

*Mayor's Volunteer Corps*

**Z****i****N****e**

*Fall 2021*



# *The Mayor's Volunteer Corps Zine*

Organized by the Mayor's Office of Civic Engagement and Volunteer Service, the Mayor's Volunteer Corps (MVC) is a community of volunteers who commit to ongoing, high-impact service in the city of Philadelphia. This zine captures inspiring stories of service from members of the MVC. We hope this encourages you to reflect on the importance of volunteering and begin (or continue!) your journey!

## *Join the Mayor's Volunteer Corps!*

Getting featured in the Mayor's Volunteer Corps Zine is as easy as 1-2-3!

- First, join the Mayor's Volunteer Corps. Register an account at the Mayor's Volunteer Corps Portal ([serve.volunteermatch.org](https://serve.volunteermatch.org)).
- Second, sign up for volunteer opportunities that are listed on the portal.
- Finally, after completing your service, track your service hours (this includes opportunities found outside of the Mayor's Volunteer Corps portal).

## *How can you get featured?*

Share your volunteer service story while tracking your service hours online:  
[bit.ly/MVCtrackinghours](https://bit.ly/MVCtrackinghours)



At the Red Cross, I am a blood ambassador. I check people in for donations, screen patients, and provide refreshments for donors.

I choose to volunteer because I noticed a need for volunteer support and recognized that I could help out with daily administrative tasks. My service lightens the load for staff.

I know my service is meaningful because of the feedback that donors give following their donation. It makes me feel special to know that I helped give them a positive experience.

There is also a unique comradery at my service site. Once we had a difficult donor who started yelling. A few staff helped diffuse the situation. To further help calm things down, another donor bought Dunkin Donuts gift cards and distributed them to everyone who helped diffuse the situation. It was nice to see that stranger step up with such a kind gesture.

My advice to other volunteers: just go and do it. Once you start volunteering, you'll experience joy and want to continue.

**Nikki Cao**

**Volunteer with the American Red Cross**





At my volunteer site, I hand out meals and keep areas clean.

I serve because I am a sociology student and want to use my skills to be helpful. I also want to be more active, and volunteering gives me motivation to go out and help my neighborhood.

It's validating to be a part of the solution. It's important to get connected to the issues that impact our communities.

To those who want to start volunteering, I say that you should take the time to look at the problems impacting your community and figure out how you can help. It's gonna be a good experience - good for you and good for your community.

**Matthew Hawkins**  
Volunteer with Step Up To The Plate

I serve because I am confident in the future of the city and its diverse neighborhoods. It's important to identify issues raised by citizens and to work with people, agencies, and educational institutions to create and implement resolutions.

I find my service meaningful because there are families who appreciate receiving resources that improve their quality of life. One of my goals is to work with youth ages 7-13, crystallizing the basic critical skills they need to move through school, their community and in their relationships with other young people.

To aspiring volunteers, I say, "Be quite certain that you have interest in not just working with people but being comfortable in sharing some positive life lessons. Volunteer in an area where you have that experience and enjoy working with the public."

**Teresa Duncan**  
Volunteer at the Center for Leadership  
Development and Advocacy





I help Transfiguration Baptist Church - an organization that offers free meal distribution and delivery and school readiness and tutoring - get their ideas off the ground. I also support fundraising and grant writing.

I serve because I want to use my professional skills to help a community organization that directly improves lives of community members.

For people who want to get started volunteering, I say, "It's worth your time to invest in helping others. There are existing causes that need your support. Get involved today!"

**Samantha Hanson**

**Volunteer with Transformation CDC of the Transfiguration Baptist Church**



I am an IT intern with the Philadelphia Community Corps. I upgrade and maintain their website and customer relationship management.

Philadelphia Community Corps does a variety of work, including salvaging and repurposing building materials before buildings are demolished, offering tool rentals, and reducing environmental waste.

I serve because, as a Temple student, I wanted to intern with a nonprofit that helps the environment. Also, the organization is not tech-oriented, so I help integrate modern systems into their work. I help them set up services that build their efficiency. What I do helps spread the word about this organization's mission, gain volunteers, and gather donations for the organization.

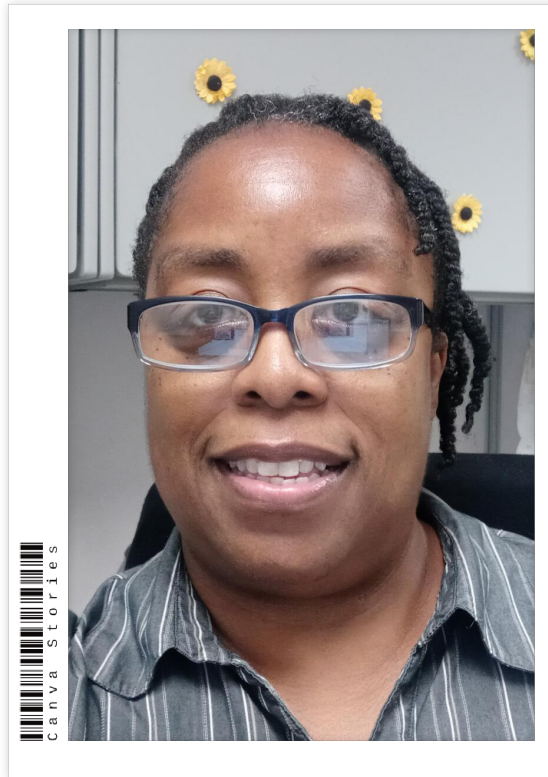
To aspiring volunteers, I say, "Doing your part in the community is rewarding. It feels good knowing that you can make even a little difference."

**Michael McGoldrick**

**Volunteer with Philadelphia Community Corps**







I set up and manage tables for Lutheran Settlement House's (LSH's) food pantry. Monitoring food distribution, I make sure all visitors leave with some amount of food.

I serve because I have high regards for the organization and their mission. You don't have to be homeless to get supplies from LSH. Their community-centered approach is impressive and inspiring.

As a volunteer, my reward is in the conversations and relationships that I build. Seeing reactions to my service makes me feel good. Honestly, I can say that I have not had a single bad day volunteering at Lutheran Settlement House.

Volunteering got me out the house; it gives me something to do. I hope more people get involved; it's a community effort.

Don't give up. People need us. It's a beautiful feeling to know that you're helping someone else.

Diane Burden

Volunteer with Lutheran Settlement House



Learn more: [www.phila.gov/programs/mayors-volunteer-corps](http://www.phila.gov/programs/mayors-volunteer-corps)