

Volunteer Gwinnett NEWS



September, 2021

Greetings!

Welcome to Volunteer Gwinnett News, a quarterly newsletter to help you stay informed about opportunities to volunteer, how to become a volunteer, and the work volunteers are doing in our community. Volunteers are an essential part of Gwinnett County Government; their selfless contributions ensure projects get done, improve the community's quality of life, build partnership bonds, save tax dollars, and keep us all vibrantly connected.

Save the date

Looking to make a HUGE impact? Join your neighbors and the Volunteer Gwinnett team as we get ready for the Gwinnett Great Days of Service experience taking place October 22 and 23. This year's event will provide an opportunity to collect much needed items for many of Gwinnett's critical service organizations as well as multiple family-friendly service projects throughout the county.

Stay tuned to Volunteer Gwinnett for a listing of various opportunities opening soon. Visit the [Gwinnett Coalition's website](#) to review the items needed by local organizations this year.



Gwinnett Summer Meals Program 2021 Impact



During the nine weeks of summer break, Gwinnett Community Services and community partners worked to support food security for the county's youngest residents through the federally funded Summer Food Service Program.

Between June 1 and August 3, 188,594 meals were served! This effort would not have happened without the 1,336 generous volunteers who contributed 5,344 service hours at 26 meal sites located throughout Gwinnett.

Weekly Mobile Food Distributions

Since Spring 2020, Gwinnett Community Services has partnered with the Atlanta Community Food Bank to provide fresh and shelf-stable food to families in need across the county. Working with local community partners as host sites, weekly Tuesday distributions have incorporated drive-thru, walk-up, and home delivery formats. Throughout this partnership, community groups, volunteers, and staff have conducted 110 mobile markets, distributing 743,361 pounds of food to 15,794 households, impacting 64,390 residents! We need your assistance to continue this important service through the remaining months of 2021. [Click here](#) to volunteer or if your community organization would like to host a Tuesday food distribution, email VolunteerGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com.



This quarter highlights volunteers in action from our Public Safety sectors.



On June 19, the Fire Education Section teamed up with Fire Station 22-B, Battalion 2-B, and four volunteers from the Gwinnett County Citizens Fire Academy Alumni Association for a planned smoke alarm and carbon monoxide blitz. The blitz took place in the Valley Brook Mobile Home Community in Stone Mountain. The team was invited inside homes to evaluate smoke alarms. The door-to-door visits allowed for the installation of 25 smoke alarms as well as 19 carbon monoxide alarms. Valley Brook residents are more fire prevention aware thanks to this effort!

Gwinnett Police and Emergency Management

The Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management is a unit of the Gwinnett Police Department handling a variety of tasks involving planning for emergencies and disasters, responding to incidents as a coordinating agency, directing mitigation against hazards, and assisting County Government and its residents in recovery after an incident. The agency is assisted by many volunteers including the Medical Reserve Corps Georgia East Metro, an all-volunteer nonprofit founded in 2002 to support local public health and emergency management. The organization has formal agreements with the Board of Health and Emergency Management.



The members of MRC GEM come from all walks of life, not just the medical and health professions. They provide all necessary training for free and ask for no minimum commitment from their volunteers, so that they can help as needed if called in an emergency.

Through the end of June 2021, a total of 613 MRC GEM volunteers provided 16,654 hours of support to Public Health's COVID-19 response, primarily helping with testing and vaccinations. That's the equivalent of over 8.3 full-time employees! Based on the average cost of a public health employee in Georgia, that amounts to almost \$700,000 in time!

Other examples of the group's efforts include:

- Helping administer more than 3,000 TB tests at Discovery High School after a student tested positive
- Sending a team to support health/medical needs at a Hurricane Irma Shelter in Columbus, Georgia
- Helping administer over 40,000 H1N1 vaccinations

MRC GEM needs as many volunteers as possible because the level of demand is often more than the amount of people to assist. If you have an interest in helping, sign up [here](#).



Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office Back-to-School Backpack Event

On Saturday, July 24, the Gwinnett Sheriff's Office hosted a Back-to-School Celebration at Rhodes Jordan Park in Lawrenceville. Along with Sheriff's Office staff, volunteers from various schools handed out book bags and supplies such as notebooks and colored pencils. Approximately 1,000 people attended, and 2,000 backpacks were distributed at the two-hour event. Parents and children made their way through stations where they picked up free backpacks and

school supplies. Participants also enjoyed presentations by the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit and Jail Dog program.

We need you; get involved!

Looking for ways you can give back to the community or and help with similar initiatives? Check out our events and projects on [Volunteer Gwinnett](#).



Volunteer Today! VolunteerGwinnett.net
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