

# Volunteer NJ!



NEW JERSEY STRONG:  
Join a Movement



NOVEMBER 16, 2023

## Volunteer NJ Gives Thanks

### A Message from Lt. Governor Way



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As we approach the holiday season, I know that we are giving thought to the blessings we in New Jersey receive from our family, friends, and even the kindness of strangers. I hope you will consider reaching out to those in need during this time of giving and offer what you can through volunteer service. Whether you offer donations or deliveries to those experiencing food insecurity, children who need your smile and support, animals who seek a home, or those who need assistance to get through each day, please explore the hundreds of volunteer opportunities that are highlighted in our Volunteer NJ bulletin. All of the volunteer centers, non-profit agencies, and faith-based organizations will appreciate your support. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

With warm regards,  
Tahesha Way, Lt. Governor and Secretary of State

#### Upcoming Volunteer Events

Family Volunteer Day 2023

Jersey City's 27th Annual Toy Drive

#### Newest Volunteer Opportunities

BGCMC Food & Diaper Bank

Afterschool Meal Prep Assistant

Youth Night LUCY Lift Driver

Families for Families

Concert Usher NJ Choral Society

Project Sunshine Volunteer

Create Thanksgiving Decorations for Hospice Families

Gloucester County Habitat for Humanity ReStore Volunteers

Canteen (Meals On Wheels) Program

Forest Defenders, Tenafly Nature Center

Bell Ringer | Red Kettle Campaign

Medical Supply Sorting

United Way of Northern New Jersey's Gifts of the Season Program

ESL Volunteers

Event Volunteers, NJ Buddies

Food Distribution, Better Tomorrows

Looking for a specific volunteer opportunity? [Visit our Volunteer Hub](#)

#### Medalist Spotlight

*Ann Rapisarda -- Animal Welfare*



Ann is the board chair for Friends of Burlington County Animal Shelter, and dedicates a significant amount of her daily free time to this organization. She is constantly on call for the entire organization and is deeply involved in every aspect of the group – fundraising, foster care, shelter events, adoptions, etc.

Ann singlehandedly secures thousands of dollars in funding from sponsors every year for our annual Paw Prints 5k and Pet Fest event.

**Thank a Volunteer by Nominating them for the 2024 Awards**

**Openings at AmeriCorps NJ**  
*Trenton Climate Corps*



Trenton Climate Corps is a program for training participants in climate resilience and green infrastructure skills with the goal of creating a network of environmental stewards with the skills to improve Trenton for current and future generations.

[More Information](#)

# Visits Mercer Street Friends



The Governor's Advisory Council on Volunteerism and Community Service held their quarterly meeting at Mercer Street Friends in September. During the meeting, Florence Demming was announced as the new Council Chair. Following the meeting, the Council members packed almost 200 Community Food Bags, each bag providing 16 meals. The Community Food Bags were distributed to families throughout Trenton and Mercer County. Since March 2020 over 250,000 bags, totaling 4 million meals, have been distributed.

## Save the Date



The New Jersey Governor's Office of Volunteerism in partnership with the New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, is proud to host its statewide conference, **The Power of Community: Sparking Innovation**, on Thursday, April 11, 2024. This in-person, statewide conference will bring together 600 participants from across our region to learn, network and share best practices in community resilience and volunteerism.

Interested in being a Sponsor or Exhibitor? [Learn More Here!](#)



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Connect with us



The New Jersey Governor's Office of Volunteerism (NJGOV), operating within the New Jersey Department of State, supports NJ's 1.4 million volunteers with training and recognition while matching community needs in partnership with volunteer centers, disaster response organizations, business volunteers, schools, colleges, faith-based organizations and community organizations.

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