

COUNTYWIDE

***Holiday Helper for Isolated Seniors**

Ongoing through Dec. 7th

Become a holiday helper by giving to the often forgotten care facility residents throughout our community. I-You Venture's Holiday Helpers generously purchase, wrap and label each gift for men or women including the size for clothing, ready for delivery to the care facility residents. ***We are now accepting gifts between 9:00 am and 12:00pm through December 7, 2018.*** Gifts Suggestions: socks, slippers, shirts, lap blankets, combs, brushes, cards, games, calendars, stuffed animals, unscented lotions, necklaces, etc.

Please drop off gifts at: Family Service Agency of the Central Coast, 104 Walnut Ave., Ste. 208, Santa Cruz, CA. **To Volunteer:** Nancy Cleveland (831)459-8917 ext. 205 <https://fsa-cc.org/holiday-helper/>

***Toys for Tots Santa Cruz County**

Nov. 17th through Dec. 22nd

In addition to collecting toys and donations across the county, Toys for Tots is recruiting elves for the Watsonville North Pole! Opening day is Nov 18th from 11am to 2pm and we need Volunteer Elves who can help transport items, load trucks, or have an SUV to lend to the cause. Lots of physical work involved, but the rewards are tremendous! From Dec 4th - Dec 21st we need volunteers in the evenings to help with sorting and distributing gifts.

To Volunteer: Delilah Valadez t4t.scrzco@gmail.com 831-319-3727

<https://santacruzcounty.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx>

***Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringers**

Nov. 17 - Dec. 24

We need volunteers to man our iconic red kettles this holiday season. Several locations countywide and the funds you collect stay right in your own community. Shifts are every Monday through Saturday from 11am to 7pm. You may choose to volunteer for a full shift or for at least a 2-hour period.

To Volunteer: Magaly at 831-706-6532 or email magaly.laubach@usw.salvationarmy.org

***Adopt A Family Holiday Sleigh Drivers**

Dec. 14 - 15

Help play Santa for 400 families in need across Santa Cruz County. Volunteers needed to help drive toys from local businesses throughout the county to the Santa Cruz Volunteer Center in Live Oak (1740 17th Ave). Volunteers are welcome to make one or more trips and will need to use their own vehicles.

To Volunteer: Melissa at engagement@scvolunteercenter.org or 831-427-5070 ext. 128

COUNTYWIDE

***Caroling to End Cancer**

Dec. 25th

Volunteers will gather in their preferred neighborhood to carol during the holiday season to help end cancer! Jacob's Heart helps support children with cancer and their family members. Volunteers will go door-to-door singing carols. After they are done singing, they will relay a small blurb about Jacob's Heart and hand them a donation envelope. Money raised will go towards helping families provide presents to their children this holiday season as well as vital gift cards for parents to help feed their family nutritious food and get their children to their hospital visits.

To Volunteer: Jacob's Heart (831) 724-9100

Second Harvest Food Bank: Holiday Food and Fund Drive Ongoing Opportunity

Join as the community comes together to fight hunger this holiday season. Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County provides healthy food and nutrition to children, seniors, vets, and working families in our community all year long. Our Annual Food & Fund Drive is a major source of support that enables us to serve 55,000 people every month, all year long. Make a donation, start of drive of your own, recruit teams. Make this years' Food & Fund Drive the most successful ever.

To Volunteer: Aracele at 831-498-4119 aracele@thefoodbank.org

***Transportation Hero for a Senior**

Ongoing

Are you friendly, reliable, and safe driver that can give a few hours to help a senior or disabled person in need? volunteer drivers based out of Santa Cruz or Mid County (Live Oak, Soquel, Aptos) to provide round-trip transportation for seniors (55+) and disabled folks. Drivers provide an invaluable service for seniors by taking them on essential trips to the doctor or to buy groceries. As a volunteer, your schedule is completely flexible; you drive when you have time and no regular commitment is required. Additionally, you will be reimbursed for your gas costs and receive supplemental insurance free of cost.

To Volunteer: contact Jan, at jan@scvolunteercenter.org (831) 427-5070

SANTA CRUZ

***Friends of SCPL Holiday Book Sale**

Dec. 1

The Friends have an annual Holiday Sale in the upstairs community room of the Downtown Library on Saturday, December 1st.

8am we need book sale set up volunteers

10:00 am -3:00 pm we need sale organizers and cashiers.

3:00 pm we need help breaking down the sale

We have a kids craft table that needs a host to help with kid Crafts too!

To Volunteer: Mary Kopp Mary, 831-427-7707 x 5790, mary@fscpl.org.

SANTA CRUZ

***Homeless Garden Project Store**

Nov. 12th to Dec. 6th

The Holiday Store is where we sell organic and handcrafted gifts that crew members make in our workshop. These products are all made using ingredients from our farm.

The store is volunteer-run and all proceeds from our sales go toward funding our programs year-round, providing a significant source of funding for our non-profit and supporting folks transition out of homelessness.. We need volunteers to support the Shift Managers in the store to greet customers, restock shelves, use our point of sales system, and communicate about Homeless Garden Project and homelessness to shoppers. Volunteers learn customer service skills, business and sales knowledge, and communications skills.

To volunteer: Justin Wright, JustinW@homelessgardenproject.org

***Cook a Warm Meal at St. Francis Soup Kitchen Ongoing every Monday - Friday**

*****NO MEAL SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY*****

We begin cooking at 8:00 AM and finish serving the meal at 1:45 PM.

Each day a hearty meal of soup, salad, bread, coffee, and milk are served to over 180 people at noon at the St. Francis Soup Kitchen. We have been serving meals to the hungry in Santa Cruz for over 25 years! Please join us by volunteering in our kitchen, where we can accommodate up to four volunteers daily. No special experience is required aside from a desire to work in the kitchen.

To volunteer: head over to 205 Mora Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 wearing closed toes shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty, or contact Richard Crowe 831-459-6712 <http://www.stfrancissoupkitchen.org/howtohelp.php>

***Grey Bears Brown Bag Line & Delivery**

Ongoing Opportunity

Deliver a bag of fresh groceries to low-income seniors! Bags are packed by volunteers in the morning and drivers pick up bags between 7:30am and 11am on Thursday and Friday.

To Volunteer: contact Michelle, michelle@greybears.org, (831) 479-1055 ext 226.

<https://www.greybears.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

***Grey Bears Holiday Luncheon for Seniors**

Dec. 1st and Dec. 2nd

Annual Free Holiday Luncheon Celebration for 1,400+ seniors. The luncheon will be held at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, located at 307 Church Street. All volunteers on Sunday, Dec. 1st will enjoy a free lunch! In helping in this event you are not just helping set tables or serve meals- you are providing a meal that a senior might not be able to afford by themselves and providing company they might not find otherwise. From decorating before the event, or helping during you are making a difference in the lives of your neighbors. There are four shifts available at various times between 12/1 and 12/2.

To Volunteer: contact Michelle, michelle@greybears.org, (831) 479-1055 ext 226.

WATSONVILLE

***Pajaro Valley Loaves and Fishes Meal Team** **Ongoing Mon through Fri**

NO MEAL SERVICE ON THANKSGIVING OR DECEMBER 24 AND 25

Pajaro Valley Loaves and Fishes is grateful for all the volunteer help we received during the holidays. If you are interested in volunteering with PVLFF during the holiday season, please contact before hand to talk to us about our opportunities and when we could best use your generous help!

To Volunteer: contact volunteer@pvloavesandfishes.org or 831-319-4571

***Jacob's Heart Food Bank and Food Pantry** **Many Dates**

Join Jacob's Heart in food bagging or help out in their food pantry. They are bagging groceries for their families every Thursday starting at 9:30 am. There is also a special Thanksgiving bagging the Tuesday before Thanksgiving (11/20/18). Jacob's Heart is also looking for food pantry volunteers at the Full Hearts Pantry and Caroline's Closet. Volunteers will help families pick out fresh groceries and clothing items on two Thursdays (12 - 2 pm 11/15 and 11/29).

To volunteer: email Alex at alex@jacobsheart.org

***Jacob's Heart Kids Card Volunteer** **Through Dec. 12th**

Jacob's Heart is looking for creative energetic individuals to create cards and decorate grocery bags delivered to families weekly. This is a program gives volunteers the opportunity to provide some fun and social support to our amazing children going through a challenging time. Volunteers hand-make a friendship card and create a small care package using jacob's heart art and gift materials. Creating a kid's card for one of our children affected by pediatric cancer is a very special gift you can give! Volunteers are needed 2-4 hours a week, during office hours, 9 am-5 pm. Training is provided at your first shift.

To volunteer: email Alex at alex@jacobsheart.org

***Wetlands Restoration** **December 15th 9 am - 12pm**

We invite you to participate in this family friendly outdoor volunteering activity helping to restore wetland habitat. Volunteer work includes planting native plants, removing exotic invasive plants, and helping in our native plant greenhouse. Afterwards we will go for a guided nature walk. The restoration group meets at the Fitz Wetlands Education Resource Center located at the top of the Pajaro Valley High School campus (500 Harkins Slough Rd) at 9 a.m. Please bring water, and wear layered work clothes, sturdy shoes and a sun hat. We will provide tools, gloves, and a snack.

To volunteer: contact Mary at mary@watsonvillevetlandswatch.org (831) 566-4938

BEN LOMOND

***Valley Churches United Food Pantry**

Ongoing Opportunity

Valley Churches United Missions (VCUM) is a grassroots organization serving the needs of low-income residents in the San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley. The growth of the organization eventually required hiring a small, dedicated staff, but much of the work is still done by volunteers. The food pantry, in fact, is run entirely by volunteers. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities, including positions that require a regular commitment (for example, 3 hours per week), as well as positions requiring a once-a year commitment, such as working on one of our fundraisers or special events, or helping in our boutique. We also need professionals who can offer their services for free (or at a discounted rate).

To Volunteer: 831.336.8258 info@vcum.org