

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 (based on local school start dates).
- **Thanksgiving**
 - Mid-November; the 2 weeks 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 1.5 - 2 hours long and take place at our office in Irvine (8 Thomas).
- We can host approximately 12 volunteers/shift
 - Please note that each program is slightly different, and some volunteer shifts may call for more or less people depending on space and work.
- 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 supplies 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 start 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.

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- **Holiday Wish:**

- Each year we match hundreds of families, and their wish lists, to donors. The donors shop for the children's wish list items and bring them to us for distribution. We also host toy drives to support additional families.
- Sign-ups for volunteering start 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.

- **Seasonal Program Shifts:**

- Monday – Thursday
- 1.5 - 2 hours per group
- Between the hours of 10-4pm

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 15 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