

# Volunteer Gwinnett NEWS



Spring 2023

## 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.

## 2022 VOLUNTEER GWINNETT BY THE NUMBER

Volunteer Gwinnett [reached new heights in 2022](#) with many thanks to you – our volunteers! A few highlights include:

### Gwinnett Serves

Following its launch last April, [Gwinnett Serves](#) hosted 33 volunteer programs in 2022 to meet the needs of our nonprofit, civic, and religious community partners in Gwinnett. This included our epic Gwinnett Great Days of Service weekend in October, with 23 impact projects, 12 participating Gwinnett County Public Schools, and 976 volunteer service hours!

### Innovative Programs

Volunteer Gwinnett received the National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government's [Innovative Program Award](#) for the Mobile Food Distribution Program, where 519,506 pounds of produce and shelf-stable food items were received by 21,724 households and 88,868 residents through volunteer and community partner efforts.

### Volunteer Gwinnett at Your Service

Thanks to the volunteers, local communities, and government efforts, more than 782,309 volunteer hours were donated back to serving the community in 2022! Additionally, 38,277 individuals volunteered at 11,028 service opportunities and served on 517 community boards in 2022. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](#).

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



### Gwinnett County celebrates National Volunteer Week

On Tuesday, March 28, join the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners as they recognize Volunteer Gwinnett's dedicated community volunteers with the annual Volunteer Appreciation Proclamation at the Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center in Lawrenceville. The Proclamation will begin at 7:00pm with light refreshments available for attendees afterward. To RSVP, email [VolunteerGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:VolunteerGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com). The Gwinnett Justice and Administration Center is located at 75 Langley Drive in Lawrenceville.

### Advocating for the youth

Volunteers from Gwinnett Court Appointed Special Advocate,

known as Gwinnett CASA, spent a special day at the Georgia State Capital on Thursday, February 2, to meet with state lawmakers during the 2023 Legislative Session to show the power of CASA's advocacy and stress the needs of the child welfare system. Gwinnett CASA are screened and trained community volunteers appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interests of a neglected or abused child involved in juvenile court proceedings. With Gwinnett targeted as a critical high-need area by [Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children](#) in 2024, our Gwinnett CASA volunteers are working hard to serve the children in foster care and community. To learn more about the Gwinnett CASA program and requirements for further training, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](#).



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



### Show your appreciation to the planet

Join Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful and Gwinnett County Solid Waste on Saturday, April 22 for the annual Earth Day recycling event. From 9:00am to noon, residents can drop off their hard-to-recycle items, such as electronics, latex and oil-based paints, and tires. Volunteers are needed to direct traffic, unload vehicles, break down boxes, and more. To register as a volunteer, call 770.822.7141 or visit [GwinnettCB.org](#). Coolray Field is located at 2500 Buford Drive in Lawrenceville.

Roll up your sleeves with Gwinnett Parks and Recreation and take part in Little Mulberry Park's induction into the Old Growth Forest Network at the Earth Day: Old Growth, New Growth event. From 9:30am to noon, meet us at the park's [Auburn entrance](#) to explore some noteworthy trees in the forest, then help staff plant new pollinator species to enhance the meadow habitats. All work tools will be provided. To learn more, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](#).

### Volunteer as a summer camp aide

Calling all teens ages 14 to 17! Summer camp aide volunteer positions are now open at 12 Gwinnett Parks and Recreation locations. To apply, email [CommunityServices@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:CommunityServices@GwinnettCounty.com). The application deadline is Saturday, April 22. If accepted, a \$21 summer camp aide uniform fee is required.



### Help deliver meals to seniors

Become a volunteer driver for the Home-Delivered Meals program! By delivering meals to homebound clients, volunteers will be providing nutritious food and friendly visits to senior residents. Trained volunteers are asked for regular volunteer placement through our Gwinnett Senior Services Center in Lawrenceville. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, have reliable transportation and a valid driver's license, and be able to meet the physical demands of the position, which includes standing, lifting five-to-ten-pound bags of food items, and climbing steps or flights of stairs. To learn more about meal delivery or other volunteer

opportunities with Health and Human Services, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](#) or email [HHSVolunteers@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:HHSVolunteers@GwinnettCounty.com).

### Book it with Building Brains Anywhere

Join Building Brains Anywhere to help nurture literacy through Gwinnett's G.R.E.A.T. Little Minds Book Exchanges! Volunteers will help sort donated books for the busy spring and summer months at these children's book exchanges located around the county. Thanks to these small libraries, which target kids ages up to 8, more than 51,000 children's books made it out to the community in 2022. To learn more, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](#) or email [B2Anywhere@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:B2Anywhere@GwinnettCounty.com).



### Plant a spring garden with Harvest Gwinnett

[Harvest Gwinnett](#) maintains and operates 10 community gardens in Gwinnett to connect the community through hands-on environmental education, plant fresh produce to improve resident



food access, and nurture engagement opportunities leading to improved health outcomes. Volunteer to prepare for the spring planting season, including assembling shelving, carts, planting share rows, and more to prepare for a vibrant growing season! For more information, call 678.277.0287 or email [HarvestGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com](mailto:HarvestGwinnett@GwinnettCounty.com).

## GWINNETT EMPLOYEES IN ACTION

### Volunteers helping people with food insecurity

Gwinnett County volunteers are dedicated to giving back to our community by helping to bridge the gap between food inequalities. Thank you to all the volunteers who support the weekly Mobile Food Distributions to provide produce and shelf stable items to the community. This includes many Gwinnett County Government employees from Gwinnett County Fire and Emergency Services, Transportation, Solid Waste Management, and Water Resources. To learn more, about this program, visit [VolunteerGwinnett.net](http://VolunteerGwinnett.net).



## SPOTLIGHT ON YOU



### Liaison Spotlight – Melanie Chung

With Earth Day and Arbor Day coming up in April, we'd like to shine the spotlight on our Volunteer Gwinnett liaison Melanie Chung, the Resource and Marketing Coordinator for Gwinnett County Solid Waste Management. In her current role, Melanie educates the community about the County's trash and recycling program, how to properly recycle, and connects residents with needed resources. An outdoor adventurer who enjoys traveling, hiking, camping, and gardening, Melanie's favorite volunteer experience is the weekly Mobile Food Distributions, where she enjoys the camaraderie among the volunteers and the interaction

with the recipients. Meet Melanie at the Earth Day Recycling event on Saturday, April 22 at Coolray Field in Lawrenceville.



Volunteer  
Gwinnett

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