hopelessness in how they can help.

But Points of Light, the world's largest organization dedicated to volunteer service, has launched a new way for people to help others in volunteer work all from the comfort of their own homes. With many nonprofits struggling to meet the demand for their services due to the lack of volunteers, "Points of Light" gives people the chance to virtually extend a hand to those in need and launched a new online clearinghouse on their website for volunteering opportunities in many places across the country which you can search by location. Volunteer opportunities include "Self-Help," which connects isolated seniors through shared interests like music and art and the "Crisis Text Line," which offers text-based counseling to help with coronavirus-related stress.

Here are a few more examples that many can choose from at home:

Crisis Text Line

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 sign-up to

take one four-hour shift each week for a year.

BookShare.Org

Book Share 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.

Translators Without Borders

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

Be My Eyes

Be My Eyes is a free mobile app with one main goal: to make the world more accessible for blind and low-vision people. The app connects blind and low-vision individuals with sighted volunteers from all over the world through a live video call.

Catchafire

Catchafire uses their website to match professionals with nonprofits based on their skills, cause interest and time availability. You'll find tons of skills-based volunteering opportunities, many of which can be completed virtually.

Smithsonian Digital Volunteer program

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.

Amnesty Decoders

Amnesty Decoders is an innovative platform for volunteers around the world to use their computers or phones to help our researchers sift through pictures, information and documents. Join a global network of digital volunteers helping us research and expose human rights violations.

Career Village

Career Village is 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.

Helping get food to those in need

With the number of people becoming unemployed skyrocketing in the midst of this crisis, food banks are in need of volunteers. At several food banks across the country, many are adopting extra safety measures for volunteers to prepare boxes of food for those in need.

"We have a group of 60 volunteers set up safely 6-feet apart with gloves on; they've washed their hands," said Kate Maehr, CEO of Greater Chicago Food Depository. "Packing emergency boxes of food -- available to go out to food pantries, and soup kitchens and shelters all across the community is important and we make sure our food insecure neighbors have food during this crisis."

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Here are some ways to help food banks from home, too:

1. **Foodbank locator on Feeding America's website** has information about which food banks serve the communities you care about.

2. **Feeding America also has a COVID-19 relief fund set up for many to donate.** Each penny that is collected through the end of their fiscal year will go directly to communities that are impacted.

This list is reprinted from our December 1, 2019 NPC Newsletter

Donations That Make a Difference in Our Community

Your contribution of time or money will support an organization that provides vital services to our community. If you know someone who would appreciate a gift given in their name, here are some ideas. More resources can be found on our NPC web site.

1. **Capital Area Food Bank**, <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org>, Each year they source and distribute food for over 30 million meals across the DMV.
2. **Food For Friends**, <https://foodandfriends.org/refer-a-client/> Food & Friends provides meals, groceries and nutrition counseling to people living with life-challenging illnesses.
3. **Arts for the Aging**, <https://aftaarts.org/about-us/> A pioneer in arts programming for older adults and a model for excellence in life-long learning and creative aging.
4. **Community Crisis Services, Inc.** <http://www.communitycrisis.org>, A one-stop calling center for information and compassionate assistance for those in crisis.
5. **Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless**, <https://mcch.net>, Services for homeless.
6. **Senior Dog Sanctuary**, <https://www.seniordogsanctuary.com>, The Sanctuary provides a permanent safe haven for older dogs who have been abandoned, abused, or who face euthanasia.

**“Try to be a rainbow in
someone else’s cloud.”**

Maya Angelou

