

Community Service Opportunities for Young People

List compiled by The Charlotte Observer

Bright Blessings | 704-846-2329 | www.BrightBlessingsUSA.org

Bright Blessings is a non-profit that provides services for homeless children through its Bless-A-Baby and Bless-A-Birthday programs. Volunteers of all ages can participate in projects at the organization's Matthews facility.

Ronald McDonald House | 704-335-1191 | www.rmhofcharlotte.org

Every month, we invite children (ages 6+) to the House for a fun morning of crafts. The children create table centerpieces, door decorations, and holiday crafts that bring joy to our guests year round.

Friendship Trays | 704-333-9229 | www.friendshiptrays.org

Children can join their parents to deliver meals and visit with recipients of the program. Daily, weekly or monthly commitments, whatever suits your schedule.

Room at the Inn | 704-347-0278 | www.urbanministrycenter.org

Children of all ages are welcome to help provide shelter to the homeless at local churches and other agencies. Children can help set up beds, set the table, serve meals, clean up and more. Sign up through the church, temple or other agency hosting Room at the Inn that night.

Mel's Diner | 704-904-8968 | www.mels-diner.com

Mel's Diner organizes fresh food and home cooked meals for truly needy people. They also pick up food that would otherwise go un-eaten or thrown away and give it out selflessly to people who are truly hungry. Children are invited to volunteer by making meals at their own home for delivery or by serving on designated delivery days.

Hands on Charlotte | 704-333-7471 | www.handsoncharlotte.org

Children of all ages can participate in various projects, including activities at local nursing homes such as Bingo, bowling with children who have disabilities, visiting group homes and more. Programs are organized for children ages 6 and up, 8 and up, 10 and up and 12 and up.

HopeMatch | 704-271-4636 | www.hopematch.org

HopeMatch partners with Christmas Tree Santas to provide Christmas trees to the families we serve. They are looking for volunteers that can make Christmas ornaments for the trees. They also provide services and support year-round.

Humane Society of Charlotte | 704-494-7706 | www.humanesocietyofcharlotte.org

Only individuals 18 and older are eligible to volunteer directly at the shelter. However, the HSC does offer a “Junior Volunteer” Program, where children ages 10-17 are encouraged to support the shelter through collection of donations (items for the shelter or monetary), and then deliver the donations to the shelter for recognition.

Safe Alliance | www.safealliance.org

Safe Alliance provides shelter, court advocacy, referrals and counseling programs for victims of domestic violence. Children of all ages – including preschoolers – can help with yard maintenance and playground upkeep at the shelter. With a parent or chaperone, teenagers can help provide childcare at the shelter.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina | 704-375-9639, ext. 24

www.secondharvestmetrolina.org

Children can help organize a food drive in their neighborhood, church, organization or school.

Crisis Assistance | 704-371-3000, ext. 114 | www.crisisassistance.org

Children age 6 and up can sort clothing and help out in the production area of the agency’s store. Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, Tuesday evenings until 9 p.m., and the first the three Saturdays of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library | www.cmlibrary.org

Adopt an Aisle Program. Volunteers are invited to adopt an aisle of books in the children’s department and are responsible for periodically ensuring materials are in order. Children ages 12 and under require an adult while ages 12 and up are allowed to work independently. Not all branches participate, check with your local branch to see if this program is available.

Loaves & Fishes | 704-523-4333 | www.loavesandfishes.org

Collects food for the hungry. Children age 6 and older can help sort food in pantries across the region. (Children younger than 12 need to have an adult with them.)

Charlotte Family Housing | 704-335-5488 | www.charlottefamilyhousing.org

Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 can volunteer at our monthly Youth Serve Day which takes place from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. on the second Sunday of every month. Youth help lead craft-making activities and games for the children staying at the Plaza Place shelter.

The Harvest Center of Charlotte | 704-333-4280, ext. 107 | www.theharvestcenter.org

With a chaperone, children ages 10 and older can help serve meals, wrap silverware in napkins, open coffee packages, fold clothing, put canned food on shelves and more.

Adult Care and Share Center | 704-567-2700 | www.adultcareandshare.com

Children ages 8 and up and their parents can interact with older and disabled adults at the center. Activities include playing card games, doing arts and crafts, playing games such as ring toss or bowling and more. Volunteers also visit one-on-one with adults, reading books to them, helping them put puzzles together, play cards and more.

**Charlotte Rescue Mission Rebound/Dove's Nest | 704-334-4635, ext. 214
| www.charlotterescuemission.org**

With a parent, children age 10 and up can help serve a meal. One adult from the family would be required to attend an orientation first.

Habitat for Humanity | www.habitatcharlotte.org

Young people ages 5 to 15 help families in need of a decent, affordable place to live. The Building on Youth program is designed to offer a way for youngsters to make a difference even though construction activities are limited to those 16 years and older.