**Ignite Volunteer Opportunities**

**NOTE:** Volunteer activities temporarily on-hold pending developments with COVID-19 in Illinois.

Contact Cheryl Price at cprice@ignitepromise.org to learn more!

**Group volunteer** opportunities are a great way to team build and connect people. Group volunteer activities are intended for groups of 5 or more to work with Ignite staff and deliver services to Ignite youth.

**Individual volunteer** activities are intended for individuals looking to share the gifts of time and talent with Ignite staff and youth. In some activities you may be the only volunteer present to assist the Ignite team.

Volunteer opportunities listed below may be for groups or individuals or both, and are noted as such. Number of volunteers needed per activity is approximate, sometimes we may be able to accommodate groups of more or fewer than listed.

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**Opportunity Name:** Ignite Associate Board

**Date/Time:** Second Tuesday of each month, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm

**Description:** The Ignite Associate Board (IAB) is a network of active Chicago-area young professionals dedicated to supporting the mission and activities of Ignite. Members connect with Ignite through volunteerism, fundraising, professional development, educational opportunities and networking events.

Members have the opportunity to participate in agency activities, including: program-related events (quarterly celebrations & recognition, graduations, community meetings, etc.), networking events and fundraising events. Benefits of joining IAB include:

- Develop valuable professional and leadership skills
- Build meaningful new relationships and expand your network
- Opportunities to network with other young professionals & gain new perspectives
- Learn and develop new skills outside of your current expertise
- Gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the nonprofit sector
- Recognition of membership on Ignite’s website and annual report
- Giving back to the community & being part of the next generation of Ignite’s leadership

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**Opportunity Name:** Ignite Events Committee Member

**Volunteers Needed:** 30 volunteers
**Description:** Ignite hosts a wide variety of fundraising events throughout the year! Join the Events Committee & assist in the planning, organizing and managing of Ignite’s special events. Committee members help with engaging individuals to attend the events, plan fun activities for the evening, volunteer at the event and secure donation items. Ignite’s main fundraising events include:

- Ignite 2020 Gala – April 25, 2020 at Four Seasons Chicago
- Ignite on Tap – June 2020 at TBD
- Ignite Poker & Casino Night - September 24, 2020 at Gibson’s Steakhouse

**Opportunity Name:** Team Ignite- Running Team

**Date:** TBD

**Location:** TBD

**Registration Details:** Email Cheryl Price at cprice@ignitepromise.org

**Volunteers Needed:** 15 runners

**Description:** Join Team Ignite and take part in running a 5K or other race with Team Ignite. You are supporting Ignite’s mission to serve over 500 youth experiencing homelessness on their journey to a home and future with promise. With each step you take, you are helping strengthen our communities and end youth homelessness. When you register with Team Ignite and commit to our fundraising minimum (determined with each race), Ignite will pay for your registration!

Team Ignite benefits include:

- FREE entry in the race
- Team Ignite running shirt & swag bag
- Personalized fundraising website page & toolkit
- Staff provided fundraising advice & assistance
- Support of an amazing community of athletes both new & experienced

* Tentative opportunity depending on number of interested runners

**Opportunity Name:** Drop-In Resource Center Lunch Service

**Date:** Throughout the year either one time, weekly, or monthly on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

**Time:** 11:00 am – 2 pm

**Location:** Drop-In Resource Center
5500 S Indiana Ave
Chicago, IL 60637

**Volunteers Needed:** 1-2 volunteers

**Description:** Ignite’s Drop-In Resource Center is in need of individual volunteers to assist in lunch service. Volunteers will be responsible for the following:

- Prepare and cook food
- Set up and serve lunch
- Clean the kitchen and dining area
- Socialize with youth and staff
Opportunity Name: Financial Workshop Facilitator

Date: Throughout the year, weekday-daytime hours

Location: Belfort House
3745 S Indiana Ave
Chicago, IL 60616

Volunteers Needed: 1 volunteer

Description: Ignite’s “Level Up” Employment program is held at Belfort House. As part of this program, youth participate in Money Matters, which is a course in budgeting, savings, emergency accounts and credit. Individual volunteers with experience in financial planning or a similar background may work with Ignite staff to develop material and teach a portion of the Money Matters curriculum.

Opportunity Name: Monthly Community Service Projects

Dates: Throughout the year weekends, TBD

Location: TBD

Volunteers Needed: 1+ volunteer

Description: On a regular basis our CaSSA and Next Gen youth participate in various community service projects. If you would like to be invited to join them on these projects, we will put your name on a list of potential volunteers and contact you when we are in need of individual volunteers.

Opportunity Name: Chaperone for Small Group Outings and Events

Dates: Throughout the year, TBD

Location: TBD

Volunteers Needed: 1+ volunteer

Description: Our staff and youth periodically plan various outings such as spa days, painting parties, athletic events, etc. If you would like to be invited to join them as a chaperone at these events, we will put your name on a list of potential volunteers and contact you when we are in need of individual volunteers/chaperones.

Opportunity Name: Black History/Diversity Celebrations Sponsorships and Volunteers

Date: February 20, 2020 at Belfort House Black History Jeopardy and February 27, 2020 at DIRC Black History Family Feud

Description: Ignite hosts a wide variety of activities and celebrations throughout the month of February to celebrate Black History Month and Diversity. Sponsors/Volunteers will assist staff with activities as needed and/or assist with financial costs of the events.
Opportunity Name: Ignite 2020 Ignite & Shine Gala

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2020

Time: 6:00 pm – 11:30 pm

Location: Four Seasons Chicago

Volunteers Needed: 50 volunteers

Sponsors Needed: 6-10 financial sponsors, $100 each

Description: Ignite’s annual gala is the agency’s largest fundraising event of the year, with attendance of around 400 guests and the goal of raising $400,000 for Ignite! Sponsors are needed to help us provide formalwear, hair and make up assistance to youth who will attend and speak at the Gala. Volunteers are the key to making the event a fun and enjoyable evening for our guests. Volunteer roles & responsibilities include the following “night of” activities:

• Registration & Check-Out
• Coat Check
• Silent Auction Set Up
• Raffle Sales
• Live Auction Assistants
• Paddle Raise Assistants
• Clean up Crew

Opportunity Name: Belfort House Deep Cleaning

Date: Spring and Fall 2020

Location: Belfort House
3745 S Indiana Ave
Chicago, IL 60616

Volunteers Needed: 10+ volunteers

Description: Ignite’s Belfort House is in need of general deep cleaning on a bi-annual basis. Volunteers will focus on cleaning the community area, kitchen, bathrooms, conference room, windows and blinds throughout the building. Cleaning tasks will include the following:

• Cleaning kitchen, bathroom and public spaces
• Washing windows inside & out
• Dusting & cleaning blinds throughout building
• Cleaning doors, light switches, walls, etc.

Opportunity Name: Ignite Poker & Casino Night

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2020

Time: 5:30 pm – 10:30 pm

Location: Hugo’s Frog Bar/Gibsons Steakhouse
1024 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Volunteers Needed: 25 volunteers
**Description:** Ignite’s Poker & Casino Night is an event that gives guests the chance to enjoy an evening with friends and show off with their blackjack, craps, roulette, and Texas Hold ‘Em Poker skills. They can also just sit back, relax, and enjoy each other’s company while raising money for a deserving cause with amazing auction items and raffle prizes. Volunteer roles & responsibilities include:
- Registration & Check-Out
- Craps, Roulette, and Black Jack Dealers
- Casino Bank
- Raffle Sales

**Opportunity Name:** Ignite Thanks for Giving

**Date:** TBD

**Time:** 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Location:** TBD

**Volunteers Needed:** 20 volunteers

**Description:** Ignite’s annual Thanks for Giving event brings together youth between the ages of 14 and 26 who are currently engaged in Ignite’s program and services, as well as former Ignite clients and their families, with individuals who have volunteered, donated and supported Ignite’s mission, for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. With your help, our goal is for the event to serve as a homecoming for our supporters and young people, giving everyone a chance to celebrate our success together. Volunteers will be assigned to the following tasks:
- Set up for the event
- Food preparation
- Serving food
- Clean up for the event
- Donate Food

**Opportunity Name:** Ignite Annual Holiday Gift Drive

**Date:** Mid-October 2020 – December 2020

**Volunteers Needed:** 50 volunteers

**Description:** Join Ignite this season to help create a warm and memorable holiday for the young participants of Ignite, through our Annual Holiday Gift Drive. Each year, participants from Ignite’s programs are invited to fill out a holiday wish list. The wish lists contain four-five items, each valued at $30 or less. Volunteers can also help at our gift-wrapping party where we wrap all the gifts for the youth!

**Opportunity Name:** Community Programs Baby Shower Gift Drive

**Date:** April 30, 2020

**Volunteers Needed:** 30 volunteers

**Description:** Each year Ignite provides a baby shower and baby gifts to our young clients who are new mothers. Please assist us by our purchasing baby gifts from our Baby Shower Wish List or hosting a donation drive.
**Opportunity Name:** “Level Up” Employment Program Mock Interviewers and Speed Networkers

**Date:** Throughout the year, weekday-daytime hours

**Location:** Belfort House  
3745 S Indiana Ave  
Chicago, IL 60616

**Volunteers Needed:** 1-5 volunteers

**Description:** Ignite’s “Level Up” Employment program held at Belfort House is in need of volunteers to participate in mock interviews and speed networking sessions with youth.

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**Opportunity Name:** Ignite BBQ Field Day (Spring, Summer) and/or Back to School Celebration (Fall)

**Date:** Spring, Summer and Fall months

**Location:** Belfort House  
3745 S Indiana Ave  
Chicago, IL 60616

**Volunteers Needed:** 5+ volunteers/sponsors

**Description:** These are days where staff & youth let loose and have fun! At the Spring Field Day we will perform a community cleanup in the neighborhoods around Belfort House. At the Fall Back to School Celebration we will celebrate our youth’s accomplishments for the previous year. Field Days consist of a variety of events, games, and competitions that everyone can enjoy. These activities offer physical exercise and help teach teambuilding skills. Sponsors are needed to assist with the financial costs associated with the event.

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**Opportunity Name:** Belfort House Gardening Projects

**Date:** Ongoing throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall months

**Location:** Belfort House  
3745 S Indiana Ave  
Chicago, IL 60616

**Volunteers Needed:** 5+ volunteers

**Description:** The Ignite community garden located on-site at Belfort House provides endless opportunities for volunteers and youth to contribute. Having a garden allows youth to see the benefits of growing food crops, and learn how to care for and maintain their outdoor space. With your help, we hope to maintain the garden in 2020! Volunteers will attend to Ignite’s community garden as outlined here:

- Clearing out weeds, bushes and plant beds
- Planting vegetables & flowers
- Raking and Digging
- Cleaning up grounds around the property
Opportunity Name: Ignite Pride Week Celebration

Date: Monday, June 22, 2020 – Sunday, June 28, 2020

Location: Belfort House
3745 S Indiana Ave
Chicago, IL 60616

Volunteers Needed: 5 - 15 volunteers

Description: Join Ignite as we celebrate Pride with a week full of activities at Belfort House! A variety of activities will be taking place for our youth to recognize and celebrate National Pride Month. With your help, we are looking for volunteer groups to sponsor, host and organize some of the scheduled activities during the week. Pride week activities include:

• Tie-dying shirts
• Decorating cupcakes
• Pride themed arts & crafts projects
• Ignite Pride BBQ & Recognition Celebration
• Movie night

Opportunity Name: Decorate for Fall/Halloween

Date: October

Location: Belfort House
3745 S Indiana Ave
Chicago, IL 60616

and

Drop-In Resource Center
5500 S Indiana Ave
Chicago, IL 60637

Volunteers Needed: 3-5 volunteers per location

Description: Help Ignite youth and staff celebrate with caramel apples and other fall treats, and help decorate for Fall and Halloween both inside and out.

Opportunity Name: Decorate for the Holidays

Date: December

Location: Belfort House
3745 S Indiana Ave
Chicago, IL 60616

and

Drop-In Resource Center
5500 S Indiana Ave
Chicago, IL 60637

Volunteers Needed: 3-5 volunteers per location
**Description:** Help Ignite youth and staff celebrate the holiday season with seasonal treats, and help decorate for the holidays both inside and out.

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**Opportunity Name:** Holiday Party Sponsor – Belfort House OR Drop-In Resource Center

**Date:** Belfort – TBD, 4 pm – 7 pm  
DIRC – TBD, 11 am – 3 pm

**Financial Donation:** $150 to cover cost of food, per each location

**Location:** Belfort House  
3745 S Indiana Ave  
Chicago, IL 60616

and

Drop-In Resource Center  
5500 S Indiana Ave  
Chicago, IL 60637

**Volunteers Needed:** 3 - 5 volunteers

**Description:** Each year, Ignite celebrates the holidays with its youth in a very special way. All youth receive special gifts from donors to make the holidays a bit brighter for everyone. During the holiday party, Ignite youth celebrate with staff and volunteers along with receiving their own personalized holiday gift bag. It's truly one of the most fun events of the year. Your help with making this event merry and bright for our youth means so much. Volunteers will help with the following:

- Bring, prepare and/ or cook food for event
- Set up and serve dinner and dessert
- Clean the kitchen and dining area
- Socialize with youth and staff

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**Opportunity Name:** Belfort House Dinner Sponsors

**Date:** Throughout the year either one time or monthly, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays And Thursdays

**Financial Donation:** During our kitchen renovations taking place in February, March and April of 2020 we are asking that Sponsors provide a catered dinner for 35 (Normally we request a $150 donation which pays for the costs of one dinner.)

**Time:** 4:30 or 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

**Location:** Belfort House  
3745 S Indiana Ave  
Chicago, IL 60616

**Volunteers Needed:** 3 - 5 volunteers

**Description:** Ignite’s Belfort House is a 24-bed transitional living program for youth between the ages of 17 and 21. Youth can stay at Belfort House for up to 18 months and are engaged in
productive activities including school, employment, and life skills training. Belfort House provides three meals daily for up to 24 residents in our on-site kitchen. Volunteers may:
- Prepare and cook food (dinner is prepared beginning at 4:30 PM)
- Set up and serve dinner
- Clean the kitchen and dining area
- Socialize with youth and staff

Opportunity Name: “Level Up” Employer-Partners

Date: Throughout the year, daytime hours

Location: Employer Partner Site

Volunteers Needed: 5+ volunteers

Description: Ignite’s “Level Up” Employment program is in need of companies/employers to host company tours, assist with career counseling, Q & A sessions, and onsite mock interviewing.