

PARTNERS IN SERVICE

Holiday Volunteering 2020

As the 2020 holiday season approaches, Boston Cares has worked closely with our nonprofit and school partners to create a list of options for corporate engagement and support during a time when they need it more than ever. Below you will find opportunities for at-home volunteer engagement that provides a platform for impactful teambuilding combined with some winter cheer during this unique holiday season.

At-Home Portable Projects

Portable Projects are a great option for volunteers engaging from their own home and are often offered as a group activity for volunteers to work together. Boston Cares facilitates the entire event from providing project details and calendar invites for volunteers to project facilitation from beginning to end including providing instructions, best practices, and the return and donating of the completed projects. Whenever possible, Boston Cares recommends that the benefitting organization or school joins the session so that volunteers understand the impact of their work.

For all of projects below, Boston Cares will mail all required materials to volunteers ahead of the project and will also provide pre-paid shipping labels for volunteers to return the completed projects, as needed.

- **Winter STEM Fair** – Partnering virtually with a youth serving organization or local school, volunteers will teach and guide students through fun and engaging winter and holiday themed STEM Experiments. For this project, Boston Cares will mail volunteers and students a kit containing all the required STEM materials ahead of the project. Volunteers and students will work through these experiments together over video platform!
- **Craft Kits** – Volunteers will join in small groups via video conference to create a winter or holiday themed craft. The final video along with all the required craft materials will be shared with a youth serving agency partner.
- **Wreaths for Seniors and Families** – Volunteers will create a winter themed wreath to be donated to an agency partner that serves families transitioning out of homelessness, seniors, or another vulnerable population. The completed wreaths can be hung on the doors of clients they serve as an uplifting, seasonal, decorative gift and as a reminder that someone is thinking about them during these challenging times.
- **Winter Care Kits** – Volunteers will decorate a small bag or stocking and fill the completed bags with treats and necessities like snacks and socks. These kits can be donated to a variety of agency partners including those serving seniors, homeless populations, and youth.
- **Winter Essential Personnel Kits** – Throughout the current pandemic, many agency partners have essential staff who have been working tirelessly to support and serve vulnerable populations. Through this project, volunteers are able to give back and say thank you to these essential staff. Volunteers will decorate a small bag or box and fill that with winter goodies like gloves, lotion, snacks, and more! The kit can also include a handwritten note from volunteers.
- **Holiday Playdough Kits** – Volunteers will create a fun kit to be donated to a youth serving agency partner. For this project volunteers make their own winter themed playdough kit including homemade playdough and small toys packed together for a child to enjoy during periods of remote learning or as a gift during the holidays.
- **Holiday Card Writing Project** – The winter months, especially during the current pandemic, can be especially challenging for some populations who may be experiencing increased isolation due to a limitation of visitors and lack of travel capabilities. Volunteers will create and write a series of uplifting winter and holiday themed cards that will then be donated to an agency partner serving seniors, homebound clients, those in the hospital or care center, and other vulnerable populations.

Virtual Workshops

Boston Cares' virtual workshops offer a dynamic opportunity in which volunteers engage with partner agency staff around a specific subject and then build skills in that subject matter through interactive activities and dialog. These options take place on a virtual platform with facilitation by Boston Cares and the agency partner to ensure teambuilding and connection between volunteers. These opportunities have flexibility on the number of volunteers that can participate.

- **Winter Storybook Recording** – Volunteers will record captivating readings of their favorite winter themed children's book through a reading platform provided by Boston Cares. Story recordings will be shared with a partner school or agency give to

teachers and families who can use these story recordings to keep their young students engaged during the winter season while learning remotely.

- **Skill Videos** – For this opportunity, volunteers will create and record a personalized skill video. These videos will be added to a virtual library to benefit a youth serving agency. While many youth serving agencies have had to limit the number of kids they can serve with in-person programming, many have added virtual programming to reach those that cannot participate in person at this time. Volunteers will be tasked with creating a short video showing off a skill. Volunteers are encouraged to be creative with the content of their videos. Videos could be themed to the season (i.e – How to make a great paper snowflake) or more specific to a valuable life skill (i.e – how to tie a tie or a career specific skill).
- **Gift or Clothing Drive** – Boston Cares will match your company with a nonprofit or school that is in need of support during this holiday season, Boston Cares will do an informational webinar along with the benefitting organization to demonstrate the need to volunteers and will help support all drive efforts from ordering to donating.
- **Video Recording for Seniors and Isolated Populations** - The effects of isolation due to COVID-19 have affected elderly and vulnerable populations, many of whom will be spending their holiday season alone. For this opportunity, volunteers record themselves on a video platform reading a book, singing a song, or making a craft to be shared out with agency partners' clients who are isolated at this time.
- **Samaritans' Suicide Awareness Workshop** - Samaritans serves to reduce the incidence of suicide among individuals, to educate the public about suicide prevention, to support those who have lost someone to suicide, and to reduce the stigma associated with suicide. They strive to provide services that are easily accessible and widely used by at-risk populations. For this opportunity, volunteers would participate in a webinar with Samaritan staff centered around Suicide Awareness. The webinar can include breakout rooms for smaller group discussion. The webinar can also be followed by volunteers completing a reflection piece or activity afterwards.

Requested Contribution

All projects above are designed for groups of up to 15 volunteers and are inclusive of all project management and supply costs.

Contribution Details	Contribution
Project Management and Supplies for group of up to 15	\$3,000

**Boston Cares is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Our Federal Tax ID number is 04-3173682.*