

Student Volunteer Resources

Dear New Haven Promise Candidate:

This volunteer resource guide was developed to help you meet the community service requirements of New Haven Promise. Information was compiled by Dwight Hall at Yale, Center for Public Service and Social Justice, in collaboration with New Haven Promise staff.

These are only a few suggestions of places to try - we will be regularly updating and adding to this directory. We hope that you find it helpful and that you have a rewarding experience volunteering in your community!

When contacting community agencies:

- Be sure to clearly state your name, age, and school. You can also state that you are seeking volunteer hours to fulfill the New Haven Promise requirements.
- Leave a phone number and/or spell out your email address if you leave a message or send an email. Be sure to reply promptly to any messages.
- Let your contact know if you are no longer interested in a volunteer opportunity.
- You are responsible for informing your guidance counselor of the volunteer opportunity you are seeking prior to volunteering.
- You are responsible for submitting a signed letter (on letterhead) from the organization to your guidance counselor for tracking purposes.
- Be courteous and professional. As a volunteer, you are making a commitment and are expected to be responsible.

You might find that community service can benefit you as well as those you serve:

- Seek volunteer opportunities that allow you to explore career interests and develop skills;
- Highlight your volunteerism in college applications - it demonstrates commitment, citizenship, and concern for others;
- Use volunteer supervisors for job references or for scholarship recommendations.

For all official information regarding New Haven Promise visit: **www.newhavenpromise.org**. This guide, and other resources, including links to one-time volunteer opportunities, events and community information can be found at: **www.dwighthall.org/promise**.

The United Way of Greater New Haven hosts a searchable online database of volunteer opportunities here: **<http://volunteer.truist.com/uwgnh/volunteer/search.aspx>**. Be sure to check the appropriate box in the section at the bottom left ("I am interested in opportunities for...") if you are under the age of 18.

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American Red Cross CT Chapter**703 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511**

The American Red Cross is the nation's most recognized voluntary humanitarian organization. Volunteers help the Red Cross fulfill our mission by providing emergency assistance for disaster victims, teaching health and safety courses, staffing blood drives, supporting office administration and participating in our special events which help us raise funds so that we may continue to provide vital services in our community.

Contact: ctvol@ctredcross.org**Website:** www.ctredcross.org**Best Buddies CT****Various locations, including a chapter at Wilbur Cross High School**

Best Buddies is a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Best Buddies High Schools has paired students with intellectual disabilities in one-to-one friendships with high school students in chapters and also has an e-Buddies® e-mail pen pal program for people with an intellectual disability of all ages (10 years old and up) and peer volunteers from across the United States and around the globe.

Contact: Eleanor Powell, Program Manager, 203-234-3996, EleanorPowell@bestbuddies.org**Website:** www.bestbuddiesct.org**Beulah Heights Social Integration Program****782 Orchard Street, New Haven, CT 06511**

Volunteers are needed to help children between the ages of 8 and 10 during the Spring School Break at Beulah Heights Social Integration Program. Serve breakfast and lunch. Accompany children on educational field trips. Volunteer with students during the summer month of July in our Science Camp. People who have experience working with school age children preferred. Volunteers will assist former teachers and grandparents who can spend a few hours a day with children.

Contact: Joseph Edwards, Executive Director, 203.787.3393, jcurtisedwards@yahoo.com**Community Soup Kitchen****84 Broadway, New Haven, CT 06511**

Community Soup Kitchen provides free meals to the needy, offering breakfast and lunch five days a week in the downtown New Haven area.

Contact: David O'Sullivan, Director, 203-624-4594, soupkitchen@christchurchnh.org**Connecticut Hospice****100 Double Beach Road, Branford, CT 06405**

The Connecticut Hospice addresses physical, spiritual, social, and emotional needs of patients with advanced irreversible illness, and their families. Such care is provided regardless of diagnosis and as long as the Hospice level of care is needed by the patients. Volunteers interact with patients and family members of all ages - infants, children, young adults and the elderly. There are volunteer opportunities to comfort, attend to, share a laugh, reassure, do something creative, treasure a memory, or spend quiet time at a patient's bedside - just being there so a patient never feels alone.

Contact: Patricia A. Corradino, Director of Volunteer Services, 203-315-7510, pnowak@hospice.com**Website:** <http://www.hospice.com/pages/volunteer/volunteer.html>

CT Food Bank

150 Bradley Street, East Haven, CT 06512

Volunteers are needed at Connecticut Food Bank's main East Haven warehouse to inspect, sort and pack non-perishable food, produce and frozen meat items for distribution to community-based hunger-relief programs. This requires at least a two-hour commitment per visit.

Times: Weekdays from 9:00am-noon or 1:00-3:30PM. Hours and need may vary during holiday season. Warehouse is located at 150 Bradley Street, East Haven. Must be able to stand for a two hour shift and be able to lift up to 35-40 pounds. Must be reliable and able to volunteer at least once per week on a regular basis. Schedules will be arranged around individuals' availability and warehouse need.

Contact: Kim Damien, Volunteer Coordinator, 203-469-5000, ext. 311, KDamien@ctfoodbank.org

Website: www.ctfoodbank.org

Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen

Various locations in downtown New Haven, office at 311 Temple Street, New Haven, CT 06511

The Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK) provides free, nutritious meals for homeless individuals, families, and the working and non-working poor of the Greater New Haven area. Volunteers can serve at the soup kitchen in the evenings or assist with office work during the days.

Contact: Linda Carbone, Director of Operations, 203-624-6426,

linda@downtowneveningsoupkitchen.com

Website: www.downtowneveningsoupkitchen.com

Elm City Parks Conservancy

Volunteer with New Haven Parks throughout the City

Elm City Parks Conservancy (ECPC) is a not-for-profit parks advocacy organization serving the New Haven parks system. Our mission is to strengthen public awareness of and participation in the city's parks. We work to enhance all of New Haven's parks and monuments, from the smallest parcels, such as Kimberly Square's ghost ship monument, to the largest, like East Rock Park's four hills and 425 acres.

Contact: 203-946-2459, elmcityparksconservancy@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/Parks/ecpc.asp>

The Furniture Co-Op (New Haven Home Recovery)

30 Morris Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516

Furniture Co-Op is a project operated by New Haven Home Recovery and it is designed to assist families transitioning from homelessness, people living with disabilities or other insufferable hardships. The Co-Op currently looking for volunteers to help out with a variety of jobs such as unloading and moving furniture, unpacking assorted home goods and supplies, paperwork processing, cleaning, repairing and polishing furniture, contact local businesses or individuals for furniture donation, and sort and organize clothing. If you would like to volunteer for one of the more physical duties, please be sure to be in good health and appropriate physical condition so as not to injure yourself.

Contact: Sara Callahan, Operations Manager, 203-389-1112

Website: <http://nhhr.org/what-we-do/furniture-co-op.html>

Loaves and Fishes Food Closet

St. Paul and St. James Episcopal Church, 57 Olive Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Food Closet volunteers help to distribute groceries and refreshments to those who come to the food pantry in need. Responsibilities include readying food for distribution, distributing food, and serving refreshments. Volunteers are assigned to a volunteer team and help one Saturday morning a month from 8:00 A.M. to 11 A.M. On average, 230 bags of groceries are distributed each Saturday morning.

Contact: Wendy McLeod, 203-435-0214, loavesfishesstpj@hotmail.com

New Haven Ecology Project/ Common Ground High School Farm Volunteer Day

Farm Volunteer Day – Sat, Apr 16, 10:00 – 2:00

358 Springside Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515

The arrival of spring brings many important farm jobs! Learn to prepare your own garden as you help us add compost, dig garden beds, mulch pathways, and plant early spring crops. Come dressed to get dirty; gloves and tools provided. Projects are intended for adults; children ages 12 and up may participate with a parent.

Contact: Rebecca Holcombe at rholcombe@nhep.com or at 203.389.4333

Website: www.nhep.com

New Haven Land Trust

Volunteer in a Community Garden Near your Home

The New Haven Land Trust depends on the commitment of regular volunteers to assist us in managing our preserves and community gardens. Garden projects consist of planting seeds, weeding, spreading mulch and compost, fence building and minor landscaping. Preserve projects range from trash cleanup, bridge building & restoration, trail clearing & construction and invasive plant removal. We have opportunities for educators to teach garden workshops or lead nature walks. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please review our listed opportunities.

Contact: Chris Randall, 203.562.6655, volunteer@newhavenlandtrust.org

Website: www.newhavenlandtrust.org

New Haven Reads Community BookBank

45 Bristol Street, New Haven, CT 06511 and various other locations for tutoring

New Haven Reads' mission is "to share the joy and power of reading". New Haven Reads provides an environment where children and adults have access to free books and tutoring to increase their literacy skills and academic performance. We ask you to come in to the Book Bank to interview and fill out a volunteer form. We do require a minimum commitment of one hour per week (plus travel and preparation time) for tutors. Training will be provided on an individual basis as needed, and optional training sessions are offered regularly throughout the year.

Contact: Leslie Derr, Volunteer Coordinator, 203-752-1923, newhavenreads@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.newhavenreads.org/howtohelp/volunteering.shtml>

St. Raphael Healthcare System

Hospital of St. Raphael, 1450 Chapel Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Since 1908, volunteers have played an important role at the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven. Each year, they donate thousands of hours of service to our hospital and patients. Our volunteer program is open to individuals age 14 and older who are able to commit to a minimum of three hours per week for six months. Assignments range from working directly with patients to positions with little or no patient contact. To join our student program:

- Call the Volunteer Services Department at 203-789-3480 to inquire about the program schedule.
- Call to register for the orientation session.
- Attend the orientation and interview session.
- Advise coordinator of interests, skill sets, and availability.

Contact: Volunteer Services Department, 203-789-3480, tjennings@srhs.org

Website: <http://www.srhs.org>