

## **2024 Catawba County Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Upcoming United Way volunteer Opportunities:**

**July – School Supply Drive** – we will need volunteers to help sort school supply donations that benefit all three local public school districts in Catawba County.

**Sept. 14 – Race United** – this is a United Way community event, partnering with Hickory Motor Speedway to provide a free night of racing to the public – dozens of local non-profits also show up prior to the race for a resource fair, sharing info. About their programs. Volunteers are needed to help with concession and parking.

**Oct. 9 – John F. Hall United Way Cross Country Invitational** – this event, held at Southside Park in Newton, provides an opportunity for local athletes to compete in a first-class meet and give back to their communities through service projects. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, check in of teams and to serve food.

**December – Christmas Bureau** – this is the annual holiday outreach in Catawba County, helping bring Christmas to families in need. Mid-December, Volunteers are needed to help with the distribution of donations to families. Volunteers are also needed the first week of December to help The Salvation Army sort and prep donations.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH OTHER NON-PROFITS**

#### **AMERICAN RED CROSS**

Blood Collection Support: Join a lifesaving team to help support blood collections in your community.

Disaster Action Team: You can be part of a team that helps people who are forced from their homes due to fires, storms and other disasters.

Sign up at [THIS LINK](#).

#### **COUNCIL ON ADOLESCENTS**

Mentoring volunteers needed – The Lunch Buddy Program is a mentoring initiative implemented in middle schools in Catawba County School, Hickory Public Schools, and Newton-Conover City Schools since 2011. It is designed to help reach students who would benefit from having an additional positive role model. Volunteers meet with a student one day a week through the school year.

To learn more call Mentoring Program Coordinator Tracey Paul at 828-322-4591 or email [tpaul@coacatawba.org](mailto:tpaul@coacatawba.org) and visit <https://coacatawba.org/lunch-buddy>.

#### **DSS Senior Nutrition Services – Meals on Wheels**

Volunteers pick up meals from one of our eleven locations and deliver the meals to seniors' homes Monday through Thursday. Volunteers deliver just one day per month for up to 1.5 hours. In many cases, our volunteers are the only person the recipient will see all day. We provide the training and nutritious meals. You provide your time and vehicle to deliver meals.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, complete an application, provide references, and pass a criminal background check.

Meals on wheels also operates a pen pal program for clients looking for more interaction with the community. You can volunteer to be a pen pal for a senior and commit to writing your pen pal at least once a month. Some seniors do not have the ability to write back but wish to receive a Thinking of you card. Volunteers are asked to supply their own materials for writing to meals on wheels clients.

Learn more at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/county-services/social-services/senior-nutrition-services/volunteer/> or call 828-695-5610

## **THE HICKORY SOUP KITCHEN**

Lunch preparation, lunch service and grocery (bagging, shelving, etc.). Includes periods of standing, lifting objects, interacting with the public. No restrictions on who can volunteer.

Lunch: M-F 7 am - 1pm/Grocery: 8 am - 11 am

Call and ask for Bonnie Salisbury at 828-327-4828.

<https://hickorysoupkitchen.org/ways-to-help>

## **THE H.O.P.E. CENTER**

Part of the Hickory Soup Kitchen, providing transportation to jobs for HSK clients. Needed: afternoon drivers (once a month or a few times a year). Includes periods of standing, lifting objects, interacting with the public. No restrictions on who can volunteer.

M-F 2:30-3:30/4 p.m.

Call and ask for Bonnie Salisbury at 828-327-4828

<https://hickorysoupkitchen.org/ways-to-help>

## **ASHURE MINISTRY**

The agency offers help with rent, mortgage, utilities, and necessary medication for those who need it. Also will assist with some vehicle repairs. They also offer a food pantry with canned and dry goods. Also offers budgeting classes.

For their Thrift Store, the ministry needs donation sorters, stocking volunteers and cashiers.

Contact Christina Rodgers at 828-465-1702, ext.123.

Ashure's Food pantry needs: pantry door worker to greet the clients in the food line, groceries bagger and grocery store driver Contact Allen Sherrill at 828-465-1702 ext. 116. Or visit:

<https://ashureministry.org/volunteer>.

The ministry also needs help in the office - volunteers assist with data entry, filing, prepare mailings, and provide other various clerical assistance.

## **GREATER HICKORY COOPERATIVE MINISTRY**

The agency provides and coordinates services for the uninsured, individuals and families facing crisis, living in poverty and/or experiencing homelessness.

Volunteers needed to help with client services: answer phones, data entry, assist in lobby. The medical clinic needs volunteers to help with greeting/screening patients, clerical/data entry and other duties related to the pharmacy. Learn more by calling 828-323-7904 or visiting <https://ccmhickory.org/volunteer/>.

### **THE SALVATION ARMY OF GREATER HICKORY**

The agency provides a resource center for financial assistance for those in need, the Shelter of Hope for the homeless, and three Thrift Stores to provide clothing and furniture for those on a limited budget. Volunteer opportunities would include: providing weekend meals for the homeless shelter (dinner), pantry help sorting, stocking items (Tuesdays and Wednesdays). For information about volunteering with us, please call 828-322-8061.

### **HIGHWAYS AND HEDGES**

The agency offers a monthly drive through for toiletries/detergents/tissue and clothing. Delivers toiletries/detergents/tissue to people without transportation. Offers firewood when available. Offers a maximum amount of \$50.

Highways and Hedges needs volunteers for delivering furniture/appliances to those in need. As well as people to work in firewood-cutting, splitting, and delivering. Volunteers needed to donate to and stock the on-site blessing box. For more information call or text 828-781-8095.

### **THE CORNER TABLE SOUP KITCHEN IN NEWTON**

There are opportunities include helping on cook teams, serving guest during lunch service, pack meal bags for local students for the Backpack program, stockroom helper, delivery driver for food donations, making Friday to-go bags. To sign up to volunteer, contact Lorraine Swagger at [lswagger@thecornertable.org](mailto:lswagger@thecornertable.org) or call 828-464-0355 ext. 102.

### **CATAWBA COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING**

SHIIP Medicare Counseling, AARP Tax Counseling, Special Events, Class Instruction, Office Assistance, Newsletter Distribution.

<https://www.catawbacoa.org/contactus>

### **WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER**

The agency provides a warm, welcoming space for women who do not know where to turn for guidance in their time of need. The WRC is a safe space to ask questions, have someone listen to your story without judgment and receive the information and tools needed to strengthen your life. The agency also offers life-enriching workshops and events for women regardless of their station in life.

WRC is seeking long-term volunteers to assist with the front desk, packing pantries and assisting with community events. If you'd like to help and/or have a special skill to share email [communitysupport@wrchickory.org](mailto:communitysupport@wrchickory.org) or call 828-322-6333 for more information.

### **BLUE RIDGE PIEDMONT CHAPTER AMERICAN RED CROSS**

Blood Collection Support: join a lifesaving team to help support blood collections in your community. Disaster Action Team: be part of a team that helps people who are forced from their homes due to fires, storms and other disasters.

For more volunteer information visit <https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/greater-carolinas/volunteer.html>.

## **ADULT LIFE PROGRAMS**

Three centers in Catawba County provide daycare for older and/or disabled adults. There are unlimited opportunities for interested individuals to volunteer at Adult Life Programs and volunteers are a vital part of our daily operations. Individual volunteers may lead an activity or just spend time visiting with participants. Groups of volunteers often come to provide entertainment for the participants. The center staff can also use volunteers to help with office duties. So, if you have a particular gift you would like to share, including the gift of listening and conversing with others, please contact the Day Services Managers at each center to learn more about volunteer opportunities. For information call 828-326-9120 or visit <https://www.adultlifeprograms.com/>

## **SAFE HARBOR**

Offers programs/services that address the whole needs of each participant. The Community Center is a walk-in center for individuals experiencing homelessness (women/children). It meets essential needs (showers, laundry, food) and provides case management, referrals, classes, support groups and transitional housing programs for women and women with children.

Resource Warehouse thrift store provides funding for our programs along with job training/experience. To learn about volunteer opportunities visit: <https://safeharbornc.org/ways-to-get-involved/volunteer/>

## **STRONG LIFE MINISTRIES**

The Strong Life Rescue Mission is dedicated to serve individuals who are homeless in the Catawba County area. We provide relief by meeting immediate physical needs and connect clients to community resources to help them navigate their crisis. Volunteers are needed to: organize clothes closet, give haircuts, mow lawn, clean facility, facilitate a Bible study, receptionist. For more information visit <https://www.stronglifenc.org/> or email [stronglifenc@gmail.com](mailto:stronglifenc@gmail.com) or call 828-994-4321.

## **CATAWBA COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Habitat builds simple, decent, and energy-efficient 2, 3, and 4-bedroom houses that are sold to partner families at no profit, through an affordable loan.

New Construction program accepts volunteers on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8a.m. – 12 p.m. They welcome individual and group volunteers.

Habitat Repairs volunteers help with exterior projects.

Volunteers are also needed at the ReStore Catawba Valley store to help sort and price incoming donations, arrange displays, and run the cash register. Volunteers are needed Tuesday – Saturday, with both morning and afternoon shifts available. For more information contact the Community Outreach Coordinator Melissa at 828-328-4663 or [melissa@habitatcatawbavalley.org](mailto:melissa@habitatcatawbavalley.org).

Habitat cannot offer certified hours for court mandated community service at this time.

## **FAMILY CARE CENTER**

The agency serves homeless families with dependent children through an emergency and transitional residential program. Call 828-324-9917 and ask about current or upcoming volunteer opportunities.

## **WALK WITH ME HEALING STEPS EQUINE THERAPY**

Yard maintenance, bunk house repairs, plumbing, cleaning offices. Volunteers can expect: Uneven terrain, heavy lifting, outdoor activities. The only inside, light work would be cleaning the offices.

Restrictions: Must have a clear background check, 18+

Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (need to call ahead to work with the Coordinator)

<https://walkwithmehealingsteps.com/volunteers/>

### Volunteer Opportunities After Hours and Weekends

#### **THE KINDNESS PROJECT**

They operate on the weekends and are always looking for extra hands. You can contact Ashley Dellinger 828-896-6412 or reach out via email ([kindnessprojecthky@gmail.com](mailto:kindnessprojecthky@gmail.com)) or their Facebook page where they have a sign-up sheet on, Kindness Project Hickory.

#### **GOODWILL**

You would need to call Kevin Little at the Career Center in Conover. After you enrolled, you can get help to set hours with Goodwill store/s. Call 828-466-2346.

#### **More Opportunities**

You can also dial 2-1-1 (the United Way of North Carolina's community resource information line) and speak to a call specialist about volunteer opportunities throughout the state.

Any questions? Contact the Volunteer Center at the Catawba County United Way – 828-327-6851 or email John Bailey