

Mayor's Volunteer Corps

zine

Spring 2022



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!



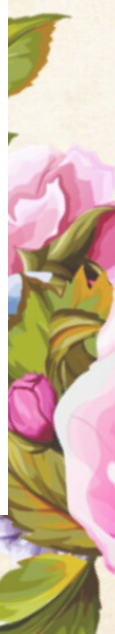
Join the Mayor's Volunteer Corps!

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

1. Join the Mayor's Volunteer Corps. Register an account at the Mayor's Volunteer Corps portal (serve.volunteermatch.org).
2. Sign up for volunteer opportunities that are listed on the portal.
3. After completing your volunteer 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 when tracking your service hours online: bit.ly/MVCtrackinghours



I volunteer with the American Red Cross. I hold several positions in disaster response. I am a responder in Philadelphia, a disaster mental manager, and a shelter supervisor.

Volunteering allows me to assist families during and after fires and natural disasters. It also allows me to use my professional skills in a meaningful way and keeps me remain humble.

Volunteering keeps you involved in your community and contributes to your overall health. Helping others in their time of need is the purest form of giving. For me, the reality that disasters do not discriminate makes all of us vulnerable. When I assist a family, I am touched by their strengths and their resolve to recover from the "worst day of their lives."

Danelle Stoppel

My husband and I volunteer across sites: ESL courses at OnLok House Senior Center and free food distribution at Lutheran Settlement House.

We taught basic English to Chinese-speaking seniors in Chinatown up until the COVID-19 pandemic. We enjoyed the teaching experience; some of the seniors are witty, asking silly questions to make everyone laugh. It felt great to help our Chinese community.

For Lutheran Settlement House, we volunteered to bag and serve lunch to seniors, got to know and made some friends in the center. It was such a wonderful experience to be able to volunteer and help in our neighborhood.

Other residents should volunteer because contributing time and effort makes a difference in your community.

Joseph and Phoebe Chan



Philadelphia is one of the most diverse and welcoming cities in the US. From the moment I arrived, it felt like home. I am still adapting to the cold weather but spreading the word about soccer is one of my passions.

I have served in the LGBTQ+ soccer Club, Philadelphia Falcons, for over 9 years. I volunteer my time as a Safe-Hub coach, and I am CASA Soccer League's first-ever Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer.

These opportunities have helped a wide range of people - from the LGBTQ community to the youth, to all soccer players around Philadelphia. Everyone should be given access to play soccer regardless of their sexual orientation, economic situation, immigration status, gender identity or expression, background, race, or gender.

In volunteering, you will meet the best community which will soon become a family - the Philly soccer community is like the city, united and always willing to stick by your side. If you volunteer as a youth coach, the kids will love you, or if it is more of an adult setting, the adults will thank you and respect the change you are bringing. The best part is you are connecting with people from all walks of life.

Yunio Iran Martinez



I volunteered at the COVID vaccine sites. I introduced different types of vaccines to people, helped people get to the right place, supported interpreters for non-English speakers, and supported clients with disabilities.

I believe that everyone has to play a role to serve this society, and I enjoy playing mine. I like to build up new friendships with the people I meet during my volunteering experience.

I would like to see my society as a better and safer place for everyone. Volunteering helped me to connect emotionally with people's experiences. It made me appreciate service and commit to my duties.

For those who need an incentive to volunteer, I encourage you to do your part to serve your society. Everybody around you deserves to get some help from people who can offer it.

Ahmed Marzouk



I have lived in Philadelphia since 1999. My volunteering aligned with the start of COVID and I began to notice how many people were in such desperate need of basic necessities. I currently volunteer across our entire great city as a facilitator of anything and everything needed by all shelters. I love walking into every place like Bethesda Project and knowing that one person can make a difference

Devon Dresing



Mayor's Office of

Civic Engagement and Volunteer Service

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

