



2026 Group Volunteer Project Opportunities

SERVING THE CHICAGO AREA SINCE 1857

Since 1857, Metropolitan Family Services has been at the heart of Chicago's city and suburban communities responding to the needs of families. Through 10 major community centers, their related locations and public policy advocacy, Metropolitan serves low-income and working-poor families facing a dynamic and ever-changing environment. As an integral part of each community we serve, we listen, actively participate and lead the way in helping families realize their amazing strength.

Metropolitan Family Services has more than 1,500 full- and part-time professional staff dedicated to providing quality services to families throughout the city, from southwest Cook and DuPage counties to Evanston and Skokie. **MFS serves more than 205,500 families and individuals**, as diverse as the communities in which they live, with 81% being part of the working poor or lower-middle class.

Calumet Center 235 East 103rd Street Chicago, IL 60628

Serving Roseland, Beverly, Chatham, Englewood, Morgan Park, Mount Greenwood, Pullman, Riverdale, Washington Heights, Washington Park and West Pullman.

Benefitting Youth:

Opportunity: Intern Day

Host our first-generation potential college students on the ins and outs of expectations as a first-year college student, perfect for your organization if you have interns. It can be held at your office location or ours. The group size depends on location.

Opportunity: Empower Job Seekers!

We welcome guest speakers and mentors to share their expertise on resume writing, interview preparation, career development mentorship, and professional networking. Lead a one-time or recurring sessions and provide mentorship and job-readiness tips, insights, or offer an industry-specific learning experience—onsite visits to your construction or healthcare workplaces may be arranged.

Opportunity: Host a job fair!

Opportunity: Become an employer and take youth during the summer for employment placements.

Opportunity: Participate in parade to end the school year and kick off a safe summer. We are also planning a car wash to give back to the community.



Calumet Center continued

Benefitting Domestic Violence Programming:

Opportunity: Participate in our purple hat brunch that we host every year at Calumet for DV survivors and thrivers. Can be a speaker or attend the event.

Benefitting all Calumet Programming:

Opportunity: Available in mid/late spring, clean out, inventory and help organize the storage unit. Good for a group of up to 15 people.

Opportunity: Host a donation drive for DV and housing clients in critical need of housing and food items. Host a Food collection drive, by collecting and putting together kits of non-perishable food items, diapers, bedding, etc.

Opportunity: Help rapid rehousing clients impacted by encampments, homelessness or Domestic Violence/trafficking situations by helping furnish/decorate their new apartment.

Benefitting Senior Citizens Chicago Housing Authority Buildings 54 locations across North, South and Central Chicagoland

Opportunity: Every location must provide twice-monthly activity engagements. Bring your skills to teach a senior group an internet skill or host a game day. Other opportunities include painting hallways, neighborhood cleanups and hosting a donation drive. Opportunity is ongoing, size depending on location.



DuPage Center 222 East Willow Avenue Wheaton, IL 60187

Serving all DuPage communities including Wheaton, Elmhurst, Naperville and Woodridge.

Benefitting all DuPage programming

Opportunity: Available in mid/late summer, clean out, inventory and shred old documents in storage unit. Help keep us organized by shredding items and organizing our storage unit. Good for a group of up to 15 people.

Opportunity: Organize inventory and clean storage room. The space houses materials for multiple programs, and by assisting us keeps resources focused on programming and serving clients. Good for a group of up to 15 people.

DuPage Center Addison Children's School 121 E Fullerton Ave Addison, IL 60101

Head Start Programming (ECE)

Opportunity: Indoor opportunity, clean and sanitize equipment, pairs well with book drive. Create a craft and read to the kids. Purchase books for students to foster a love of reading. Add mulch to grounds, clean up landscaping. Opportunity ongoing, 15 people max.

Opportunity: Assist with painting refresh. Purchase supplies and paint hallway to brighten up the learning space. Can be broken down into sections depending upon commitment, min 7 people.

DuPage Center Carol Stream School 250 N Gary Ave, Carol Stream, IL 60188

Head Start Programming (ECE)

Opportunity: General landscape cleanup, weeding, purchasing and laying mulch. Purchase and install missing playground equipment. Indoor opportunity; clean and sanitize equipment. Opportunity ongoing, 10-30 people.



DuPage Center Continued Undisclosed location in Downers Grove

Benefitting Family Shelter Service of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage (FSS of MFSD)

Metropolitan Family Services has the *ONLY Emergency Domestic Violence Center in DuPage County*. It transforms lives by offering help and hope to those affected by domestic violence.

Opportunity: Open the playground, purchase and lay mulch to control weeds. Clean grounds of debris, trim hedges, weed and generally spruce up grounds. Opportunity available in spring. Good for group 10-30 people.

Opportunity: Paint one or multiple spaces in the Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter, to continue to offer a warm and welcoming space for survivors. Materials are supplied. Group size depends upon how many rooms can be committed to but can be as small as 6 people.

Opportunity: Refresh the outdoor front area, adding perennials, hostas, or other low maintenance plants. Purchase and spread mulch to help weed control and improve overall outdoor space to a more warm and welcoming area for clients. Donate your favorite children's book to the free waiting room "library". Good for group 10-30 people.

Opportunity: Deep clean and sanitize the children's "Rainbow Room" indoor activity area. Clear away winter debris from the play area and clean out and prepare flower beds and fill with new dirt. Good for group 5-10 people.

Opportunity: Clean and organize the craft closet Good for group 5-10 people.

Opportunity: Clean and organize the GIK room to clean out and reorganize the space to optimize its function. Other organizing and cleaning projects. Good for a group of 5-20 people.

Opportunity: Close playground for the season, rake leaves, place summer items back in sheds for winter, clean grounds of debris, trim hedges and generally winterize. Opportunity available in early November. Good for a group of 10-30 people.

Shelter opportunities that can occur regularly OR 1X

Opportunity: Available beginning in April and throughout the summer, assist us outdoors at the shelter by cleaning grounds of debris, and generally spruce up. Good for group 5-30 people.

Opportunity: On the second Wednesday from May through September, we will host a "Weeding Wednesday", where community members can come to assist with landscaping and outdoor yard work, with their children or families. Sign-up: [Weeding Wednesdays in Downers Grove – Fill out form](#)



Howard & Evanston Community Center 7648 North Paulina Street, Chicago, IL 60626

Serving the Greater Rogers Park area and Evanston

Benefitting all HECC programming and the surrounding community

Opportunity: Clean up litter on Paulina Street and the surrounding neighborhood, sharing a sense of pride with the greater Rogers Park neighborhood. Good for a group of 7-20 people.

Benefitting Adult Education

Opportunity: Help the Adult ESL and GED learners by organizing the library. Clean and organize the school supply closet. Clean, organize and sanitize classrooms and tutor resource center. Good for groups of 7-15 people.

Howard & Evanston Community Center Sheila Reynolds Berner Family Center, 7510 North Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60626

Benefitting Early Childhood Education (ECE) Serves children ages 0-5

Opportunity: Clean and sanitize classrooms, create a craft or read with the kids, donate your favorite children's books for the library. Good for a group of up to 8 people.

Opportunity: Organize the large library lending system. Donate new books and book organizers/dividers to categorize books. Good for a group of up to 5 people.

Opportunity: Help clean and organize empty classrooms. Clean and sanitize toys, safety check toys and equipment. Good for a group of up to 10 people.

Opportunity: Help clean and organize storage room. Categorize toys and materials, safety check toys and equipment. Good for a group of up to 10 people.

Opportunity: An outdoor activity, clean up the play lots and remove litter from the parking lot and Ashland Avenue.

Metropolitan Peace Initiatives 2100 S Morgan 2nd Floor Chicago, IL 60608

The Metropolitan Peace Initiatives' (MPI) convenes community-based and citywide organizations to help heal Chicago's communities experiencing the highest levels of gun violence. The mission is to coordinate, support and sustain a cross-agency infrastructure made up of local community-based and citywide organizations that deliver a comprehensive set of services to heal communities at the highest risk for violence.

Opportunity: Assist the newest class of street outreach workers, case management workers, victim service advocates, and Crisis Prevention & Response Unit cohort, at its graduation hosted twice yearly, at Chicago's South Shore Cultural Center. Assist with setting up, break down and general flow of graduates and their guests. Events are held two times per year, in June and December. Good for a group of 5-10 people.



Midway Community Center 3843 West 63rd St. Chicago, IL 60629

Serving Brighton Park, Chicago Lawn, Clearing, Englewood, Gage Park, New City, West Englewood and West Lawn neighborhoods

Midway Learning and Wellness Center (LWC) 5338 South Loomis Chicago, IL 60609

Supporting Early Childhood Education

Opportunity: Assist Head Start children's programming by organizing their sizeable children's closet for those in need of clothing. Clean and sanitize classrooms, read and create a craft with the kids. Good for groups of 7-25 people.

Opportunity: Remove corkboard from lobby and repaint the rotunda. Paint has already been purchased. Good for groups of 10-25 people, minimum 10.

Midway Children's Center 3215 West 63rd Street Chicago, IL 60629

Early Head Start programming, serves children ages 2-5

Opportunity: Clean and sanitize classrooms, create a craft or read with the kids. Clean up playground area and surroundings. Good for a group of up to 10 people.

Southwest Center 10537 South Roberts Road Palos Hills, IL 60465

Benefitting All Southwest staff members

Serving Blue Island, Calumet, Lemont, Oak Forest, Orland; Palos and Worth Townships.

Opportunity: Various community events need volunteer support throughout the year, setting up, breaking down, connecting and sharing information with community members.

Southeast Center 3062 East 91st Street Chicago, Illinois 60617

Serving South Chicago, Calumet Heights, and the East Side, Hegewisch, and South Deering communities.

Benefitting all programming

Opportunity: Host a donation drive for High School students in critical need of feminine Hygiene products. Host a coat/hat/scarf/glove drive. Host a Food collection drive, by collecting and putting together kits of non-perishable food items.

Benefitting Southeast Staff

Opportunity: Using your connections, assist us in offering the SE staff a welcoming and comfortable lunch area by purchasing new cabinetry, and painting the space.

Benefitting WIOA programming (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)

Opportunity: Participate or host a job fair at our center or yours, to assist the community in acquiring gainful employment.



North Center 3249 North Central Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60634

Serving Belmont Cragin, Hermosa, Irving Park, Skokie, and Portage Park communities.

Benefitting WIOA JOB CLUB: Construction, Transportation, and Healthcare Industries programming

Opportunity: Empower Job Seekers! Whether you're a job coach, industry professional, or mentor, your insights can make a real difference! Every Friday, from 930-11, the Job Club meets to discuss and develop job-readiness skills, to secure employment in the construction, transportation, and healthcare industries. We welcome guest speakers and mentors to share their expertise on topics such as resume writing, interview preparation, career development and mentorship, and professional networking. You can lead a one-time or recurring sessions (via Zoom or in-person at North Center), provide mentorship and job-readiness tips, insights, and introductions, or offer an industry-specific learning experience—onsite visits to your construction or healthcare workplaces may be arranged.

Benefiting Family Connects Chicago

Opportunity: Support our community baby shower by volunteering the day of the event, May 21, 2026 or donating new baby essential items or by hosting a donation drive. The event Community Baby Shower supports currently expecting families, to learn about safe sleep practices, resources available through MFS and access essential items.

Good for groups of 3-10

North Children's Center 3255 North Central Avenue Chicago, IL 60634

Benefitting North Children's Center programming

Opportunity: Clean and sanitize the Children's gross motor (free play) room and classrooms. Clean and organize the storage closets, Safety check toys and equipment. Donate books and supplies to classroom, create craft with the kids. Host a donation drive for the free children's library in the waiting room. Good for a larger group of 10-30 people, available in fall

Headquarters (HQ) 101 N Upper Wacker Chicago, IL 60606

Serving as our agency's general office, HQ is home to the Legal Aid Bureau, the Employee Assistance Network (EAN), and our Government Affairs and Advocacy team.

Opportunity: Assist in essential daily functions and special projects, such as packing back to school supplies, and other donation drives. Other items may include document shredding, and closet organization. Good for groups of 5-10



Events Benefitting Multiple Centers



Benefitting Centers that host Domestic Violence Programming, Calumet, DuPage, Howard & Evanston, **Midway, North, Southeast, and Southwest, and held at your location**

#LovePurse is a community partner, and a separate 501C3. #LovePurse has collected and donated over 20,600 purses for women in need. Of these, MFS' Domestic Violence Programming has received 2,200. It's "not just a purse", it holds precious items and having to leave it behind in a crisis can be devastating. Each purse is filled with intention to make each woman feel loved, valued and respected.

Opportunity: Host a LovePurse event in support of individuals impacted by Domestic Violence, by filling purses with items, including a note of encouragement. Size is limited by your hosting space. Request a minimum of 50 purses to donate.

Hosting A Donation Drive

Each center has needs based upon the communities they serve. There are opportunities to host an in-person or online donation drive, based upon what resonates with your organization, and what the centers needs are. Here are donation drive suggestions, this is not comprehensive, and we are open to your creative collaborative ideas: [Needs list by program all centers](#)

Support	Supporting Clients with:	Center	Link
Women In Workforce	Personal client needs	Southeast	SE Women in workforce
Community Craft Club	Supplies	Howard & Evanston	HECC CRAFT CLUB
Early Childhood Education (ECE)	Books, new and used, ESP and ENG	DuPage, HECC, Midway, North, SE, SW	
Mother's Day	Personal Care items	All	
Families Expecting	Community Baby Shower!	North	COMMUNITY Baby Shower!
Domestic Violence Programming	Needs	Southeast, Southwest	SE SW DV Needs
Back To School July, August & September	K-8, High School and College	ALL	Link to come
Emergency Domestic Violence Shelter	Personal care needs	DuPage	DuPage DV Emergency Shelter
HECC Food Pantry	Food Insecurity	Howard & Evanston	Donate to HECC Food Pantry



Seasonal Impact Events

2026 Back to School Supply Drive

Host a backpack and school supply donation drive in support of an MFS community center, including a personal note of encouragement to get the kids off to a great start. We provide a list of needed items, your group fills the list.

Thanksgiving Drive

Sponsor a community center with meals, or grocery gift cards for a family meal together.

Family Shelter Service Holiday Shoppe [Holiday Shoppe 2025 Video](#)

Family Shelter Service of Metropolitan Family Services DuPage (FSS of MFSD)

Undisclosed location in Downers Grove

Holiday Shoppe is an opportunity to share the joy of the holiday season with families impacted by domestic violence and their children. Last year over 700 children and their families shared in the joy and hope of the holiday season due to the tremendous support of our community. A free “shopping” event, clients choose gifts for their families. Dates TBD during November and December 2025

Opportunities:

- Set up/break down of event, good for groups of large size
- Client shopper: assist clients 1:1 to personalize their holiday gift list
- Gift wrapper: wrap gifts for clients
- Toy/Book/Gift Card donation drive
- Financial sponsorship benefitting Domestic Violence programming

2026 Holiday Bazaar in support of North Center Programming [Holiday Bazaar 2025 Video](#)

3249 North Central Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60634

A one-day event, Holiday Bazaar offers hot chocolate & crafts for kids, and a “shopping” event for parents. Come as a group to volunteer and pass out toys to the community, provide corporate sponsorship for programming with a financial donation, or organize a gift card donation drive/toy drive or dress up as “Marshmallow” and take pics with families. Early December date TBD. Good for 1-10 people.

Holiday Gift Program

Sponsor all MFS community centers by purchasing gift cards for families in need of a holiday meal or gifts for their kids. It can be designated for a certain center, or all centers.



Click to View Videos:

[2025 Volunteer Year in Review](#)

[MFS 2025 Year in review](#)

[Video Library - Metropolitan Family Services](#)

This list is not comprehensive as some opportunities occur organically and centers not listed may have more. Additionally, if you have a collaboration idea that resonates with you at any of our 10 MFS locations that are closer to you, let's discuss!

For questions, please contact Volunteer and Community Outreach Manager, Julia Forte: ForteJ@metrofamily.org