

## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### **Caritas Center**

The Caritas Center provides many services to those in need. They help the elderly, young mothers and fathers, provide counseling, employment center and many other services. Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Kelly Johnson, at 815-756-1858 to find out what you can do to help.

**Book Drive (K-8)** Hold a book drive for the financial literacy program.

**Diaper Drive (K-8)** Have a diaper drive to help young mothers.

**Visit the Center (K-8)** Have lunch, play a game, or do a craft with seniors or foster kids serviced by the Caritas Center.

### **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception – Emergency**

#### **Assistance Service Center**

**Men’s Jeans Drive (K-8)** Help your dad clean out his closet or place flyers on your street and collect men’s jeans for the Emergency Assistance Service Center at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The jeans are provided to homeless men in need. Please contact **Karen Miller** to arrange pick up of the donated items or to ask questions at 816-214-5646.

**Used backpack drive (K-8)** Call your friends or place flyers around your neighborhood and collect all those backpacks that have been replaced each year. Backpacks will be donated to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Emergency Assistance program. They are provided to the homeless within our community. Please call **Karen Miller** with any questions or to arrange pick up of donated items at 816-214-5646.

#### **Financial Assistance (K-8)**

Organize a bake sale or a lemonade stand with your classmates and neighbors to raise money for the Financial Assistance program. The program provides financial assistance to low-income adults who seek help with a variety of needs (rent, utilities, transportation, medical prescriptions, legal documents, etc). Contact the Emergency Assistance Coordinator at [emergencyassistance@kcgolddome.org](mailto:emergencyassistance@kcgolddome.org) for donation details.

### **Catholic Relief Services**

Call to see what is needed at Catholic Relief Services. [www.catholicrelief.org](http://www.catholicrelief.org)

### **Cookies for Kids’ Cancer (K-8)**

<http://www.cookiesforkidscancer.org/GetInvolved/HostEvent>

[www.glad.com/gladtogive/](http://www.glad.com/gladtogive/)

<https://www.oxo.com/cookies-for-kids-cancer>

Be a Good Cookie and raise money for kids who are battling cancer. Recruit siblings, friends, and classmates to host a “Be a Good Cookie Event.” Oxo, the good grips people, will donate supplies (spoons, measuring cups etc. for baking) and you can have a cookie bake sale! This is a great foundation and Glad will match funds raised. Visit their website for other great event ideas.

### **Harvesters**

**Collect Food (K-8)** Gather some neighbors or friends and collect food for Harvesters in your neighborhood.

**Give of Your Time (K-8)** Visit Harvesters' website to sign-up to sort and repackage food. This is a great volunteer opportunity for families to give of their time together.

**Youth Engagement** A program where children 8 years and older can gain knowledge about hunger, get involved with Hunger Workshops, the Youth Hunger Summit, and learn about the Youth Leadership Council.

### **Kansas City Community Kitchen**

This soup kitchen serves over 600 meals a day. See the story that was on KMBC.

<http://www.kmbc.com/video/24932746/detail.html?taf=kc1>

Visit the KCKK website for times to help serve meals and ways to get involved.

<http://episcopalcommunity.org/Get%20Involved/volunteer.html>

### **Saint James Place**

Contact person is Doug Langner at 816-561-8515.

**Adopt a Family (K-8)** Adopt a family for Christmas and give gifts to all kids 16 and younger.

**Birthday Bags (K-8)** Make birthday party bags for boys and girls of different ages with paper goods, decorations and party favors.

**Breakfast Bags (K-8)** Donate assembled breakfast bags. Place an individual box of cereal, juice box and cereal bar in a lunch sack. Kids can take these home for breakfast the following day.

**Food Drive (K-8)** Collect non-perishable food items for the food pantry. St. James distributes over 1 ton of food per day. They are always in need of canned food, particularly canned fruit.

**Food Pantry (K-8)** St. James Place Serves a ton of food everyday to people in Kansas City. You can go on noon or 2:00 dismissals for a tour and then they will put you to work sorting food. They really need canned fruit.

**Make Desserts (K-8)** Bake brownies, cupcakes or cookies for the St. James Place Community Kitchen to serve for dinner.

**Medicine Drive (K-8)** Have a medicine drive for the free clinic located at St. James Place.

**Serve a Meal (2-8)** Help serve dinner at the Community Kitchen on the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 4-7 pm with other Visitation Parishioners. Serve food or just mingle and let the patrons know they are not forgotten. Visitation contact is Bill Staggs at 816-304-3264.

### **Operation Gratitude**

Support our troops in a number of ways through Operation Gratitude. Visit their website to get more details about the opportunities below.

<https://www.operationgratitude.com>

**Host a Drive (K-8)** organize a collection of the much needed wish list items.

**Collect "Cents for Service!" (K-8)** every \$15 raised helps pay for another care package

to be shipped.

**Halloween Candy for Heroes (K-8)** Collect and ship candy to overseas troops (please note the candy must be shipped no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>).

**Tell Them "Thank You" (K-8)** Letters, notes, and drawings are often some of the items they love the most. Gather your friends or classmates and take the time to say thanks!

### **The Shepherd's Center**

Contact Deb Dickinson at [danielle@sccentral.org](mailto:danielle@sccentral.org) or 814-444-1121 ext. 105

**KC Rakes (K-8)** Spend a day raking, bagging and cleaning up leaves for elderly individuals who cannot afford yard service in your area.

**Meals on Wheels (K-8)** make cards/meal toppers for some of the 200+ meals that the Shepherd Center delivers each week.

### **Visitation Parish**

**Weekly Food Collection (K-8)** Collect non-perishable food items for the Weekly Food Collection at Vis. Drop your donations in the baskets in the Narthex when you attend Mass on Sunday. The collection benefits a different local food pantry each week of the month: St. Francis Xavier (1st Sunday), St. James Place (2nd Sunday), St. Aloysius Parish (3rd Sunday) and Redemptorist Center (4th Sunday).

**School of Religion Babysitting (5-8)** If interested in School of Religion babysitting contact Tina Wendling at 816-753-5155 x306 or [tina@church.visitation.org](mailto:tina@church.visitation.org)

**Sunday Pre-School (5-8)** Help with Sunday Pre-School in Tighe Hall during 9:00am Mass on Sundays. Tina Wendling at 816-753-5155 or [tina@church.visitation.org](mailto:tina@church.visitation.org).

### **Visitation School**

**Clean-Up (K-8)** Rake leaves, pick up trash, or clean up after games

Contact Sean Pickett (VAC) 816-853-7610 to see if there are any Visitation Clean-Up projects that you can do around or in the school. Let's keep our school and campus clean.

**Neighborhood Clean Up (K-8)** Show our neighbors on Baltimore that we appreciate their patience with the school. Pick up trash, rake leaves or shovel snow. Get a group together and some supplies and go to work. Ask a neighbor or just "do it". Clean up Baltimore, Loose Park or your own street.

**Help with Aftercare (6-8)** On early dismissal days, aftercare could use extra volunteers from 2:00-3:00pm. Play games or give homework help to students in younger grades. Contact Christy Pointer at [cpointer@school.visitation.org](mailto:cpointer@school.visitation.org).

### **Operation Breakthrough**

**Volunteers Needed (3-8)** Read with younger kids, help out at the library, assist caregivers in the baby rooms, or decorate birthday bags for kids who attend Operation Breakthrough. They love to have volunteers to help provide services to young kids.

<https://www.operationbreakthrough.org>

### **Upper Room**

**Read & Tutor (4-8)** Read and tutor with 1st and 2nd graders. This center serves children K-8 for after school tutoring, reading, crafts and fun. They are in need of school supplies, art supplies, or have a book drive for the center. You could even set up a pen-pal.

Volunteer Coordinator: Mallory Gobet at [mallory.upperroom@gmail.com](mailto:mallory.upperroom@gmail.com)

### **YMCA**

**Challenger Sports Volunteer Buddy (4-8)** Challenger Sports is a program for kids with special needs. They are looking for other kids to act as buddies for the participants. Sports include basketball, soccer, tennis, baseball and bowling. Each sport is offered at a different time of year and meets weekly for 6 weeks. Buddies must be at least 9 years old. Locations vary. For more information visit the website:

<https://www.kansascityymca.org/volunteer/challenger-buddy>

Director of Adaptive Programs: Raegan Schurr at 913- 642-6800 or [raegan-schurr@ymca-kc.org](mailto:raegan-schurr@ymca-kc.org).

### **Brighton Gardens of Prairie Village**

**7105 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 6620**

**Musicians Needed (5-8)** Play an instrument for a captive (and forgiving) audience! Brighton Gardens Senior Living Home has a piano you can use or bring your own instrument. You are welcome to go anytime, but it's best to call ahead to make sure there is not an activity or speaker scheduled. Sundays are particularly slow and would be a good time. Any age is welcome and the residents love to see babies and toddlers. Visit either the Health Care Unit or the Alzheimer Unit-or both! This is a great way to get used to playing for an audience and is much appreciated by those who live there. Contact the Activities Director: Sally Stuart at 913-262-1611.

**The Children's Place (K-8)** Every Friday food is sent home in the backpacks of the students and families who receive Day Treatment Services at The Children's Place. Check out their snack pack list and collect food for their pantry. They are also in need of gift cards and supplies. Visit their website to discover ways to volunteer as a group or a family. <http://www.childrensplacekc.org/ways-to-help/volunteer/>

### **Wayside Waifs (K-8)**

**Shelter Visit (K-8)** Schedule a time to visit this shelter that cares for over 200 animals. Spend time feeding the animals treats or just visiting them.

**Organizing Supplies (K-8)** Help organize the numerous supplies it takes to care for so many animals.

**Wish List (K-8)** Plan a drive to collect some of the items from the large wish list.

**Humane Educator Visit (K-8)** Arrange for a humane educator to visit your school to discuss the importance of caring for God's creatures. Volunteer Coordinator: Ashley Stanley at [astanley@waysidewaifs.org](mailto:astanley@waysidewaifs.org)

**Little Sisters of the Poor (K-8)** Gather friends, family, or both to make treats for the many residents. Then schedule a time to deliver the treats and visit with the residents. Contact Volunteer Coordinator: Alice Grego at [volkansacity@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:volkansacity@littlesistersofthepoor.org)

### **ReStart**

[www.restartinc.org](http://www.restartinc.org)

**In-Kind Donations (K-8)** This organization helps homeless men, women, and children looking to restart their lives. They appreciate gently worn clothing that their clients can wear to appointments, work, interviews, etc. Organize a clothing drive among classmates and neighbors. Visit their website to view details about delivery of donations.

Contact: Brenda Rand at [brand@restartinc.org](mailto:brand@restartinc.org) or 816.472.5664 ext. 251

### **Boys Hope Girls Hope (K-8)**

[www.bhghkc.org](http://www.bhghkc.org)

BHGH provides a stable home and the appropriate care for boys who come from challenging circumstances. Collect in-kind donations to be used at the home, or raise money to help support food, clothing, and supply expenses. Call 913.381.1030 to learn more about donations or email [khines@bhgh.org](mailto:khines@bhgh.org)

### **Niles Home (K-8)**

<http://nileshomekc.org/howtohelp/volunteer.html>

Niles home is a residential treatment center for children who have suffered trauma in their lives.

**One Time Projects**-schedule a time to help out with maintenance, painting, and other improvement projects around the facility.

**Organic Gardens** help keep the Nile's organic gardens beautiful by weeding, planting, and harvesting during the summer and spring months.

Email [volunteer@nileshomekc.org](mailto:volunteer@nileshomekc.org) or call 816.241-3448 with questions.

### **Sheffield Place (K-8)**

[www.sheffieldplace.org](http://www.sheffieldplace.org)

Sheffield Place assists families making the difficult transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency. They serve many families and are always in need a variety of items. Organize a class or neighborhood drive to collect items for the [Immediate Needs List](#) or their [Project Hope Wish List](#). Contact David Hanzlick [dhanzlick@sheffieldplace.org](mailto:dhanzlick@sheffieldplace.org) or call 816.483.9927.

### **Synergy Services**

[www.synergyservices.org](http://www.synergyservices.org)

Synergy Services help children and adults who are victims of family violence.

**Donate Time** Help with housekeeping or yard work, help prepare a meal in one of the shelters, prepare items for sale in the thrift store.

**Donate Stuff** Organize a collection items for the Basic Needs List

### **Children's Mercy Hospital**

<http://www.childrensmercy.org>

**Collect Needed Goods (K-8)** Organize a collection of the Needed Goods items the hospital is always eager to receive (games, clothes, toys, art supplies). Please note that donated items must be brand new with packaging, etc. Visit their website for more details.

### **Other Ideas:**

**Make Cards for Shut-ins, Elderly, Hospice or Sick Children (K-8)** Contact a hospice center, nursing home, or Children's Mercy, St. Luke's.

**Neighborhood Recycling Project (K-8)** Offer to collect glass weekly in your neighborhood and take it to a Ripple Glass drop sport near you. Visit the Ripple Glass website for bin locations. <http://www.rippleglass.com/where-to-recycle/>

### **FUNDRAISE (K-8)**

**Organize a class, school-wide, or neighborhood collection to raise money for any of the below organizations.** They primarily accept monetary donations. Visit their websites below to learn more about these organizations and their inspiring missions.

### **Alexandra's House**

[www.alexandrashouse.org](http://www.alexandrashouse.org)

### **F.I.R.E.**

<https://firefoundation.org>

### **Joshua Center**

[www.joshuacenter.com](http://www.joshuacenter.com)

### **Southwest Boulevard Family Health Clinic**

[www.swbfhc.org](http://www.swbfhc.org)