

FAMILIES FORWARD

Seasonal Program Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with us during our Seasonal Programs! These include our Back-to-School, Thanksgiving and Holiday Wish programs and are possible thanks to the support of our community.

Volunteer Timeline:

- **Back-to-School**
 - Mid-July through beginning of August
- **Thanksgiving**
 - Mid-November until the day prior to Thanksgiving
- **Holiday Wish**
 - Beginning of December until the week of Christmas

Shifts:

Due to the popularity of these programs, we aim to allow as many volunteers to help as possible. Typically, we schedule groups, families and individuals for 1 shift.

- All shifts are 2 hours long and take place at our Irvine office (8 Thomas)
- For donation sorting & bag filling shifts we accept up to 12 volunteers/shift.
- For client distribution, we accept up to 4 volunteers/shift.
- If you have a larger group, please indicate that to us upon request as we may be able to accommodate.

Overview

- **Back-to-School:**
 - Each year we aim to serve as many students as we can with age-appropriate backpacks full of school supplies.
 - Sign-ups for volunteering start at the beginning of May.

Tasks

- Sort and organize donations.
- Fill backpacks with the appropriate supplies.
- Distribute the backpacks to families at our Irvine office.

- **Thanksgiving:**
 - Every year we serve hundreds of families with the ingredients to cook a Thanksgiving meal at home with their family and friends.
 - Sign-ups for volunteering occur at the end of September.

Tasks

- Sort and organize donations.
- Fill bags with Thanksgiving meal ingredients.
- Distribute the bags to families at our Irvine office.

FAMILIES FORWARD

- **Holiday Wish:**

- Each year we match hundreds of families and their wish lists to donors. The donors shop for the family's wish list items and bring them to us for distribution. We also host toy drives to support families who weren't matched.
- Sign-ups for volunteering occur in October.

Tasks

- Sort and organize donations.
- Check and organize the family bags to ensure everything looks good to distribute.
- Distribute the gifts to families at our Irvine office.

Availability

Our Seasonal Program volunteer opportunities primarily take place during the days and times listed below. However, we do have some evening and weekend activities.

- **Seasonal Program Shifts:**

Monday – Thursday, 2 hours per group.

- 10:00am – 12:00pm
- 12:00 – 2:00pm
- 2:00– 4:00pm

Requirements

- Each attendee will need to complete a waiver prior to volunteering.
- Children ages 10+ are welcome with a supervising adult.
- It is recommended that volunteers have the ability to bend and lift up to 20 pounds; however, accommodations can be made upon request.

NEXT STEPS

If you feel that this opportunity is the best fit for you, please provide the following information to us at: volunteer@families-forward.org.

Information to Provide:

- First & Last Name of Coordinator:
- Program of Interest:
- Contact Email:
- Contact Phone Number:
- Group Name (if applicable):
- Group Size:
- Preferred Day(s) & Time(s):

Please provide your top 3 choices