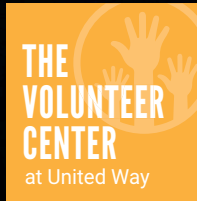


# ACTION CHANGES LIVES

**SOCIAL JUSTICE  
VOLUNTEERING**



# SOCIAL JUSTICE VOLUNTEERING GUIDE

Acknowledging our individual biases and recognizing the disparities in our community is vital to continuing the momentum toward equity and access for all. One way to contribute is to volunteer with organizations that are spearheading these efforts and see firsthand the work that still needs to be done.

In honor of World Social Justice Day (February 20, 2022), this guide outlines opportunities for individuals and groups to take action through service and volunteerism.

The following guide is just a glimpse of what opportunities are available across Kent County.

**FIND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT  
VOLUNTEERGR.ORG.**

*As our partner agencies continue to face new challenges and adapt to changing conditions, please review and respect all requirements before volunteering.*

**Opportunities in blue are BIPOC-founded/led organizations.**

Our goals are to:

1. Unite people from various segments of the community to have an impact on the social policies that affect their lives
2. Build nonprofit capacity through volunteerism for organizations who focus on marginalized populations
3. Educate our neighbors about social change needed in our community





# BOARDS/COMMITTEES


## ALTERNATIVES IN MOTION

Serve on our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee or our Marketing, Outreach, Development, and Education Committee. Committees meet once a month for one hour to support events, educational opportunities, and marketing strategies.

 [aimgr.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://aimgr.org/get-involved/volunteer)

## COMPASSIONATE AWARENESS AUTISM CENTER (CA2C)

Help build healthier, happier communities for individuals with Autism and their families by joining our Board of Directors! As a member, you'll use your skills, time, and talents to help special needs children diagnosed with Autism have a better life.

 734-489-9492

## ARBOR CIRCLE

Consider serving in a leadership capacity by joining one of our committees or applying for our Board of Directors.

 [arborcircle.org/give](http://arborcircle.org/give)

 [volunteer@arborcircle.org](mailto:volunteer@arborcircle.org)




FIND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT [VOLUNTEERGR.ORG](http://VOLUNTEERGR.ORG)

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## ACCESS OF WEST MICHIGAN

We have internship and volunteer opportunities in each of our programs for 5–15 hours weekly. Volunteer positions include Communications and Marketing, Special Events, Poverty Education Administration, Congregation Casework Intern, Good Food Systems Program Assistance, and Fund Development.

 [accessofwestmichigan.org/opportunities](https://accessofwestmichigan.org/opportunities)

 [nancy@accessofwestmichigan.org](mailto:nancy@accessofwestmichigan.org)

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## ALTERNATIVES IN MOTION

**Warehouse Volunteer:** Clean equipment, break down equipment for recycling, and help with small repairs of mobility equipment.

**Community Van Driver:** Drive a van in eight counties we serve, picking up and sometimes delivering equipment.


 [aimgr.org/get-involved/volunteer](https://aimgr.org/get-involved/volunteer)

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## ARBOR CIRCLE

**Share our Mission:** Learn more about Arbor Circle by inviting our staff to share more about our work at Lunch n' Learns, book clubs, in church communities, and more.


**Representation Matters Wish List:** Host a drive or individually donate representative books and toys for children and families that use our services.

 [arborcircle.org/give](https://arborcircle.org/give)

 [volunteer@arborcircle.org](mailto:volunteer@arborcircle.org)

## CASA OF KENT COUNTY

**Court Appointed Special Advocate:** A CASA Volunteer is specially trained to build a relationship with a child in foster care, explore their circumstances, understand their wishes, and communicate their needs to Family Court Judges. Volunteers work to make certain the child(ren) they advocate for have the best possible chance at a happy, healthy, and successful future. CASA volunteers come from all backgrounds and every walk of life and work diligently to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable children in our community are not further neglected or compounded by an overwhelmed child welfare system.

 [casakentco.org](https://casakentco.org)

 [casa@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:casa@kentcountymi.gov)


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## COMPASSIONATE AWARENESS AUTISM CENTER (CA2C)

**Excel Data Manager:** Serve Autistic children and their families by managing data in Excel, Microsoft Word, and Google Sheets. This position is 5–10 hours per week and can be done from home with occasional in-person meetings.

**Administrative Assistant Volunteer:** Support the day-to-day operation of a small nonprofit by giving 10–20 hours per week managing email communications, updating calendars, assisting with community events, mailing packets to families, and other duties as needed. This opportunity is work from home and may require occasional in-person meetings.

 [zenia@autismca2c.org](mailto:zenia@autismca2c.org)

 734-489-9492

FIND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT [VOLUNTEERGR.ORG](https://volunteergr.org)

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

## HELPING OUR ADOLESCENTS PROSPER (HOAP)

**Advocate:** Duties include, but are not limited to, connecting our participants with community resources and serving as an accountability partner to support and help them navigate services.

✉ admin@hoapinc.com

*(include "Volunteer Opportunity" in the subject line)*

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## MEANING IN COLORS

**Career Mentor:** Assist clients in navigating their career path and strategize to achieve their career and life goals

**Community Outreach:** Assist in spreading awareness of services

**Resource Building:** Assist in building resources and partnerships

**Program Facilitator:** Assist Program Coordinator with tasks throughout mentoring sessions

**Event Coordinating:** Assist with organizational events

**Building Operation:** Assist with building upkeep

🌐 meaningincolors.org

📞 616-635-0170

## SEEDS OF PROMISE

**Join an Impact Team:** Impact Teams are self-organized neighborhood teams composed of Host Neighbors and Endorsing Partners who address neighborhood issues and concerns. We're currently focusing on the four areas of Public Safety, Housing, Education, and Healthcare.

**Project Support:** There are many opportunities to support new projects at Seeds of Promise including City Safe Communities Initiatives, homeownership programs, mentoring, program facilitation, administration roles, after school pilot programs, PEACE Fundraisers, COVID and public safety campaigns, and listening sessions.

🌐 regenailtxt@gmail.com

✉ 616-425-5929

“  
***Fight for the things that  
you care about, but do it  
in a way that will lead  
others to join you.***

—Supreme Court Justice  
Ruth Bader Ginsberg  
”

# EDUCATION & MENTORING

## ARBOR CIRCLE

**Total Trek Quest Coach:** Become a coach with Total Trek Quest for 3rd–5th grade boys at neighborhood schools across West Michigan. You don't have to be a runner to be a coach!

**Host Homes:** Serve as a Host Home for a young person, age 18–20, transitioning into independent living.

 [arborcircle.org/give](http://arborcircle.org/give)

 [volunteer@arborcircle.org](mailto:volunteer@arborcircle.org)

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## HELPING OUR ADOLESCENTS PROSPER (HOAP)

**Administration:** Duties may include, but are not limited to, data entry, taking inbound calls, prepping for groups, and other light duties as needed.

**Transportation Support:** Duties include providing non-emergency transportation to and from workshops, appointments, schoolwork, and childcare.

**Fund Development:** Duties may include, but are not limited to, assisting the organization with fundraisers and developing new and strategic ways to raise financial capital as well as build and maintain relationships with our donors.

**Childcare Assistant:** Duties include serving food and organizing activities while providing onsite support to children of our young mothers while they participate in groups and workshops in the same building.


 [admin@hoapinc.com](mailto:admin@hoapinc.com)


*(include "Volunteer Opportunity" in the subject line)*

## COMPASSIONATE AWARENESS AUTISM CENTER (CA2C)

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Support CA2C by volunteering to coordinate volunteer events! Hours vary monthly based on programming and event needs. Interested volunteers must be proficient in emailing and Zoom, and organizational skills are necessary.

**Volunteer Social Skills Teacher:** Become a Volunteer Social Skills Teacher and help provide instruction and monitor participants' progress within a social group. You'll take session notes, implement lesson plans, and teach parents/caregivers the social skills tools used in each session with their child. This opportunity requires two 60-minute instructional sessions for six consecutive weeks. Program hours are 5:30–6:30 p.m. for ages 7–12 and 6:45–7:45 p.m. for ages 13–17, with 2–3 additional hours of prep time. Requirements include a minimum five years of Special Education teaching experience and a personal philosophy compatible with the success of every student.

 734-489-9492

 [zenia@autismca2c.org](mailto:zenia@autismca2c.org)

FIND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT [VOLUNTEERGR.ORG](http://VOLUNTEERGR.ORG)





# FOOD SECURITY ACCESS & EDUCATION


## COMMUNITY FOOD CLUB

Help support Community Food Club's mission of promoting food security in Kent County by volunteering at the grocery store. Shifts are 1–2 hours:

- **Greeter and Check-In Volunteer:** Greet members when they enter the store and verify members' point balances.
- **Checkout Volunteer:** Ring up members' groceries using our point-of-sale software and bag groceries as needed.
- **Stocking Volunteer:** Stock, organize, and straighten products on our shelves and in our coolers.

 [communityfoodclubgr.org/volunteer](https://communityfoodclubgr.org/volunteer)

 [raul.ortiz@communityfoodclubgr.org](mailto:raul.ortiz@communityfoodclubgr.org)

 616-288-5550


## HEARTSIDE GLEANING

**Food Box Packers:** Volunteers will complete tasks such as carrying boxes, counting and sorting produce, setting up boxes on the assembly line and ensuring they remain stocked with produce, packing assigned items into each box, adding educational materials to boxes, and cleaning up after packing.

**Food Box Distributors:** Volunteers will work with the driver to load, sort, and deliver boxes to final distribution locations. This will require some lifting, sorting boxes, and loading boxes into recipient vehicles. The ability to speak Spanish is a great help, although not required.

**Education Volunteer:** In coordination with staff, individuals will develop and design educational materials for weekly distribution in the food boxes.

 [heartsidegleaning.org/volunteer-form.html](https://heartsidegleaning.org/volunteer-form.html)

 [emily@heartsidegleaning.org](mailto:emily@heartsidegleaning.org)



**FIND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT [VOLUNTEERGR.ORG](https://volunteergr.org)**

## FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

### HELPING OUR ADOLESCENTS PROSPER (HOAP)

**Advocate:** Duties include, but are not limited to, connecting our participants with community resources and serving as an accountability partner to support and help them navigate services.

✉ admin@hoapinc.com

(include "Volunteer Opportunity" in the subject line)

*In these days of difficulty, we Americans everywhere must and shall choose the path of social justice..., the path of faith, the path of hope, and the path of love toward our fellow man.*

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

## HOUSING & EDUCATION WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT

### DWELLING PLACE

**Curb Appeal Evaluations:** Help give Dwelling Place a fresh look at their properties and a new perspective on how to improve them. Join an evaluation team and tour the dwellings to report property conditions twice annually to prioritize improvements and provide beautiful places to live. Evaluations occur the second week of May and the second week of October.

**Welcome Home Baskets (in-kind giving):** Dwelling Place provides new residents with Welcome Home Baskets, move-in gifts that are a gesture of neighborliness to the people that call one of our communities home. By providing housing to folks formerly facing homelessness, people with disabilities, and those with low incomes, these gifts are an essential provision in getting settled in.

**Property Days:** Great for corporate groups looking to give back in the summertime. Dwelling Place chooses a property to beautify, and volunteer groups work together to provide landscape improvements, amenity additions, and more. From weeding to building garden beds with residents, these projects are a great way to explore affordable housing, while chipping into the beauty of our communities.

🌐 [dwellingplacegr.org/volunteer](https://dwellingplacegr.org/volunteer)

✉ [volunteers@dwellingplacegr.org](mailto:volunteers@dwellingplacegr.org)

FIND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT [VOLUNTEERGR.ORG](https://volunteergr.org)



# HOUSING & EDUCATION WRAP-AROUND SUPPORT

## FAMILY PROMISE

**Donation Sorting:** Come spend 2–4 hours at our office to help sort and organize the amazing donations we receive from generous community members or distribute donations to community partners and shelter sites. A perfect flexible opportunity for regular volunteers!

**Partners in Housing:** Help rehabilitate manufactured homes to make them safe and beautiful places for families to call home! This opportunity typically includes jobs like painting, cleaning, yardwork, moving furniture, or hanging blinds and smoke detectors. Let us know if you have any specialized skills (electrical, plumbing, drywall, etc.) or experience you'd like to put to great use. Best for groups of 3+, so bring your family and friends!

**Freezer Meals:** Cook delicious freezer meals for families. When families move home, we fill up their freezer to help them settle in and start their new journey. Pick a favorite recipe of yours, or we'll provide one, and cook at your kitchen or ours! We ask that volunteers bring their own ingredients.

**Cookie Baking:** Bake delicious cookies for families passing through our day center! Perfect for families and great home bakers. Bake in your own kitchen or ours, and let your skills make our families' day.

**Thank You Crafts:** Help us thank the many individuals and community partners who support our families and services to end family homelessness. Use your craft skills to decorate boards and notes to celebrate the community that makes our work possible.

**Day Center Cleaning/Organizing:** Up for giving some elbow grease? Help keep our families' space clean by donating some care to our day center! This is a space our families use to cook a meal, put kiddos down for a nap, do laundry, rest, research, or do homework.

**Community Errands & Furniture Moving:** Help us get basic needs items where they need to go, be it to a community partner, a family's home, or one of our shelter spaces! This volunteer opportunity is great for someone who likes to be out and about, has their own vehicle, and wants to give a small, regular, or semi-regular window of time.

 [familypromisegr.org/get-involved/volunteer](https://familypromisegr.org/get-involved/volunteer)

 [lilyf@familypromise.org](mailto:lilyf@familypromise.org)




FIND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT [VOLUNTEERGR.ORG](https://volunteergr.org)

# REFUGEE/IMMIGRANT SUPPORT

## AMA INTERNATIONAL

**Ama Dream Team:** The Ama Dream Team is a family of individuals that unite in passion and purpose, turning dreams into reality both here in the U.S. and across borders. You'll have a variety of service opportunities including inventorying, sorting, and packing supplies to be shipped to international partners for humanitarian aid; face painting and table hosting at local festivals and events; delivery drivers for our annual toy distribution; and more. You'll also be the first to know about international service trip opportunities.

 [amawithoutborders.org/volunteer](http://amawithoutborders.org/volunteer)

 [info@amawithoutborders.org](mailto:info@amawithoutborders.org)

## REFUGEE EDUCATION CENTER

**B.R.I.D.G.E. Summer Program:** Help newly arrived students get familiar with the American education system and general education. This program is offered as a classroom setting, divided into different age groups in a school-like schedule including recess and lunchtime. We're looking for lead teachers, classroom aids, drivers, and interns to support the program coordinator.

 [refugeeeducationcenter.org/volunteer](http://refugeeeducationcenter.org/volunteer)



FIND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT [VOLUNTEERGR.ORG](http://VOLUNTEERGR.ORG)


# REFUGEE/IMMIGRANT SUPPORT

## NOOR'S HEAVEN OF WEST MICHIGAN

**Case Management:** Our case manager coordinates various forms of support including, but not limited to, screening, assessing, and providing basic case management for clients including referrals, advocacy, and other assistance to achieve the case plan objectives.

**Immigration and Legal Services Referrals:** You'll conduct initial screenings with clients in Arabic/English; prepare all necessary IDs, photos, and supporting documents; and refer Arab and Muslim community members to local immigration agencies.

**Cultural Ambassador:** In this hands-on approach role, you'll help create workshops and presentations to raise awareness of services for diverse groups of women, children, and families in the community, as well as help identify women and families in need of support and connect them with services.

 [noorheaven.org](https://noorheaven.org)

 [aid@noorheaven.org](mailto:aid@noorheaven.org)

## TREETOPS COLLECTIVE

**Cross-Cultural Partnerships:** Cross-Cultural Partnerships are intentional friendships. They're authentic relationships built on mutuality that meet for four hours per month for nine months, cultivating meaningful relationships between New American neighbors and women native to the U.S. or who have been here many years. From practicing English to neighborhood walks, partners simply do life together and receive support and training throughout the program. Create a profile, sign up for training, and match with a New American woman in May 2022.

 [treetopscollective.galaxydigital.com](https://treetopscollective.galaxydigital.com)

“

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'*

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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FIND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT [VOLUNTEERGR.ORG](https://volunteergr.org)