**Participation in Government**

**Suggested Community Service Agencies**

*“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve…You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”*

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community service is an important part of living in a vibrant democracy. Our ability to contribute time, energy, and *ideas* to causes we care about enables us to actively shape our communities. Not only is community service mutually beneficial, it is also good for ourselves. Through community service we can strengthen our resumes, expand our social networks, and foster our skills in the “real world.”

Surprisingly, Rochester is one of the best places to volunteer in the entire country. About 33.2% of all Rochesterians volunteer, ranking Rochester as the city with the 5th largest percentage of volunteers! Because Rochester has so many volunteers, it has a lot of different organizations available to volunteer with. Many of the organizations provide a wide variety of services integral to the city’s poor and underserved populations; however, there are others that specialize with specific populations.

Please look through this document for organizations you might want to volunteer with. The address, contact information, and description of the organization has been provided, but more information about the organization is always available online.

**Action for a Better Community**

550 East Main Street

(585) 325-5116, [volunteer@abcinfo.org](mailto:volunteer@abcinfo.org)

**Opportunity**: Action for a Better Community is a local non-profit agency that provides a variety of opportunities for low-income families to become self-sufficient.

**Baden Street Settlement**

152 Baden Street

(585) 325-4910, info@badenstreet.org

**Opportunity**: The Baden Street Settlement works to eliminate the causes of poverty and improve the quality of life of Rochester’s family’s in-need. They offer a variety of different programs and activities for families, and you can ask about volunteer opportunities through their contact information.

**Bethany House**

150 French Road

(585) 454-4197, rbethan1@rochester.rr.com

**Opportunity**: The Bethany House is a Catholic Worker House of Hospitality, part of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. It serves Rochester’s women by providing food, shelter, clothing, support, and advocacy to women in need.

**Cameron Community Ministries**

48 Cameron Street

Jennie Papkin (Volunteer Coordinator), (585) 254-2697, ccmvolunteerc@gmail.com

**Opportunity**: Cameron Community Ministries is an urban outreach community center that provides services and programs to families’ in-need. These include afterschool programs, a hot lunch service, a food pantry, and clothing house. You can volunteer by helping in any of their programs.

**Community Place of Greater Rochester**

57 Central Park

(585) 327-7200

**Opportunity**: Rochester’s Community Place provides services to all ages and supports families of any need. There is a wide variety of volunteer opportunities to help with Community Place’s programs.

**Dimitri House**

102 North Union Street

(585) 325-1796, generalinfo@dimitri-house.org

**Opportunity**: The Dimitri House helps Rochesterians on their path to self-sufficiency by providing shelter, meals, healthcare, counseling, and more. Volunteers can serve food, chat with the guests, clean the facility, and plenty more.

**Episcopal Senior Life Communities**

505 Mt. Hope Avenue

Sarah Burns (Volunteer Coordinator), (585) 546-8439 ext. 3160

**Opportunity**: Episcopal Senior Life provides a wide variety of care and housing options for seniors along with health and wellness opportunities for the local community. From gardening to photography to staffing community events, Episcopal Senior Life offers many volunteer opportunities, and the full list is viewable online.

**House of Mercy**

725 Hudson Avenue

(585)546-2580, HouseofMercyRochesterNY@gmail.com

**Opportunity**: The House of Mercy is a prolific establishment in the Rochester community that shelters, clothes, and feeds homeless people. The House can always use volunteer help, especially from those skilled in fundraising, IT, and photography.

**Ibero-American Action League**

817 East Main Street

**(**585) 256-8900, information@iaal.org

**Opportunity**: Ibero offers holistic services to the Rochester community, with a focus on Latino populations. Volunteer opportunities can be acquired through the listed contact information.

**Jordan Health**

Multiple Sites

John Wilson (AmeriCorps VSITA), (585) 784-5940, [jwilson@jordanhealth.org](mailto:jwilson@jordanhealth.org)

**Opportunity**: Jordan Health provides affordable and accessible health care to members of the Rochester community, primarily focusing on economically challenged and medically underserved populations. For more information about volunteer opportunities, refer to the contact information.

**Life Span**

1900 S. Clinton Avenue

(585) 244-8400

**Opportunity**: Life span provides services to older adults and caregivers to better the quality of life of Rochester’s aging community. They provide financial guidance, housing assistance, health insurance options, and more, and offer similar volunteer opportunities on their website.

**M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence**

929 South Plymouth Avenue

David Sanchez (Youth Program Coordinator), (585) 463-3265

**Opportunity**: The M.K. Gandhi Institute promotes public awareness of nonviolence in the Rochester community. The institute also promotes nonviolence education, environmental conservation, and racial justice. For a list of volunteer opportunities, please view their website.

**Open Door Mission**

156 Plymouth Avenue

(585) 454-6696, volunteer@opendoormission.com

**Opportunity**: The Open Door Mission is a Christian Rescue Mission that provides emergency housing, community meal plans, clothing distribution, and religious services to Rochester families. They also offer a wide a variety of flexible volunteer opportunities: you can conduct a food drive!

**Rochester Emergency Action Committee for Homeless (REACH)**

80 Prince Street

(585)285-6402, choffman002@rochester.rr.com

**Opportunity**: REACH provides temporary housing, meals, and services to Rochester’s homeless population. The shelter currently operates only throughout the winter months. Volunteer opportunities include sorting donations, working the front desk, and interacting with the guests.

**St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality**

402 South Avenue

(585) 232-3262, st.joes@frontier.com

**Opportunity**: St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality is a Catholic Worker House that provides food, clothing, shelter, and spiritually-centered care to the Rochester community. Volunteer opportunities include helping in the homeless shelter, soup kitchen, and more.

**Volunteers of America**

214 Lake Avenue, Admin Building C

(585) 647-1150

**Opportunity**: Volunteers of America provides a wide variety of services to people in need, including employment services, homeless prevention services, life skills training, and more. There are many different volunteer opportunities to choose from, and they are viewable online.

**YMCA**

Multiple Sites

http://rochesterymca.org/

**Opportunity**: The YMCA champions youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility in the Rochester community. There are many different Ys around Rochester, all of which have plenty of volunteer opportunities viewable online.

**YWCA**

175 North Clinton Avenue

Ruth Kramer (Volunteer Coordinator), (585) 386-2265, rkramer@ywcarochester.org

**Opportunity**: YWCA empowers women and promotes racial justice in the Rochester community. There are many volunteer opportunities viewable online.

**Greenovations**

1199 East Main Street

(585)288-7564

**Opportunity**: Strengthen local communities through environmentally conscious initiatives such as waste diversion and education. They create new objects from recycled items

**Verona Animal Shelter**

184 Verona Street

(585)428-7274

**Opportunity**: Verona Street Animal Shelter raises funds and runs programs in support of the adoption and spray/neuter programs at the Rochester Animal Service Center.

**Monroe Ambulance**

166 Lyell Ave.

(585)454-6211

**Opportunity**: Monroe Ambulance provides advance life support in Monroe Country, along with volunteer ambulance and fire departments, ensuring that patients have access to all lifesaving paramedic services.

**Red Cross**

50 Prince Street

(585)241-4400

**Opportunity**: They respond to local disasters and provide food and shelter. This is also a place that you can donate blood and save lives.

**Food Link**

1999 Mt. Read Blvd.

(585) 328-3380

**Opportunity**: Their mission is to end hunger and to leverage the power of food to build a healthier community.

**Goodwill**

451 S Clinton Ave.

**Drop off locations:**

9 Champeney Terrace

451 South Clinton

1518 West Ridge Road

3654 Dewey Ave.