

Opportunities with Children:

Family Promise of Grand Rapids– Kidz Korner

Location: Cherry Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Time: Tuesdays 9:30–12 | Wednesdays 9:30–12 | Thursdays 1–3:30

Duties/Description:

Come spend time with kiddos who are currently living in a homeless shelter. Ages range from infant to teenagers, but during the school year it's usually kiddos under the age of 5. Parents are always in the building, but having childcare gives them the chance to take financial literacy classes, meet with a caseworker, do a load of laundry, etc. This role is very important because many families that Family Promise serves are single moms. Volunteers lead and help with crafting, library time, imagination play, and much more!

Fill out this form if interested: <https://www.familypromisegr.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer/volunteerinterestform/>

Contact: Chelsea Jandernoa | chelseaj@familypromisegr.org | 616.608.8917

Children's Enrichment Center

Location: 1 West Campus Dr., Allendale, MI 49401

Time: varies depending on volunteer position and schedule

Duties/Description:

Volunteers time at the Children's Enrichment Center will learn redirection methods, ways to be proactive vs. reactive to typical preschool behavior. They will also shadow education practitioners in a literacy rich program.

Contact: Jennifer Evert | evertje@gvsu.edu

Kindergarten Reads

Location: Sibley Elementary | 943 Sibley St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:10–3:10pm

Duties/Description:

Volunteers will work with 3–4 Kindergarten students on letter sounds and reading decodable readers. All materials and lessons will be provided, and it is preferred that volunteers commit to both days.

Contact: Ruth Wezeman | ruthwezeman@hotmail.com | 616.724.5939

Math Workshop

Location: Sibley Elementary | 943 Sibley St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Time: Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays 12:35– 1:40pm

Duties/Description:

Volunteers will work with 5–6 Kindergarten students. Groups will rotate, and the

volunteer will teach the same lesson four times. All lessons and materials will be provided, and volunteers are only asked to commit to one of the three days.

Contact: Ruth Wezeman | ruthwezeman@hotmail.com | 616.724.5939

First Grade Reading Group

Location: Sibley Elementary | 943 Sibley St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Time: days and times are TBA, please reach out to contact below

Duties/Description:

Volunteers will work with first graders in small groups to read decodable readers.

Contact: Nancy Chauvin | chauvinn@grps.org

Affinity Mentoring

Location: varies due to multiple school locations– Burton Elementary, Burton Middle School, Godfrey–Lee Early Childhood Center, or Southwest Community Campus

Time: varies depends on volunteer and school schedule

Duties/Description:

Affinity Mentoring trains mentors to be a part of a child's "team". Through weekly, school-based mentoring sessions, mentors and students develop a partnership and friendship which helps students reach their full potential. The commitment is one hour, once a week. Mentors have proven to promote better attendance, better attitude towards school, better chances of going on to higher education, and better relationships with parents! There are also opportunities for students who are not ready to mentor but want to volunteer with Affinity Mentoring: event planning, hospitality and support for school community, behind-the-scenes support (clerical and data management), and communications and storytelling (video production, WordPress).

<https://affinitymentoring.org/mentors/how-to-apply/> - apply to be a mentor

<https://affinitymentoring.org/mentors/volunteer-opportunities/> - apply to be a volunteer

Contact: Angela Reyna | areyna@affinitymentoring.org | 616.406.3967

Gilda's Club– Noogieland Team

Location: Gilda's Club GR | 1806 Bridge St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Time: Gilda's asks that volunteers commit to one regular shift per month to help create consistencies in relationships with children.

Duties/Description:

Volunteers will actively engage in play and supervision of children in Gilda's play area, "Noogieland". Volunteers may also assist Social Workers in facilitating games, discussions, and story time, which are all aimed at helping to teach children positive coping skills as they face some of life's toughest moments. All children at Noogieland have a family member diagnosed with cancer or they may be diagnosed themselves.

Contact: Ben Mephram | bmephram@laughfestgr.org

Gilda's Club– Youth Program Team

Location: Gilda's Club GR | 1806 Bridge St NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Time: Gilda's asks that volunteers commit to one regular shift per month to help create consistencies in relationships with children.

Duties/Description:

Volunteers will assist in facilitation of cancer and grief–related support groups for young children and tweens/teens. Volunteers may also assist Gilda's Club Social Workers in implementing youth curriculum and activities aimed at teaching positive coping skills and improving mental health. NOTE: Gilda's Club Volunteers are required to attend a "New Volunteer Orientation" before starting.

Contact: Ben Mephram | bmempham@laughfestgr.org

Make–A–Wish Michigan

Location: varies depending on volunteer position

Time: Gilda's asks that volunteers commit to one regular shift per month to help create consistencies in relationships with children.

Duties/Description:

Volunteers can help out in wish granting, event volunteering, or general support.

Wish granting: as a member of a wish team, wish granters meet with the family, help the child determine the wish, and act as a liaison between Make–A–Wish staff and the wish family. Wish granters must be **21 years old**.

Event volunteers: help with events by working on event committees to help with planning and logistics, helping out on event day, and/or participating in the event. 6 events are hosted annually in Michigan, and they are looking to add more!

General Support: We also have various volunteer opportunities including office support in both our Brighton and Grand Rapids offices, speaking engagements, fundraising, and translator/interpreter needs.

To apply, head to Michigan.wish.org/volunteer and click on the "Volunteer Application" tab. Fill out the application and email it to the contact listed below. Wait for Volunteer Services to reach out to you for next steps!

Contact: Ben Mephram | bmempham@laughfestgr.org

Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County

Location: 2855 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Time: days and times vary depending on volunteer availability

Duties/Description:

Every day, the CAC team walks with children and families on their road to healing from child sexual abuse. There are many different opportunities to get involved at the CAC:

Childcare: Staff the waiting area to engage children in play activities, care for children while guardians are meeting with staff, keeping the room tidy, etc.

Contact: Angie Kowalczyk | akowalczyk@cac-kent.org | 616.336.5197

Ele's Place of Grand Rapids

Location: 2000 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Time: days and times vary depending on volunteer role (see each individual option below for more information)

Duties/Description:

Ele's Place offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for men and women who want to make a positive difference in children's lives. Volunteers play a critical role in helping grieving children cope with challenges they are facing. There are many different roles that volunteers can have at Ele's Place:

Support Group Facilitator: work in teams of three to four volunteers per group of 10–12 children or teens. Support Group Facilitators must be at least 19 years of age and be able to commit to volunteering one weekday evening (5:30–8:30pm) per week. Ele's Place asks that volunteers serve for one school year with the exception of breaks and holidays.

Program Helper: assist Ele's Place staff and support group facilitators (see above) by greeting families as they arrive at Ele's Place, monitoring children's activity rooms, and helping with various set-up and clean-up duties. Program Helper's must be 18 years of age and complete a three-hour training session. Ele's Place asks Program Helper's to commit to working one weekday evening (about two hours) per week for a minimum of six months.

Office Helper: receptionist, data entry, etc. Hours and duties vary from location-to-location.

Outreach Ambassador: represent the agency in the community by staffing Ele's Place information booths, doing check acceptances, making brief presentations, etc.

Contact: Micheala Ayew-ew | MAyewew@elesplace.org | 616.301.0508

Volunteering Opportunities

Opportunities with Adults:

Literacy Center of West Michigan

Location: varies depending on you and your learner

Time: varies depending on you and your learners schedule

Duties/Description:

1 in 8 West Michigan adults struggle with low literacy. Literacy center volunteer tutors work one-on-one with adult learners. Every learning has their own goals and starts at a different level of literacy. Tutors meet once a week with their learner in an agreed upon (preferably public) place like a library or community center. All resources are provided by the Literacy Center of WM. No special skills are needed– just the ability to read and write English and a passion to help others do the same! You will need to complete a volunteer orientation which will give you everything you need to get started. If interested, fill out the volunteer interest form

(<https://literacycenterwm.org/volunteer>) or contact the individual below!

Contact: Laura Avalos | lavalos@literacycenterwm.org | 616.456.5151

Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County

Location: 2855 Michigan St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Time: days and times vary depending on volunteer availability

Duties/Description:

Every day, the CAC team walks with children and families on their road to healing from child sexual abuse. There are many different opportunities to get involved at the CAC:

Office Volunteer: Assist center staff with administrative projects and provide reception support, including data entry, filing, and mailing.

Special Projects: Assist with special events such as fundraisers, open houses, educational seminars, and community events, or projects such as gardening and decorating.

Contact: Angie Kowalczyk | akowalczyk@cac-kent.org | 616.336.5197

Volunteering Opportunities



Opportunities with Elderly:

Heartland Hospice

Location: varies depending on in-home or facility-based care

Time: varies depending on volunteer position

Duties/Description:

Whether you like to work directly with patients and families or behind-the-scenes in the office, Heartland has a role for you. As a volunteer, you help determine which tasks you are best suited to perform. Some tasks include: helping support office tasks, running errands for patients/family, staying with patients so family can get rest, reading, playing, or singing music to patients, providing a friendly visit to lift a patient's spirits, or providing veteran support.

Contact: Linda Titus | linda.titus@hcr-manorcare.com | 616.956.0636

Great Lakes Caring Home Health Care and Hospice

Location: varies depending on in-home or facility-based care

Time: varies depending on volunteer position

Duties/Description:

Some roles that volunteers can perform at Great Lakes Caring include, companionship and support to patients and their caregivers through caring visits, record patient memories and stories for families to have as a keepsake, offer grief support, aid with various clerical and administrative tasks in the office, or participate in special events and share special talents such as music, crafting, etc.

Contact: Julie Diendorf | jdiendorf@greatlakescaring.com | 517.470.9817

Grace Hospice

Location: varies depending on in-home or facility-based care

Time: varies depending on volunteer position

Duties/Description:

Volunteers at Grace Hospice can provide companionship and support to patients and family members, respite opportunities for family/caregivers, assist with clerical duties at the Grand Rapids office, run errands for patients or caregivers, or support special behind-the-scenes projects. The Grand Rapids office of Grace Hospice service area extends throughout Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa, Newago, Mecosta, Montcalm, and Ionia counties, so there are opportunities for students living in all areas of the state.

Contact: Marie Raymond | mraymond@ghospice.com | 616.432.2065

Opportunities with Families:

Circles Grand Rapids

Location: 1100 Lake Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Time: Mondays 5–8pm

Duties/Description:

Circles GR is a long-term approach to end poverty permanently in our community. Childcare is provided weekly at no cost to the families which is crucial to their attendance and success at Circles. Childcare volunteers help to provide a youth curriculum with a developmental approach that is designed to interrupt the poverty cycle for future generations. Each night consists of games, activities, and learning opportunities for the children. There are three groups of children: preschool, 4–7-year-olds, and 8–12-year-olds.

Contact: Julie Liske | jliske@circlesgr.org | 616.309.7517

Ronald McDonald House of West Michigan

Location: Ronald McDonald House | 1323 Cedar NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Time: varies depending on role

Duties/Description:

1. Making a meal: you provide ingredients and make a meal in the fully stocked kitchen. Time commitment is about 2 hours depending on meal and is in the afternoon.
2. Baking treats: you provide ingredients and make a treat for families to enjoy when they come “home” for the evening. Treats can be anything from cookies to trail mix and anything in between. Time commitment varies depending on treat and is usually completed in the morning.
3. Activity Night: plan an activity that families can do together that can help alleviate stress and give families a much-needed lift. Activities can include leading a craft, putting on a game night, entertaining families with performances, etc. New ideas are encouraged and these are normally completed in the afternoon.
4. Families Helping Families: this program invites families to volunteer on the weekend (Saturday or Sunday, 2–3 hours) to help support staff in light cleaning activities like sweeping, vacuuming, and dusting.

Contact: Renee Davis | rdavis@rmhwesternmichigan.org | 616.258.5726

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services

Location: varies depending on position

Time: varies depending on position

Duties/Description:

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services is an organization that serves those in the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities throughout 27 counties in Michigan. As a small nonprofit, they rely on volunteers to help during special events, programs,

and in the office. If you are interested in volunteering with the organization, you can contact the volunteer coordinator, Linda Bylsma, for the current areas of volunteer need. She will have you fill out a volunteer form work with you to find the best fit for you!

Contact: Linda Bylsma | volunteer2@deafhhs.org | 616.732.7358

Volunteering Opportunities

Opportunities in Clinical Settings:

Metro Health Hospital

Location: 5900 Byron Center Ave SW, Wyoming, MI 49519

Time: varies depending on volunteer position and location assignment, time commitment is 3–4 hours for a minimum of 6 months

Duties/Description:

Metro Health volunteers serve in many areas throughout the health system. Volunteers are asked to commit to one morning, afternoon, or evening (or combination) to an assigned department in order to meet a 100–hour commitment per year. Volunteers receive a free meal on days they work a 4–hour shift. If interested, complete the Volunteer Application Form (<https://metrohealth.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/MH-Volunteer-Application-rev2016.pdf>) and email it to the contact listed below. After a successful interview, you will be asked to take a TB test, pass a criminal background test, and attend a one day orientation session.

Contact: Jennifer DeVries | jennifer.devries@metrogr.org | 616.252.7200

Spectrum Health Hospital

Location: varies depending on volunteer position and location assignment

Time: varies depending on volunteer position and location assignment, time commitment is 3–4 hours for a minimum of 6 months

Duties/Description:

Today, over 2,300 volunteers play a vital role in Spectrum hospitals, emergency departments, rehabilitation facilities, hospice, and home care. Volunteer opportunities vary widely between these settings. The goal is to find the volunteer position that best matches your individual skills and interests. You can begin your search by going to this link (<https://www.spectrumhealth.org/volunteer>) and clicking on each location on the right side of the page. Each location has more information of what is available, how to apply, and a more specific contact for that location.

Contact: specific to each location, see link above.

General contact: volunteers@spectrumhealth.org

Mary Free Bed

Location: varies depending on volunteer schedule and shift assignment

Time: varies depending on volunteer schedule and shift assignment

Duties/Description:

General Volunteering Opportunities: consist of helping in Guest Services, Orthotics & Prosthetics + Bionics, inpatient pediatrics and as a leisure activity volunteer.

Commitment is a minimum of six months (or 100 hours). Click following link for more information on general volunteering: <https://www.maryfreebed.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/General-Volunteer-Opportunities.pdf>

College Student Volunteering Program: This program can accommodate undergraduate occupational therapy, physical therapy and recreational therapy. We also have limited opportunities in some niche areas, including pain rehabilitation, orthopedic rehabilitation, aquatic recreational therapy, nursing, and speech-language pathology. Students primary responsibilities are to assist with cleaning/organizing therapy gyms and helping to set up before and after therapy sessions. Students are expected to volunteer on the same day each week for a 13-15 week session. Shifts are three to four hours and the average students receives 40-50 hours per session. Click the following link for more information on college student volunteering program: <https://www.maryfreebed.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/College-Student-Volunteer.pdf>

Contact: Volunteering Department | volunteer@maryfreebed.com | 616.840.8667