



Community Engagement/Service-Learning Opportunities: Organizations & Programs

Updated September 2026

Regional

[United Way's Volunteer Center](#): An excellent tool to find volunteer opportunities in the region.

[Volunteer Match](#): A service that connects volunteers to non-profit volunteering opportunities in their area.

Community Partners

[AmeriCorps-St. Louis](#): Needs warming shelter volunteers to help with meals, visiting with clients, and housekeeping duties. Seasonal, beginning in the fall. Also help clean up and rebuild after disasters.

[Angels' Arms](#): Help is always needed for home maintenance projects (gutter cleaning, yard work, deep cleaning, etc.), as well as organizing day-long events for families so the foster kids can enjoy childhood—Grant's Farm, ice skating, sporting events or organizing a birthday party for a selected foster child.

[Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis](#): Tutor, teach dance, coach sports or cheerleading, assist with fitness program, help with celebrations, with their talent show and with fundraisers.

[Brides Against Breast Cancer](#): Groups or individuals are needed for their annual Charity Wedding Gown Event.

Volunteers assist brides-to-be with fitting gowns, returning gowns to racks as well as set-up before the event. Many of the brides come alone and so you may also act as a "personal shopper" for them. The gowns are donated by manufacturers and individuals; the money goes to people with breast cancer. The event is held in December.

[Brightside St. Louis \(formerly Operation Brightside\)](#): From graffiti removal to planting daffodils, Brightside St.

Louis is the city's oldest and most comprehensive not-for-profit cleaning and greening group.

[Community Women Against Hardship](#): Volunteers sort food in their food pantry or clothing in their clothing boutique or to organize their library. May help with their annual fund-raiser or plan and teach student enrichment classes such as nutritional cooking, chess, or computers.

[Covenant House Missouri](#): This organization works to empower homeless, runaway and at-risk youth. You may plan parties or barbecues for residents, organize a drive to collect soap, shampoo, etc., help chaperone events planned by Covenant House, take kids (and provide tickets) to sporting events, movies, museums, etc., adopt a resident as they leave Covenant House and provide items needed for their new residence.

[Gateway 180](#): Prepares approximately 75 brown bag lunches off-site and deliver them to the shelter, meal preparation and assembling food and hygiene bags for families that are leaving the shelter.

[Gateway Greening](#): Can use volunteer groups to help with City Seeds Urban Farm, a 2.5-acre farm operated in collaboration with St. Patrick's Center, or to help with their Urban Roots or Youth Gardens. In the spring they need volunteers to divide perennials and pot them for distribution to community garden members.

[Girl Scouts Beyond Bars](#): This is a Girl Scout Troop for girls whose mothers are in prison. Women over 18 years of age are needed to facilitate troop meetings, lead activities and to take them for monthly visits to the prison where their mothers reside.

[Habitat for Humanity](#): Help with their build days, in their ReStore store or with office work.

[Haven of Grace](#): Host a maternity shower to collect items needed for young mothers, provide childcare, cook a meal for busy clients, teach skills, do administrative tasks, garden or beautify the grounds.

[HomeFirst STL](#): Repair and paint homes for the homeless. Can also use help on an on-going basis for mentoring life skills for the recipients of these homes, as well as items to serve as "move-in kits."

[International Institute St. Louis](#): Provide childcare for children of immigrants while their parents attend extended orientation classes.

[Isaiah 58 Ministries](#): Volunteers needed to sort donations and help in the thrift store, help in the office with mailings, teach/lead classes or become a youth sponsor.

[Karen House](#): This women's shelter is run completely by volunteers who cook and tutor residents.

Kingdom House: Set up a service morning or a weekday evening event, adopt a daycare classroom to plan and implement activities, advocate for the poor through participation at rallies and meetings with local politicians, etc., Make a year-long commitment to guide a family to self-sufficiency, chaperone daycare children to swim lessons and assist with the lessons in the summertime.

Lydia's House: Participate in outreach events, children's programs, administrative duties or prepare food for Wednesday evening community meals. Prep new apartments, help with lawn care, donation drives and/or sorting.

Mary Ryder Home: A residential care/assisted living facility for low-income Seniors in the Central West End. Volunteers to act as buddies for field trips, play cards or board games or help with arts and crafts. May sit on their special events committee or help with fund-raisers.

Mission: St. Louis: Help in the office, with job/leadership training, home repair, sports coaching, after-school or summer camp counseling, as a reading tutor or as a classroom aide.

Neighborhood Houses: Help with early childhood or after-school programs, planning and implementing Trivia Night and Gala Dinner fundraisers.

Peter & Paul Community Services: Provides housing and supportive services to those who are homeless, those who experience mental illness or who live with HIV. Volunteer opportunities are available for data entry, teaching classes, providing meals, helping at the emergency shelter and with special events.

Places for People: This organization helps serve the unique needs of people who are at risk for homelessness.

St. Louis Challenger Baseball: Help by being a buddy for a special needs baseball team.

St. Louis Effort for AIDS: Needs help with fundraisers, office support, working on agency projects, prepping for socials and organizing pet food and supplies.

St. Patrick Center: Provides housing, employment and health opportunities for people who are either homeless or are at risk for homelessness. You can help with administrative tasks, special events, client events, by sorting donations, serving lunch or preparing dinners.

St. Vincent DePaul Parish St. Louis: This parish offers a variety of opportunities to serve through their social ministries. You may help with the Meals Program, the Lunch Window, with Senior outreach or assisting women in transition from prison to society.

Santa's Helpers – St. Louis: De-price, sort and wrap gifts, then deliver them for Christmas or Hanukkah. **SGSM**

Ministries: South Grand Senior Ministries–help with small chores, yard work, clean for seniors through their Job Squad program.

Shalom House: This organization helps homeless women stabilize and rebuild their lives. You can help by making phone calls, doing data entry, working in the computer lab, leading activities, teaching classes, sorting donations, organizing shelves, repackaging necessities, doing landscaping and other manual work.

Smiles with Music: This is a program which encourages kids and teens to share their gifts of music with area nursing homes, assisted living centers and independent living centers. Currently participating centers include: Bethesda Dillworth, Sunrise Assisted Living on Clarkson, Alexian Brothers Sherbrooke Village and The Hallmark in Creve Coeur.

Woman's Place: This is a drop-in center that offers crisis intervention, referral services, support groups and personal empowerment workshops.

Youth in Need: This organization was started to help runaway teens and other at-risk youth. There are locations in St. Louis City, St. Louis County as well as St. Charles County which can use your help with children and teens in classrooms, centers and residential facilities.

Youth Learning Center: Provide after-school help as a Homework Helper working directly with students, support administrative functions or serve as committee or board member.

Source: WashU Medicine Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

<https://diversity.med.wustl.edu/resources/community-engagement/>.