August 2020

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Volunteering Update

Dear Faith in Action Volunteers,

We continue to miss you and all the ways you served prior to COVID-19. While grant funding allows us to continue to provide essential services, our participants miss the face-to-face connections with you and we long for the time when our program can fully return to that level of personal service. Meanwhile, we want to keep you informed about our status.

We are grateful to all the drivers who responded to our recent survey. About half of you indicated a desire to come back as soon as possible with safety protocols in place. The other half of you are hesitant to return until there is a vaccine or until the infection rate...
declines significantly.

Because of Governor Cooper’s extension of Phase 2, as well as the continued high infection rate in Forsyth County, no resumption of direct volunteer services will take place prior to August 7 when another announcement from the governor is expected. Over the next couple of weeks, we will be discussing options with the Faith in Action Advisory Committee and with The Shepherd’s Center Board of Directors. After the August 10 meeting of the Board, we anticipate having further word to share about a plan for moving forward.

While we are in this holding pattern with most of our volunteer services, we encourage you to consider alternative volunteer opportunities. We also hope you will take advantage of some of the wonderful virtual programs and activities which are being offered through our Vital Living Program. Keep reading below for more information about how you can stay involved!

Your health and safety are top priorities for us. Please take care of yourself! We all look forward to having you back and fully engaged when services can resume safely. We will keep you informed as decisions are made. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Linda M. Lewis, MDiv
Associate Executive Director
Current Volunteer Opportunities

**Book Processing Center:** This is our only on-site volunteer opportunity at this time. Volunteers sort and price books for our annual book sale. Volunteers generally work a 3 hour shift; shifts are available Tues-Fri 9-noon or 1-4. Attendance at a training session is required, as well as masks & temperature checks. Volunteers must sign up in advance for shifts as there is a limit of six volunteers per shift.

**Book Moving:** Moving books from the donation pod in our parking lot into the book processing center. Requires lifting boxes of books and using a dolly. This need do be done a few times a week, come regularly or volunteer for a day here and there.

**Card Connections:** Volunteers send greeting cards/notes to 10 homebound folks twice per month. We provide names/addresses, stamps & supplies. Volunteers may engage in a pen pal relationship with recipients if desired. Volunteers may also make cards for the program (we use lots of cards!).

**Phone Pals:** Volunteers make social phone calls to one homebound older adult once a week. Volunteers receive training and support from our Visitation and Caregiver Support Coordinator. This position also requires a background check; if you are a current Faith in Action volunteer you should already have a current one on file with us.

**Outdoor Minor Home Repair:** While we have suspended all indoor home repairs, we are still doing outdoor repairs such as painting, railings, stairs, porches and decks. We do not do any roof work.

**Yard Work:** We have some yard work projects for small groups that include tasks such as raking and trimming bushes.
**Vital Living Program Leaders/Instructors:** This virtual opportunity can take on several forms. Our Vital Living Program Staff will train volunteers to use the technology and is available to host Zoom programs. Volunteers can:

- Lead a discussion group via telephone conference call
- Present a webinar via Zoom or Facebook Live
- Create videos for participants to watch at their convenience
- Lead a discussion, game, or class via Zoom
- Present weekly, monthly or occasionally
- Start a new, original program (do you have an idea?)
- Host a current, ongoing group or class (maybe join a group and move to leading it?)

**Virtual Tech Support:** Provide one-on-one assistance with cell phones, tablets, computers and Zoom to our participants via telephone or Zoom.

Contact Vicki for more information or to volunteer for any of these roles.

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**In Addition to Shepherd's Center opportunities, here are a couple of options in our community:**

**Love out Loud Winston-Salem:** This group posts volunteer opportunities throughout our community weekly. See the latest projects is on their COVID webpage

**Senior Services Meals on Wheels:** If you like to drive, consider Meals on Wheels (MOW). You can choose weekly or monthly routes or something in between. At the current time they are doing “contactless” deliveries, but plan to resume hot meal delivery soon. Click HERE for info.

There are other agencies in the county with volunteer opportunities, but many of them are not allowing volunteers over the age of 65 due to COVID-19. Keep this in mind while seeking out new volunteer opportunities.
Beginning August 1, the Shepherd’s Center of Greater Winston-Salem proudly joins the Harris Teeter *Together In Education* program for the 18th consecutive year to raise funds to support the life-long learning program offerings of our Vital Living Program. Since 2002, over $45,000 has been raised to support these offerings.

To support our life-long learning program, simply give the Harris Teeter cashier the Shepherd’s Center code, 4958, and your VIC card (or phone number) when you check out and request that your card be linked to the Shepherd’s Center. It is easy and it’s FREE.

Once a card is linked, the Shepherd’s Center will receive a percentage of Harris Teeter brand purchases - including prescriptions. This program does not interfere with your personal VIC savings!

This year, we’ve made it easier to link your card....just grab it, click the button below, and fill out our simple form. We'll submit the information to Harris Teeter for you.

**Thank you for supporting our life-long learning program!**

[Link Your VIC Card!]

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**Volunteer Spotlight--Meet Maren!**
Maren H., who lives in Charlotte, was visiting with her grandparents and decided to help us out with our Card Connections program by making cards for our volunteers to mail to home bound participants. She thoughtfully created **ONE HUNDRED** cards, each one unique because she wanted each person to receive a "special" card. Needless to say, they are truly appreciated and we know that every person that receives one of Maren's cards will indeed feel special!

**THANK YOU MAREN, for your efforts and generosity!**