

# Volunteer Gwinnett NEWS



Winter 2022

## Greetings!

Welcome to Volunteer Gwinnett News, a quarterly newsletter to help you stay informed about volunteer opportunities, how to become a volunteer, and the work volunteers are doing in our community. Volunteers are an essential part of Gwinnett County; 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.

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

### County holds successful Gwinnett Great Days of Service weekend

The numbers are in... Gwinnett Great Days of Service 2022 was a roaring success! For more than two decades, thousands of residents have mobilized throughout Gwinnett on one weekend to serve, and 2022 was no different. For three days, twenty-three major volunteer projects and collection drives occurred. Over 280 volunteers donated nearly 1,000 hours of service helping to address critical needs such as food security, clothing assistance, environmental stewardship, and more.



In addition to volunteer projects, twelve Gwinnett County Public School clusters participated with food and personal care drives to support nine community food and shelter partner agencies throughout Gwinnett. To learn more about Gwinnett Great Days of Service opportunities, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net).



### The County celebrates its volunteers

It was truly your party this past November 20 at the Preservation Lawn in Lawrenceville! Over 300 volunteers, family members, and friends showed up and showed out, enjoying sweet treats, dancing, and showcasing their best poses at the 360-degree photo booth.

The annual Volunteer Gwinnett Appreciation Party is a small token of thanks to our one-of-a-kind volunteers and families.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Gwinnett Serves seeks additional community partners

Powered by Volunteer Gwinnett, [Gwinnett Serves](http://GwinnettServes.com) was created with the intention of closing the service gap between community organizations and volunteers, making it easier for qualified community organizations to recruit volunteers, as well as list volunteer opportunities for residents. The Gwinnett Serves network is available to 501(c)(3) nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and civic groups.

# Gwinnett Serves

Powered by Volunteer Gwinnett

Community organizations interested in partnering with Volunteer Gwinnett for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day of Service are encouraged to apply online at [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net).



### Gwinnett mobile food program continues into 2023

To help combat food inequities in Gwinnett, Volunteer Gwinnett and the Atlanta Community Food Bank will partner to provide weekly mobile food distributions beginning Tuesday, January 10, at Bryson Park in Lilburn. Visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net) to learn more about volunteer opportunities or how your family can participate.

### Lend a helping hand at a Warming Station

Gwinnett County has opened [five warming stations](#) for residents to receive temporary, overnight relief from long-term exposure to forecasted temperatures of 35 degrees and below. When activated, the warming stations are available from 6:00pm to 7:00am, allowing residents to warm up, eat a meal, and get some rest. Volunteers are needed to assist staff with organizing check-in materials, greeting participants, monitoring program areas, helping with set-up/break down, and other related station tasks. To volunteer, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net).



### Give a pet a home

Gwinnett Animal Welfare and Enforcement is seeking volunteer foster homes for shelter animals. All foster homes will receive veterinary resources and supplies for vulnerable pets needing time to recover. Learn how to become an [Animal Foster](#) and change an animal's life today!

**Help chip holiday trees into mulch for County parks**  
Have you ever wondered what happens to all those live Christmas trees after the holidays? Well, wonder no more! On January 28, meet Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful at Bethesda Park from 8:00am to 11:00am to turn those Christmas trees into holly jolly mulch!

Help unclog our landfills in a smart and environmentally friendly way. Register as a volunteer at [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net).



### Dispose of household hazardous waste on February 11

Join Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds on February 11 from 9:00am to 1:00pm to help dispose of hazardous household waste like aerosols, flammable liquids or fuels, oil paints, and more. Volunteers must be 16 years and older and will assist with directing traffic, unloading vehicles, breaking down boxes, and other tasks. To get involved, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net).

## GWINNETT EMPLOYEES IN ACTION

### Junior Achievement Spotlight

Gwinnett County Government employees are dedicated to giving back to our community by helping to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. As the year ends, it's exciting to see the number of employees who have volunteered to teach middle schoolers about financial literacy, career readiness, and foster the entrepreneurial spirit.

So far in the 2022-2023 school year, 117 employees have dedicated more than 700 hours to Junior Achievement, impacting over 1,000 students from Crouch, Grace Snell, Crews, and Shiloh Middle Schools.



## SPOTLIGHT ON YOU

Liaison Spotlight – Lisa Klein



The UGA Extension Gwinnett office is a hybrid organization that operates through a partnership between Gwinnett County, the University of Georgia, the State of Georgia, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing education in horticulture, agriculture, food safety, nutrition, and leadership and citizenship for youth. In the past year, more than 1,800 volunteers have assisted UGA Extension Gwinnett in various projects and activities for over 20,000 hours. Spearheading this collaborative effort is none other than Lisa Klein.

Lisa is an Agriculture and Natural Resources assistant, possessing a bachelor's and master's degree in biology. One of her primary duties as an assistant is to oversee the Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program, where volunteers train, network, and serve their communities through unbiased, scientific research for homeowners and businesses. This program has more than 300 active volunteers who are trained every two years through 42 hours of horticultural instruction. Lisa's favorite part of her job is using her experience and background to find creative solutions for residents and meeting new faces in Gwinnett County.

### **Volunteer Spotlight – Lou Zayas**

Lou Zayas has worked tirelessly toward making Gwinnett a designated Purple Heart County. The Purple Heart is one of the oldest and most honored American military medals awarded to members of the United States armed forces who are wounded or were killed while in combat. Mr. Zayas, Commander of the Chapter 465 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, has volunteered his time to work with county officials to ensure our Gwinnett libraries and parks have received their Purple Heart Certification, which includes designated parking spaces for those who are Purple Heart Medal recipients.



The purple lighting you saw around Gwinnett County cities and metro Atlanta on August 7, 2022, was to celebrate Purple Heart Day, a Lou Zayas initiative. Mr. Zayas can also be found volunteering at the Gwinnett Veterans Museum, located in the Gwinnett Historic Courthouse. On behalf of Gwinnett County, Commander Lou Zayas, we salute you!



**Volunteer  
Gwinnett**

**Volunteer Today!** [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net)  
770.822.7955 • [VolunteerGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:VolunteerGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com)