

Volunteer Gwinnett NEWS



December 2020

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.

Growing Team



In September, Volunteer Gwinnett welcomed a new collaboration manager, Kelley Uber Sterner, who has been guiding the operations of both [Volunteer Gwinnett](#) and [Live Healthy Gwinnett](#). She has 17 years of service with Gwinnett, including experience in volunteer management, outdoor education, innovative community partnerships, and specialized events. If you have ever volunteered in our Parks, chances are you have had the pleasure to meet her. She loves being hands-on with volunteer groups and is determined to make sure volunteers feel appreciated. Kelley's hobbies include hiking in the North Georgia mountains, volunteering with the community, reading, and spending time with her family. She is a dog mom to two adopted Golden Retrievers, Gibson and Kennsington. We are truly excited to experience all the positive energy she brings to the Community Engagement and Collaboration team.

Gwinnett Great Days of Service 2020 Impact

Together, we made a difference! A huge thank you to all those that participated in this year's Gwinnett Great Days of Service. Even during a global pandemic, the event was a enormous success thanks to passionate organizations and residents, like you.

This year, GDOS focused on donations and collection drives to accumulate items that were given to local agencies, non-profits, and organizations who support our County's critical community members on a daily basis. In total, there were 150 collection events who all helped contribute to the total amount of 100,050 donated items!



Did you know Gwinnett County employees participated in the fun too? Volunteer Gwinnett placed over 40 collection bins throughout County's facilities, offices, and departments, each assigned to collect a different personal care item. As a team, we ended up collecting more than [3,600 items](#) which were donated to [HomeFirst Gwinnett](#). Check out some of the [photos from collection day](#).

Community Services COVID-19 Response

Weekly Community Food Distributions

Gwinnett's Community Engagement and Collaboration team continues to



help ease the hardship of the COVID-19 pandemic. In April, the team began partnering with the Atlanta Community Food Bank to conduct weekly mobile food distributions, supplying families with fresh and shelf-stable foods. To date, staff and volunteers have been able to distribute 410,596 pounds of food to 8,161 households impacting 33,771 residents!

Georgia Grown Produce Box Distribution

In November, our team supplied 10,325 boxes of mixed produce to 60 community organizations, impacting more than 36,000 residents facing food access challenges.



That's more than 216,000 pounds of fresh Georgia Grown items!

2019 President's Volunteer Service Award



The Department of Community Services presented President's Volunteer Service Award certificates and pins to 280 individuals and groups who volunteered in 2019 as a way to recognize dedicated volunteers who selflessly provided their time to help others.

In order to qualify for the President's Volunteer Service Award, volunteers had to contribute between 26 to 500+ hours within their respective age group through volunteer events and programs across three categories – bronze, silver, and gold.

To keep everyone safe and maintain COVID-19 safety guidelines, Community Services determined it was best to send the awards via mail instead of a routine in-person celebration. We were grateful to be able to celebrate our fantastic volunteers in a safe and healthy way.



Overall, 2019 President's Volunteer Service Award recipients contributed more than 62,000 hours to Community Services!

Get Involved!



Become a Foster!

With the holidays approaching, Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement needs you more than ever! Share your love, and give a shelter pet a second chance. With expert support, veterinary resources, and free food, fosters provide loving, temporary homes for Gwinnett Animal Welfare's most vulnerable residents. This often includes pets that are recovering from illness or injury, pregnant, nursing, newborn, or bottle-fed, displaced by natural disasters, or struggling to trust people. Volunteer today to bring

an animal from the shelter into your home until it can be adopted. For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Thank you for your determination!

What a year it has been! As we bid farewell to 2020, we know this has be a year none of us will forget. Despite its challenges, this year showed that our community is strong and resilient. It showed us how willing our residents are to answer the call and pitch in at times of need, and it displayed how we come together as a vibrantly connected community no matter the circumstances.

We would like to express our gratitude for everything our volunteers have done, especially during this time of uncertainty and of greater need. To us, our volunteers are true heroes who strengthen the County's mission to enhance the quality of life of the residents we serve. We offer you our deepest thanks and warmest regards for all you do.

We wish you a safe, healthy holiday season and a happy New Year!



Volunteer
Gwinnett

Volunteer Today! VolunteerGwinnett.net
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