



Current Volunteering Opportunities in Greater Franklin County

Volunteer, Work First, Inc.

Work First, Inc. is looking to host a weekly Bingo game at their Rt. 4 location. They are seeking a volunteer (or two if you have a friend who'd like to help) to assist with announcing the numbers during the games. Start date is to be determined, but the anticipated weekly time slot is 10- 11:30 a.m.

Contact:

Linda LaRue-Keniston, (207) 778-3200, ext. 22

Window Evaluator for the Community Energy Challenge

As a window evaluator, you will make scheduled home visits in Greater Franklin County. Working in pairs, a simple visual inspection will determine the most ideal placement for the window panels. Six windows will be measured. These measurements will be used to make the interior storm window panels in the Community Workshop in Salem.

You will also install the window panels once they have been completed. Evaluators are encouraged to have homeowners participate in taking the measurements and installing the window panels, as well as, attending trainings and workshops.

Contact:

Isaac Frith, (207) 778-5048
or Nancy Teel, nteel@localnet

Mentor, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin and Oxford Counties

A prevention program based on one-to-one mentoring relationships between an adult volunteer and a child in Southern and Central Franklin County. Training is provided.

Contact:

Rob Hatch, (207) 743-7035

Mt. Blue Regional School District Mentor

Mt. Blue RSD needs mentors to be a non-judgmental friend to students. Mentors meet once a week, usually at lunch, with their student. After lunch, mentors often play games, help with homework or go out to the playground. It's a wonderful opportunity to share your life experience with a student. Mentors undergo a "mentor training" with the Volunteer Coordinator. They meet with their student only on school grounds during school hours. Background information and references are required.

Contact:

Pauline Rodrigue, (207) 778-3707

Clothing Exchange Coordinator, Franklin County Children's Task Force

Responsible for upkeep of clothing exchange program which consists of sorting through and organizing children's clothing sizes newborn to 4T. Volunteer will be responsible for identifying age appropriate clothing, as well as additional supplies and donations. Volunteer will also be responsible for outreach involving needed items for families and community members involved in programming. Must be able to identify clothing sizes by labels, be neat and orderly as well as respectful to families using the clothing exchange.

Janice Crandall, (207) 778-6960

Help in a kindergarten classroom

Help kindergarten teachers by being their extra hands, eyes and ears. If you love energy and the unexpected, this is a wonderful place to be. In a morning or afternoon you might help with snack, run a center, zip jackets, tie shoes, read to students, and help them with their work. Kindergarten volunteers do need to do a brief orientation with the volunteer coordinator, otherwise there are no limitations.

Contact:

Pauline Rodrigue, (207) 778-3707

Warming Center Volunteer

There are a number of volunteer positions available at the area Warming Centers. Among the positions are receptionists, to welcome guests and answer questions about the Warming Center, snow removal, cleaning the center, food preparation and serving and spending time with guests. No training is required for many of the positions, just come in with a friendly attitude. Volunteers will work in teams.

Contact:

Reverend Susan Crane, Farmington, (207) 778-2163

Reverend Doug Dunlap, Wilton, (207) 645-2535

Crystal Cook, Salem Township, (207) 678-2611

Visitor's Center Volunteers, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce

The busy Franklin County Chamber of Commerce office and visitor's center in Farmington seeks volunteers who love to greet visitors to the region. General office work, including answering phones, light cleaning is also appreciated. Computer skills and general office skills - answering phones etc., are required.

Contact:

Michele Pelletier, (207) 778-4215

Volunteer, Area Food Banks

There are a number of area food banks located throughout Great Franklin County. Potential tasks that may be asked of volunteers would be: filling shelves with food, unloading food and placing it in storage, organizing foods by type, etc. Volunteers should check with their local food bank for volunteer opportunities. For a complete list of area food banks, contact the United Way of the Tri-Valley Area or visit www.uwtva.org.

Contact:

United Way of the Tri-Valley Area, (207) 778-5048

Volunteer, Franklin County Animal Shelter

Some of the tasks which may be required of volunteers include helping clean kennels and cages, taking dogs outside for short walks as well as filling water bowls and feeding the animals. Other tasks may include helping with any events and office work such as data entry.

Contact:

Franklin County Animal Shelter, (207) 778-2638

Volunteer Driver, Community Concepts, Inc.

Community Concepts, Inc.'s volunteer drivers provide transportation to citizens of Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford Counties. They provide rides to medical appointments, child development programs and other critical destinations. They offer a vital service to the community, enhancing the quality of life for those who have no other means of transportation. In 2008, volunteers donated more than 600,000 hours to the transportation program. They drove over 13 million miles! Mileage reimbursement is offered.

Contact:

Koriene Low, (207) 779-0594

A Program for Grieving Children & Teens Volunteer

A Program for Grieving Children and Teens is a support system for children and teenagers ages 3 to 18 who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, grandparent, relative or friend. Sessions are offered free of charge in Lewiston/Auburn, Mexico/Rumford, and Farmington. Each (either 8 or 10 week) session is offered in the early evening and provides a trusting environment where feelings about the loss of a loved one may be expressed and shared with others in similar circumstances. Activities such as drawing, writing, art, music, and discussion will help children communicate their feelings. Children are divided into appropriate age groups that are staffed by volunteer facilitators. A separate facilitated group session is held at the same time for adult family members. Volunteers complete a 27-hour training program. A Program for Grieving Children and Teens is sponsored by Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice.

Contact:

Pedro Rojas, (207) 777-7740

Volunteer, Healthy Community Coalition

Hope Harvest Garden:

The Hope Harvest Garden is a 60 x 110 foot garden plot, located on a sunny southern exposure on the grounds at Franklin Memorial Hospital. It is a collaboration between Healthy Community Coalition, University of Maine Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners, Franklin Memorial Hospital, Western Maine Community Action, and local groups and businesses. In a given year, an average of 175 volunteers are involved in growing more than 2,200 pounds of chemical-free produce that is donated to area food pantries. The goal is to raise awareness of food pantries' needs, increase access to fresh produce by pantry clients, and use the garden as a learning tool for the community. Volunteers are needed for all phases of gardening - planning, cultivating seedlings, preparing the soil, planting, weeding and harvesting produce.

Mapping Our Footsteps:

Do you enjoy the great outdoors? Do you want to get outside more, but aren't sure of where you can walk, hike, or bike? Mapping Our Footsteps is currently looking for volunteers (students, individuals, families, school groups) to help map local walking and hiking trails throughout Great Franklin County.

Contact:

Lorri Brown, (207) 779-2929

Volunteer, HealthReach RSVP

Health Reach Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) helps retired people, over the age 55, make productive and personally rewarding contributions to communities, including Greater Franklin County, through volunteer services with non-profit agencies and organizations that make a difference. Volunteer placements are available all year. Signature Programs include the Born to Read Program, Matter of Balance Program. Mileage reimbursement is available.

Contact:

Linda Rood, (207) 778-0427

Franklin Memorial Hospital

The gift of your time can help so many! Call FMH at 779-2552. Volunteers are ordinary people, just like you, with a desire to help others, a professional attitude and a willingness to learn new things. The following items are just a few of the tasks that need volunteer support:

Information at Escort desk; Flower delivery; Daily mail distribution; Clerical; Gift Shop Blood Drives; Special Projects; Bulk Mailings

Contact:

Charlie Woodcock, (207) 779-2552

Volunteer, LEAP (Life Enrichment Advancing People)

LEAP Inc. is looking for volunteers to help with its "growing" Stone Soup Gardens project. Volunteers are welcome to help plant harvest, or prepare new raised bed gardens that are on a beautiful 40-acre parcel of land off Rt. 2 in Farmington Falls. Volunteer are also needed to help develop walking trails or maintain ones on the property. LEAP, Inc. is a private non-profit organization devoted to supporting people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities to be actively involved in their home communities. Stone Soup Gardens is accessible to those with disabilities.

Contact:

Rick Dorian, (207) 778-3443

Tutor, Literacy Volunteers of Franklin and Somerset Counties

Literacy Volunteers provides free reading/writing service to individuals with low level literacy skills. Trained volunteer tutors serve Franklin and Somerset Counties and Livermore Falls, Livermore and Jay areas. Literacy Volunteer tutors take an 18-hour workshop. They are then matched with a student in their area. This service is free, confidential, and on a one-to-one basis. Tutors and students meet at a place of their

choice, either in the student's home or a local learning center, or library. Literacy Volunteers has teen tutoring programs in schools in both counties. Literacy Volunteers also sends volunteers to different nursing homes in the area to read to the patients.

Contact:

Joan Moes, (207) 778-3460

Volunteer Driver, SeniorsPlus

SeniorsPlus provides meals all year to seniors throughout Greater Franklin County. It delivers thousands of meals per year to approximately 150 seniors in the region. SeniorsPlus is currently looking for a Meals on Wheels volunteer driver to deliver meals from Livermore to Phillips one day a week. Mileage reimbursement is available, and the position could be shared. SeniorsPlus is looking for volunteers to serve as "back-up" volunteers to support the efforts of volunteers currently serving meals at the congregate dining site at the Masonic Hall one day a week.

Contact:

Trudy Hamilton, (207) 795-4010

Helpline Volunteer, Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES)

Sexual Assault Victims Emergency Services (SAVES) provides a free 24/7 helpline for survivors of recent or past sexual assault, as well as family, friends and others who need support and information regarding the assault of their loved ones. Volunteers are needed to staff the helpline. Extensive training is provided.

Contact:

Judy Rawlings, (207) 778-9522

Volunteer, United Methodist Economic Ministry

UMEM is a crisis oriented ministry. This means that UMEM believes that it is sometimes necessary to provide short-term support as part of the empowering of individuals to become self-sufficient. UMEM currently operates a thrift shop, a housing ministry, a food bank and a Warming Center. All hands are needed.

Contact:

Crystal Cook, Operations Manager, (207) 678-2611

Western Maine Community Action

Make a positive difference for yourself and others in your community by volunteering with Western Maine Community Action. WMCA has projects, education and outreach opportunities, and special events available throughout Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford counties. WMCA strives to match your interests with the most appropriate openings. WMCA maintains a listing of current and specific agency opportunities that is available upon request, including Operation Santa Claus and Seeds of Life program.

Contact:

Cindy Brophy, (207) 645-3764

American Red Cross – United Valley Chapter

The American Red Cross is always looking for volunteers to join their Disaster Action Teams. Volunteers provide critical services to those who have been a victim of fire or other disaster. Training is provided.

Contact:

Eric Lynes, (207) 795-4004

For additional opportunities, visit www.volunteermaine.org

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