



Corporate Volunteer Opportunities

Team-building experiences for employees helping vulnerable children and families to thrive

Take a few hours or a day from the office to participate in a team-building experience at Children's Aid and Family Services. As a corporate volunteer, your time, skills and talents will improve the lives of the vulnerable children and families who benefit from our programs. All full-day projects begin with an overview of our agency. After the project is complete (or mid-day if it is an all-day project) volunteers will have lunch together and have the opportunity to ask our staff any questions or learn more about our agency and the programs you are helping!

Below are some suggested projects. Ideas for new projects are always welcome! We're happy to work with you to create additional, customized team-building experiences that will cultivate a sense of unity all the while enriching the lives of the children and families in our community.

On-Site Projects

Beautify the Homes Where Our Children and Adults Live

Appropriate for groups of 10-25

Any home needs tender, love and care and our therapeutic group homes are no different. Volunteers can paint, make small repairs, help with landscaping, plant gardens or decorate bedrooms with new bedding and accessories. Our agency has over a dozen homes and each project will be tailored to the specific needs of the homes. Material needs will vary in size depending on the project. With limited resources, we greatly appreciate the donation or underwriting of project materials by the corporate group.

Early Learning Center Volunteers and Teaching Assistants

Appropriate for groups of 6-12

Calling all book worms, artists and computer geeks! Spend all or part of the day with some little Picassos and create a masterpiece at our Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center. The Center serves some of our community's most at-risk families (approximately 50% of families receive subsidies) as well as provides quality child care for other area families. Engage the children in reading, art, music and/or computer activities (appropriate to each age group) during the morning hours. Staying for the day? As cleanliness is paramount at the Center, after lunch, it's time to get down to the business of cleaning and sanitizing the play equipment in the infant and

toddler playrooms, the indoor gym, toy library and, weather permitting, the outdoor playground. Volunteers may also serve as teaching assistants in the Center's classes.

Life Skills Volunteers

Appropriate for any number of volunteers

Corporate employees from throughout the community help our children living in foster care to acquire life skills through modeling their personal and professional skills. Activities will take place in a group setting and presentations and workshops will focus on age-appropriate skills. Topics include: cooking skills, workplace etiquette, money management, workforce readiness, college preparation, career exploration and vocational opportunities, just to name a few.

Office Work and Special Events

Appropriate for groups of 6-12

Corporate groups help us save time and money by assisting our staff administratively with bulk mailings and seasonal appeals. Volunteers will help to fold, label, stuff and stamp envelopes. These appeals are critical to our fundraising and raise over \$200,000 for programs. Groups can also volunteer at special events, such as the agency's annual Wine and Food tasting, our flagship spring Gala, golf outings and other event-related fundraisers. These events raise more than \$400,000 each year to support children and families, and our volunteers are crucial to the success of our events!

Off-Site Projects

New Beginnings Care Packages

Appropriate for groups of 5-10

A team of volunteers can purchase and assemble New Beginnings Care Packages for our teens "aging out" of foster care to live independently and/or other teens and young adults formerly served in the agency's programs. For most teenagers, their 18th birthday is an exciting milestone. But for teens in foster care, who often have little or no family support, this time is filled with uncertainty and anxiety. To make the transition easier for our teens (and show them there are people who care about them), they are given care packages when they move on to independent living (generally, transitional living apartments, subsidized housing, college dormitories or the homes of friends or relatives). Packages include items such as linens, cookware, toiletries and storage bins customized for each recipient.

Welcome Care Packages

Appropriate for groups of 5-10

A team of volunteers create welcome kits for youth entering our group foster homes for children with behavioral and emotional challenges and/or our homes for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Children who live in our group foster homes have experienced severe trauma and are in need of intensive supports to recover from their difficult beginnings and move on to healthy and productive lives. Children and adults entering our community residences for children and adults with severe developmental disabilities learn to live more independently and become active members of the community. Welcome kits include items such as decorative bedding, towels, pajamas, slippers, decorated duffle bags and teddy bears.

Conducting Community Drives

Appropriate for any number of volunteers

Corporate groups have the opportunity to host community drives with their colleagues and friends to collect essentials for our children in foster care and low-income families and seniors we serve through the agency's programs. Some of our more popular drives include: our Give Back/Back Pack drive to ensure that children in foster care start their school year with new school supplies; the holiday gift drive; year-round toy drives to collect birthday presents for the children in care; and Baby Basics drives to collect formula, diapers and other baby essentials for low-income families who participate in the program.

Please join our network of corporations and help us to improve the lives of vulnerable children and families in our shared community.

If you are interested in a corporate volunteer opportunity, please contact Volunteer Services at 201-740-7102 or volunteer@cafsnj.org.