

July 2026

Seniors Serve Durham



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

From the Desk of Amanda

While the days are longer and the weather pulls many outdoors, your dedication to the RSVP stations remains a shining constant. Thank you for your continued support of our community through your volunteer work. You make a difference every day!

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 Tuesday, July 14 from 10-12 (Note: this month we will meet on Tuesday, not Wednesday). [Sign up here!!!](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

Volunteer of the Year Celebration - New Date!

On Wednesday, August 19, 2026, we will honor outstanding volunteers and community leaders through recognition of Governor's Volunteer Service Award recipients, Key Volunteer Award winners and special recognitions highlighting extraordinary service across our region. It will take place at the **Durham Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, August 19, 2026 from 2:00-4:00 pm.** You are invited to join us as part of this celebration. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the event. Scroll down to learn more about our volunteer needs.

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!

Need to update your information? [Click here!](#)

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



Community Opportunities

Vets to Vets United

5K9 Dog Jog

Join Vets to Vets on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at the Cross-Country Track at the WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, NC, to run, jog, walk, or cheer—with or without your furry friend. This 5K9 Dog Jog is for runners of all ages and abilities, and the course combines an open field and a natural trail experience. There are also vendor and sponsorship opportunities!

Every dollar raised supports their mission to provide Veterans and rescue dogs with the life-changing opportunity to heal together. It costs approximately \$24,000 to support each Veteran/dog team through their program—and thanks to generous supporters like you, they are able to offer it completely free to the Veterans.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the race - both in advance and the day of! Visit their website to learn more about the 5K9 Dog Jog and how can volunteer or participate.



Questions? Email Amanda at amanda@thevolunteercenter.org

The Triangle Nonprofit & Volunteer Leadership Center

2026 Volunteer of the Year Celebration

Volunteers are needed to help with the Center's annual Volunteer of the Year Celebration. On Wednesday, August 19, we will honor the Governor's Volunteer Service Award and Key Volunteer of the Year Award volunteers across the Triangle.

Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

Registration (12:30 - 3:00 pm)

Nametags (12:30 - 3:00 pm)

Set up (12:30 - 2:00 pm)

Ushers (12:30 - 4:30 pm)

Certificate Table (2:30 - 4:30 pm)

Photographer & Photo Booth Attendees (12:30 - 4:30 pm)

Break down/Clean up (4:00 - 5:00 pm)

The event will take place at DPAC (Durham Performing Arts Center, 123 William V Bill Bell Way, Durham) and will run from 2-4 pm.

Volunteer!

Backpacks 4 Kids Distribution

Join us as we distribute backpacks filled with school supplies to local students in need from August 10-13. Volunteers will help ensure each child receives the tools they need for a strong start to the school year. Your time and energy can make a big difference in just a few hours!

Tasks include: Unloading backpack donations from sponsors, sorting and organizing backpacks by grade level, confirming each backpack contains the correct school supplies, assisting social workers as they pick up backpacks for the students they serve.

Volunteer!



Questions? Email Amanda at amanda@thevolunteercenter.org

Welcome Baby

Support Welcome Baby's Giving Closet - Come and Sort with Welcome Baby

If you've been looking for a meaningful way to support Durham families—and you enjoy sorting baby, toddler, and children's clothing, accessories, and equipment—Welcome Baby has the perfect place for you!

Welcome Baby is seeking dedicated weekly volunteers who can offer 4–8 hours each week to help sort incoming donations. Welcome Baby takes pride in providing families with high-quality, gently used items, and volunteers play a key role in making that possible.

They are looking for volunteers who are:

- Able to commit for at least 6 months
- Organized, thorough, and effective communicators
- Comfortable lifting bags/boxes up to 30 pounds
- Comfortable standing/walking for 2-4 hours
- Detail orientated and reliable

If this sounds like you, Welcome Baby would love to welcome you to the volunteer team! Please complete the application link below. They will follow up to schedule your orientation and training.

<https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1706062800>

Volunteer!



Questions? Email Amanda at amanda@thevolunteercenter.org

Durham Rescue Mission

As they prepare for their Annual Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway, Durham Rescue Mission invites you to join them in making a difference for local children and families by volunteering your time and talents.

Their goal is to provide 2,500 children with backpacks filled with essential school supplies before the start of the school year. This special event helps ensure children arrive in the classroom prepared, confident, and ready to learn.

They are currently seeking volunteers to help with event setup and event-day activities. Volunteer assignments will be made closer to the event and may include:

- Serving meals to families
- Assisting with the clothing giveaway
- Helping distribute groceries
- Backpack and school supply distribution
- Event setup and cleanup
- General hospitality and guest assistance

Volunteer Shifts

Setup Day - Tuesday, August 18, 2026

- 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM
- 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Event Day - Wednesday, August 19, 2026

- 5:00 AM – 7:15 AM
- 7:00 AM – 9:15 AM
- 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM
- 11:15 AM – 1:15 PM
- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Event Details

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Durham Rescue Mission

1201 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

If you would like to volunteer, please call (919) 688-9641 and ask for the Volunteer Office to sign up and receive additional information.

Additional Ways to Get Involved

Host a School Supply Drive

Help collect much-needed school supplies for local students. We can provide collection barrels and promotional signage for your business, church, school, or organization.

Donate School Supplies

School supplies may be delivered directly to Durham Rescue Mission or shipped using any retailer or vendor that is most convenient for you. We will also provide an Office Depot Wish List link for those who prefer to shop online and ship supplies directly to us.

Important Donation Deadline

Monday, August 3, 2026

Every backpack, every volunteer hour, and every donated supply helps a child start the school year equipped for success. Thank you for partnering with them to serve families in the community.

For questions about hosting a school supply drive, collection barrels, signage, or donation opportunities, please contact:

Jason Lloyd

Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

919-688-9641 ext. 5016

vol.assist4@durhamrescuemission.org



Questions? Email Amanda at amanda@thevolunteercenter.org

Featured AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP Volunteer





Originally from Maryland, Trish Harrison and her husband relocated to Durham during the COVID-19 pandemic, fulfilling a long-held dream of living in a warmer climate.

When I interviewed Trish, she and her husband had recently returned from a vacation in Turkey. As our conversation continued, it became clear that they are avid travelers who enjoy exploring new cultures and destinations. Their next adventure is already on the calendar—a trip to Peru.

Before retiring and moving to North Carolina, Trish spent her professional career in Maryland as a high school Special Education Assistant. Relocating during a global pandemic presented its own unique challenges, but Trish quickly sought ways to become involved in her new community.

She discovered AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP and began her volunteer journey at Crayons2Calculators before transitioning to the Duke Regional Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop in September 2023. It was there that she found her niche. Trish has a natural talent for creating a welcoming environment and enjoys serving patients, family members, visitors, and hospital employees. Her compassion, professionalism, and dedication have made a lasting impact on everyone she encounters.

With more than two years of dedicated service and 550 volunteer hours, she exemplifies outstanding commitment to the hospital's mission. Her willingness to go above and beyond, combined with her calm and gracious demeanor, makes her an exceptional volunteer and colleague. Through her service on the Auxiliary Board and her many contributions throughout the hospital, she has demonstrated remarkable dedication, leadership, and compassion.

Trish's exceptional service has been recognized through several prestigious honors. In November 2025, she was named Volunteer of the Year among all volunteers at Duke Regional Hospital—an outstanding achievement that reflects her unwavering commitment and significant contributions to the organization and its patients.

In 2026, she received the Duke Regional Hospital Partners in Practice Volunteer Award, recognizing her professionalism, compassion, and dedication to serving others. Through her volunteer service, Trish exemplifies the true spirit of volunteerism. Her dedication, kindness, and willingness to help others have made a lasting and meaningful impact on patients, staff, and the broader community. We feel fortunate to have Trish as one of our dedicated AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers.

By Cindy Heffner, RSVP Program Coordinator

Community Events

July Events:

5/27-7/25 - [American Dance Festival](#)

7/11 - [Summer Concert Series](#)

7/17 - [Play It Forward Concert](#)

[July Durham County Public Health Events](#)

Mark your calendars:

8/19 - Volunteer of the Year Celebration

May-Oct. - [Playlist Concert Series](#)



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!

