Dear Volunteers,

Happy June, everyone! As you know, we are on the verge of completing month three of the stay at home order—and the priority of Many Mansions during this time is still everyone’s safety. But what about volunteering? And where does that leave summer camp?

Here’s a message from our Children Services Program Manager, Kristina:

"Due to the current circumstances, Children Services will not be able to hold in-person Summer Camp as per usual this year. Instead, we are working diligently to create a virtual Summer Camp experience to keep our children and teens engaged and to ensure we are staying connected and supporting them as much as possible during this time. We will be sending home weekly packets for arts, crafts, and activities that we have prepared and that we will be demonstrating with them online. We have 7 themed weeks planned that our children are very excited for. We would like to encourage and acknowledge participation by holding weekly raffles of ‘themed baskets’ that will be sent home with one lucky winner per site each week. We truly thank you for your continuous support of our resident youth, and we thank you for your understanding as we put the health and safety of our residents first."

Isn’t that great? Want to help? Check out the opportunities below.

Like our other residential programs, the reopening of our Volunteer Program is going to be an EXTREMELY slow process. Here are a few of our currently opportunities:

**FOOD Share Pantries**

Our Residential Services team is still working hard to get food to our residents. They are in need of 4 volunteers on Friday, June 12th from 8:30am-11:30am. They are also in need of 2 volunteers on Saturday June 13th from 12:30pm-2:00pm.

**Virtual Backgrounds**

Feeling creative? Children Services has a way for volunteers to help summer camp from home! We are in need of some fun and creative Zoom backgrounds for each weekly summer camp theme. Through web searches or even graphic design, the possibilities are endless!

**Sponsor a Camp Basket**

With camp going virtual, there is a strong need for more/new supplies. On top of those needs, we are also collecting items for prize baskets for an attendance raffle. We are reaching out to any volunteers, donors, groups, and anyone else interested in helping support this brand-new version of camp. If interested in helping buy supplies, check out our Amazon wishlist! For more information, please see attached flyer.

Amazon Link: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3863Z91MLKTS5

If you would like to sign-up or get more information about the other volunteer opportunities please email Jessica at Jessica@manymansions.org. We continue to thank you for all the support you provide to the organization! We miss you!
May Volunteer of the Month:
Cheney Family

Congratulations to the Cheney family! The Cheney family have been supporting Many Mansions since 2014.

Before the pandemic hit, Mary had been strongly supporting all of our Children Services programs: Homework Club, Summer Camp, Bowls of Hope, and various other youth events. Her dedication is shown in the immense amount of hours she has acquired—over 372 hours, in fact. WOW!

This last year, Mary and her parents (Ellen and Brent) have really stepped up to help and usually when it’s at a moment’s notice. They’ve been seen at site events, FOOD Share, and many other programs.

Volunteer Spotlight

Times like these really highlight the need for accessible food options to those in our community who need it the most. So, this month, I’m going to talk to you a little bit about one of our food assistance programs—our FOOD Share pantries.

We operate FOOD Share pantries on a monthly basis. This program is usually supplied with food from—you guessed it—a food bank in Oxnard called FOOD Share. Our staff coordinates and operates this program, and a majority of the folks served are the ones living at our sites. We have been operating FOOD Share pantries for over ten years.

But these pantries wouldn’t be possible without our volunteers. During a normal Friday shift, we receive 8-10 volunteers. This has worked well thanks to the support of our corporate volunteers from Bank of America. That has changed with COVID-19. Without them or you, our FOOD Share pantries are much harder to pull off. See the below picture of our staff making the best of it in April!

With food being an important need for our residents, we wanted to make sure we could get this process moving as smoothly as possible. With some discussions and safety guidelines put in place, we were able to open up the only on-site volunteer opportunity to our own Many Mansions volunteers.

That is why this spotlight is for our volunteers at May’s pantries! After not seeing volunteers at Many Mansions for 7 weeks, we had the joy of seeing some familiar faces. In total, we had 10 volunteers assist.

We’re so appreciative of them! It’s not an easy decision to make when you know you’ll have to be around other people to get the job done. But because of those 10 wonderful volunteers, so many residents were able to receive food.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING!

Evelina, they were able to find two vulnerable households who could benefit from their generosity. For the last 2 weeks, the family has been buying groceries to keep food on their tables, and they will continue to buy until it’s safe for residents to return to the store.

Evelina has shared that the elderly resident and the disabled father and his son are beyond thankful for the food deliveries. It’s been a big relief for them during this time.

Like our residents, we are so lucky and grateful to have the Cheney family in our organization. Thank you for all the ways you continue to amaze us and provide for those who need the extra help!

THANK YOU!