



association to benefit children
ASSOCIATION TO BENEFIT CHILDREN
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Association to Benefit Children (ABC), a New York City based not-for-profit organization that was established in 1986, is a tireless champion for children and a leader in the creation of cost-effective, replicable and humane model programs that support and strengthen vulnerable children and their families. ABC's comprehensive programs include the highest quality early childhood education for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, educational advocacy, permanent, supportive housing, crisis intervention, health and mental health services, family support and preservation, year-round therapeutic youth programs, a summer day camp, and an open door to the community as a refuge and resource for destitute families.

Volunteers are welcome and treasured partners in ABC's efforts to bring relief to and create opportunities for children and families in need. Below you will find information about how, where, and when to volunteer, along with brief descriptions of our programs and their schedules. Once you have selected the program in which you would like to volunteer, please contact the Site Coordinator directly. If you are interested in organizing a special event or project or if you are organizing volunteer opportunities for a school group or for yourself and your colleagues, please contact **Judy Holtzman, Director of Special Projects at (212) 845-3823 or jholtzman@a-b-c.org**.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

ABC's Cassidy's Place, Merricat's Castle School, Variety Cody Gifford House, The Keith Haring School, and The Graham School offer many opportunities to make a difference in the lives of young children. Volunteers assist classroom teachers by working directly with the children. Their primary responsibility is to play with and nurture children, though specific duties vary depending on the needs of the classrooms. For example, in ABC's infant programs, volunteers may be needed to hold, feed and sing to the children. In toddler and preschool classrooms, volunteers may be asked to help with storytelling, reading, painting, arts and crafts, and supervising the children as they enjoy free play in one of ABC's outdoor playgrounds. The staff works closely with volunteers, encouraging them to take part in as many activities as they feel comfortable. Schedules are set to meet both the needs of our volunteers and the classrooms.

Cassidy's Place focuses on children from ages three to five who live in poverty and may be suffering from serious medical conditions and have special needs.

Address: 419 East 86th Street (between First and York Avenues)

Operates year-round, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 pm.

Volunteer Site Coordinator: Patricia McKenna (212) 845-3855 or pmckenna@a-b-c.org

Merricat's Castle School is a preschool program where children (ages two to five) who are homeless and destitute, are from economically stable households, are typically developing, and have special needs play and learn together.

Address: 316 East 88th Street (between First and Second Avenues)

Operates from September through June, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Volunteer Site Coordinator: Linda Wosczyk (212) 534-3656 or lwosczyk@a-b-c.org

Cody Gifford House is home to ABC's early intervention program for infants and toddlers who struggle with severe developmental disabilities and serious medical conditions.

Address: 404 East 91st Street (between First and Second Avenues)

Operates year-round, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Volunteer Site Coordinator: Chrissy Zaccario (212) 369-2010 x302 or czaccario@a-b-c.org

The Keith Haring School offers educational and therapeutic services for infants and toddlers (birth to three) with special needs.

Address: 318 East 116th Street (between First and Second Avenues)

Operates year-round, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Volunteer Site Coordinator: Christina Gould (212) 426-3960 x1 or cgould@a-b-c.org

The Graham School is located at ABC's large multi-service center, Echo Park, and provides enriched educational programming for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Address: 1841 Park Avenue (NE corner of East 126th Street)

Operates year-round, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Volunteer Site Coordinator: Shawana Eaddy (646) 459-6091 or seaddy@a-b-c.org

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Throughout the school year, volunteers in ABC's therapeutic after school program at Echo Park assist staff members in helping the children complete homework assignments, improve academic skills, create arts and crafts projects, participate in structured recreational activities, and computer instruction. Staff social workers provide small therapeutic group sessions for the children.

After School Program

Address: 1841 Park Avenue (NE corner of East 126th Street)

Operates September to June, Monday through Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Volunteer Site Coordinator: Jessica Casanova (646) 459-6175 or jcasanova@a-b-c.org

SUMMER CAMP

ABC's Therapeutic Summer Camp encourages children's academic and personal growth through six weeks of closely supervised and enjoyable educational, therapeutic, cultural, and recreational activities. Volunteers serve as counselors working with the children and assisting youth workers. Operates in July and August, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Volunteer Site Coordinators: Jessica Casanova (646) 459-6175 or jcasanova@a-b-c.org,

THE SATURDAY PROGRAM

On Saturdays throughout the school year, Echo Park is home to a large educational and recreational program for infants, preschoolers and school-age children. From 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. volunteers, working alongside ABC's staff, help engage children in fun-filled activities that include story time, block building, pretend and free play and arts and crafts activities with the youngest children and drama, soccer classes, computer work and arts activities with the older children. A delicious, hot and nutritious, mid-day meal is shared by all the children, parents, staff members and volunteers.

The Saturday Program

Address: 1841 Park Avenue (NE corner of East 126th Street)

Operates from September through June on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Volunteer Site Coordinator: Jackson Potter (646) 459-6176 or jpotter@a-b-c.org