

February 2026



Seniors Serve Durham



**The official newsletter of Durham's
Retired Senior Volunteer Program**

From the Desk of Amanda

I hope everyone made it through the snow and ice over the past 10 days! I am sure it has thrown your schedules off a bit. Many of our RSVP stations have had to pivot in order to serve their clients and fulfill their missions. And many of you have stepped up to help. Thank you! Your continued support of our RSVP stations makes a difference, especially during these snowy times. If I can do anything to support you, please let me know.

You may have noticed a new way to sign in to HandsOn Triangle. Scroll down to learn more and how to sign in if you haven't already!

RSVP Group Volunteer Opportunity

Join fellow RSVP volunteers as we work together to help sort and bundle children's clothes. No heavy lifting and tasks may be completed sitting or standing. The next one is:

Welcome Baby Wednesday, February 18 from 10-12. Please note that we will meet the 3rd Wednesday instead of the 4th. [Sign up here!](#)

If you have not connected with one of our 40+ stations and would like to learn more about volunteering with one of them, please reach out to me or visit [HandsOn Triangle](#). There are many volunteer opportunities out there and I would be happy to help you find a good place to serve!

Reach me by email at amanda@thevolunteercenter.org or by phone at (919) 321-6932. Amanda Stoen



Community Opportunities

Bull City Woodshop

The Bull City Woodshop is a non-profit youth-centered organization that guides individual development, fosters community connection, and cultivates creativity through woodworking. Andrea Bowens is the Founder and Executive Director of BCW. Andrea's passion for woodworking started as a young girl who learned woodworking skills in her local 4-H program. She took after her father who was a carpenter, and she continued to build with wood as a hobby into her adult years.

BCW offers Beginning Woodshop to youth in grades 3-6 and Shop Class for youth in grades 7-12. Volunteers are needed to guide and supervise students working in the wood shop and provide assistance on their projects. Volunteers play an active role in the development of each student's social and woodworking skills, provide opportunities for the students to grow, and help maintain a safe and clean environment in the shop. If you are interested in teaching youth how to work with their hands through woodworking, then click on the volunteer link below.

The Woodshop has several volunteer opportunities. They are seeking volunteers for instructors, social media manager, board treasurers, outreach representative and staffing the Open Shop. Please visit their [website](#) or click the Volunteer opportunities below to learn more.

Volunteer!



Questions? Email Amanda at amanda@thevolunteercenter.org

Augustine Literacy Project

Augustine Literacy Project (ALP) creates a brighter future by improving the literacy

skills of children from low-income households. ALP envisions a community where *all* children can read, write, and spell—the building blocks for success in school and life. Through training and supporting volunteer tutors in the Triangle Area, ALP prepares students to make a positive impact on the world.

Augustine Literacy Project trains and supports volunteer tutors who provide free, one-to-one instruction in reading, writing, and spelling to children of low-income households in the Triangle region of North Carolina. Their programs are based on the Orton-Gillingham approach: multisensory, direct, explicit, structured, and sequential phonics instruction.

The need for more volunteer tutors is great. Many of the children they serve begin Kindergarten behind their peers for reasons that often include a lack of exposure to print and enriched vocabulary in the home, a language other than English primarily spoken in the home, and undiagnosed learning disabilities.

Augustine Literacy Project has added a new tutoring site - CC Spaulding Elementary! They are seeking volunteer tutors to serve on Monday and Wednesday mornings to support K-2 students who are behind in reading. Tutors work on-site at the child's school during the school day, twice a week for one hour. No teaching experience required. ALP provides comprehensive training, materials, and on-site staff support. Volunteer tutors are also needed Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:00-9:00 am at Hope Valley Elementary School. If you're patient, reliable, and interested in making a meaningful difference for a young reader, contact amiya@readwritego.org.

Volunteer!



Questions? Email Amanda at amanda@thevolunteercenter.org

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

2026 Backpack Buddy Packing

Join the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle Durham team to help pack Backpack Buddies! We are looking for volunteers to assemble BPB for our monthly school distributions. This is a great opportunity for individuals or a group of up to 14 members.

Shifts are typically 9:30-11:30 am Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Some afternoon shifts also available.

BackPack Buddies are designed to provide children experiencing food insecurity with nutritious, kid-friendly, pre-packed meals on the weekends—a period when they do not have access to a free school lunch and breakfast. The Food Shuttle works with school guidance counselors and social workers across our seven-county service area to help identify students with the greatest risk of food insecurity to receive Backpack Buddies.

Volunteer!



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The Scrap Exchange

The Scrap Exchange is a reuse arts shop where customers can find all sorts of fabric, sewing and craft supplies, paper and office items, hardware, toys, jewelry supplies, metal and wood scraps. Volunteer opportunities include these areas:

Thrift Store

- Cleaning the Stores + Tidying The Yard
- Clothes + Accessories Processing
- Frames + Housewares Processing

Reuse Arts Center

- Bag + Box Processing
- Cleaning the Stores + Tidying The Yard
- Craft + Art Processing
- Fabric + Upholstery
- Paper + Office Processing
- Scrap + Barrel Item Processing
- Tile, Wood, + Hardware Processing
- Toy + Costume Processing
- Yarn + Notions Processing

Volunteer!



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HandsOn Triangle Update

[HandsOn Triangle](#) has changed the login process. Here is a [short video](#) on how to login using the new process. Once you are logged in, HandsOn Triangle should look the same and you can search and respond to volunteer needs as well as enter your volunteer hours. If you need help tracking your volunteer hours, please let me know.

As part of our AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP grant, we are required to report volunteer hours as part of the program. Some of our partner stations use their own volunteer tracking system and that is great! Others do not track hours or they may use HandsOn Triangle for tracking. If you are not sure what your volunteer site uses, check with the volunteer coordinator.

THANK YOU for helping us track volunteer hours and report the impact that YOU make in Durham!

Community Events

February Events:

2/5 - [Early History of RTP by The Museum of Durham History](#)

2/6 & 2/7 - [Library Book Sale](#)

2/17 - [Senior PharmAssist Medicare Basics](#)

2/20 - [Reality Cafe](#)

Mark your calendars:

2026 - [Retro Film Series](#)

3/7 - [Durham County Longevity Forum](#)

4/20-5/7 - [Durham Senior Games](#)



We want to hear from YOU!

The next time you volunteer, take a photo and send it to Amanda Stoen amanda@thevolunteercenter.org.

Thank you for all you do!



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