

Volunteer Opportunities at Ravenswood Community Services

Ravenswood Community Services runs almost completely on volunteer power. Members of our dedicated volunteer corps manage deliveries, shop for supplies, plan and cook meals, pack and distribute grocery bags, mentor neighborhood youth and work to establish meaningful relationships with all our neighbors. There are lots of opportunities to get involved throughout the week.

Mondays: Volunteers are needed to receive Food Rescue deliveries from the Greater Chicago Food Depository, sort through food items and categorize for distribution. Time commitment: noon until 2:30 p.m.

Tuesdays: Rotating volunteers pick up the RCS bread order from Aldi and deliver it for distribution. If you have a van or SUV, consider joining the bread delivery team. Timing is flexible during the day.

Tuesdays: Each week, during the RCS Food Pantry and Community Kitchen, more than 50 volunteers are needed to greet neighbors, set tables, make coffee, cook and serve the meal, clear tables, break down tables and chairs, vacuum the floor, and bag and distribute groceries. Most volunteer opportunities fall within the window of 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays: On the first and third Thursday of each month, volunteers gather to receive RCS' food order from the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Duties include unloading the truck, breaking down pallets and organizing food items for storage. The delivery truck typically arrives at 8 a.m., and most items are put away by 9:30 a.m.

Saturdays: On the second Saturday of every month, RCS partners with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and Ravenswood School to bring the Mobile Pantry to our neighborhood. Volunteers are needed to help set up tables, greet neighbors, glean produce, bag groceries, help neighbors select their groceries and clean up. Time commitment is 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Sundays: Three times a year, RCS produces the All Saints' Cafe. On these nights, the RCS Community Kitchen is transformed into a five-star restaurant, offering our neighbors choice gourmet menu items rivaling the finest meals at Chicago's top restaurants. Volunteers are needed to shop, set-up, cook, serve, bar, bus and clean-up. Lots of help is needed in the week leading up to a Cafe, but most volunteer duties take place between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on a Sunday.

In addition, there are opportunities to mentor neighborhood youth through our partnership with Ravenswood School, as well as many other flexible or occasional one-time projects. If you (or a group of people) are looking for a way to make a tangible difference in the lives of people in need, please consider volunteering at Ravenswood Community Services. Contact:

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