



## **Community Missions and Volunteer Opportunities**

### **ARC of Rockbridge**

The Arc of Rockbridge is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a variety of social opportunities, advocacy support, scholarships, and other services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as their families. They need help for special events.

Contact Sharon Massie at [sharon@graceepiscopalexington.org](mailto:sharon@graceepiscopalexington.org), 540-463-4981 or Doris Frederickson at [thearcofrockbridge@yahoo.com](mailto:thearcofrockbridge@yahoo.com) or 461-0074.

### **Boys Home of Virginia**

The Boys Home provides care for young men in a healthy, supportive environment on a residential campus in Covington, VA. They offer them a life-changing experience with caring adult supervision meant to increase their sense of personal responsibility. It's a fresh chance for a young man to mold his character in positive, meaningful ways.

Volunteer groups are welcomed throughout the year to do a variety of tasks. Groups of any size and of all ages are invited to come to campus and provide assistance to complete various projects—both inside and outside. The project that you are assigned will be appropriate for the number and ages of the group. Some groups paint, others do gardening/weeding/mulching, etc. While visiting, volunteers are encouraged to eat and visit with the students and staff in the dining hall.

Grace Episcopal Church's Christian Outreach Committee coordinates activities relating to the church's sponsorship of SAMS Cottage. This cottage houses 9 boys of different ages and each boy has a specific sponsor from Grace Church. Sponsors write letters or emails to each boy and plan activities such as visits to Boys Home and Boys Home visits to Grace and/or Lexington. Activities could include picnics, concerts, plays in Lexington and career counseling or general (get to know you) visits at Boys Home. This program was started in March, 2020 and is expected to continue for at least two years.

Contact Shay Peters at [hogwsh@rockbridge.net](mailto:hogwsh@rockbridge.net) or 540-463-5803 or Contact Colleen Urffer @ [curffer@boyshomeofva.org](mailto:curffer@boyshomeofva.org) or 540-965-7703

### **Bridge to Hope Food Pantry**

Bridge to Hope is a local food pantry in Buena Vista serving the community in conjunction with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. They are located at Rockbridge Community Church of the Nazarene. Primary volunteer times are Mondays at 2pm to unload the truck and 6pm Mondays to help and spend time with the clients. Civil Rights training required and can be completed in about 15 minutes.

Contact Cressia “Sam” Roberts at 540-460-9131 or [bridgetohopefoodpantry@yahoo.com](mailto:bridgetohopefoodpantry@yahoo.com)

### **Community Closet**

Community Closet is a ministry of Christ Episcopal Church dedicated to providing clothing and household items at no charge to families in need in Buena Vista and surrounding areas. The Closet is open every Saturday from 9 AM to Noon. Volunteers are needed on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Contact Gail Dickerson at [gdickerson447@gmail.com](mailto:gdickerson447@gmail.com) or 540-817-3466 or  
Susie Trimble at [susietrimble@rockbridge.net](mailto:susietrimble@rockbridge.net), (h) 261-2504, (cell) 461-1299

### **Community Table**

The Community Table seeks to relieve the hunger of those residing in Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge County, Virginia. Working in close association with the local governments and the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, the Community Table depends on multi-denominational groups and individuals willing to volunteer their time and resources for dinner on Monday night and lunch on Wednesday.

Contact MJ Mayerchak at [mjpmchak@gmail.com](mailto:mjpmchak@gmail.com), 540-463-9457 or  
Jill Lund at [rockbridgecommunitytable@gmail.com](mailto:rockbridgecommunitytable@gmail.com), or 540-416-1828

### **Habitat for Humanity**

Rockbridge Area Habitat offers partnership housing solutions to local low-income Rockbridge County residents through its new home build and home repair programs.

Repair Program – repairs to homes of low income, often elderly residents to make their home safe and accessible. Most projects need several volunteers and are scheduled when needed at the convenience of the homeowner. Contact Steve Neas at his cell - 336-209-8072 or home number 540-462-2921.

The volunteer contact for the New Home Program is Leo Decanini. His cell number is 571-259-3145. His email is [leo@rockbridgehabitat.org](mailto:leo@rockbridgehabitat.org). He checks his email on Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

### **Meals for Shut-Ins**

Meals for Shut-Ins Provides nutritious hot meals five days a week to handicapped or ill individuals unable to provide their own.

Volunteers are needed to pick up and deliver meals.

Contact Susan Cross at [crossx5@embarqmail.com](mailto:crossx5@embarqmail.com), or 540-460-7091.

### **Mission Next Door**

Mission Next Door is a charitable fellowship of volunteers, most from six churches in Rockbridge County, Virginia. They provide Christian stewardship in the form of free home

repair and maintenance for area residents who are financially or physically unable to provide some aspects of this service themselves.

Contact Sandy McLaughlin at [sandyglen76@gmail.com](mailto:sandyglen76@gmail.com), or 540-348-4342 so your availability and specific skills can be matched to jobs as they arise.

### **Project Horizon**

Project Horizon is dedicated to eradicating domestic, sexual, and dating violence through education, advocacy, and empowerment of survivors and by being a sanctuary for victims. Volunteers are needed to answer the 24-hour hotline and provide support for shelter residents. Volunteers with specialized skills or interests may also work in the various programs of Project Horizon. Training is required.

Contact Kaitlyn Kaufman at 540-463-7861 or email [kkaufman@rockbridge.net](mailto:kkaufman@rockbridge.net) for more information.

### **Rockbridge Area Health Center**

As a local non-profit, the mission of the Rockbridge Area Health Center (RAHC) is to promote and provide access to comprehensive, high quality, and affordable health care to improve the health and well-being of our community. RAHC offers medical, pediatric, women's health, prenatal, behavioral health services, and medication assistance to insured, uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid and Medicare patients. Also available is an income-based sliding-scale discount for services. Free and confidential health insurance or Medicaid enrollment assistance provided to the public.

For additional information about RAHC, its services, or about making a contribution, contact Janet Beebe @ [jbeebe@rockahc.org](mailto:jbeebe@rockahc.org)

### **Rockbridge Area Hospice**

For 35 years Rockbridge Area Hospice has provided care for people with a life limiting illness. Our mission is to enhance quality of life, so that families can enjoy time with those who mean the most to them.

To learn more contact Susan Bedell, [susan.bedell@rahospice.org](mailto:susan.bedell@rahospice.org) or the hospice office, 540-463-1848. To find out about volunteer opportunities, contact **Christine Hopkins**, Volunteer Coordinator at [christine.hopkins@rahospice.org](mailto:christine.hopkins@rahospice.org) or at the office number.

### **Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA)**

RARA's mission is to alleviate hunger and address poverty by aiding Rockbridge area households in a time of emergency when help is needed to meet life's basic needs. Volunteers are needed to answer the hotline, support shoppers at the Food Pantry and to drive food trucks to pick up food from the food bank in Verona.

Contact Kathy Hill at [kathrynhill1@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynhill1@gmail.com) or 804-347-1967 if interested in helping at the food pantry on Thursdays, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

During the time of COVID-19, volunteers are needed to support shoppers in the Food Pantry Drive-Thru, deliver food to people who cannot leave their homes, and provide follow-up calls to clients remotely. Contact Volunteer coordinator Lindsey Perez at [volunteer@raralex.org](mailto:volunteer@raralex.org) or Director Jen Handy [office@raralex.org](mailto:office@raralex.org) or 540-463-6943.

### **Rockbridge Area Transportation Service (RATS)**

For 24 years, RATS' mission has been to provide safe and affordable rides for all residents of the Rockbridge County area who are in need of their transportation. Drivers are trained and certified Passenger Service and Safety (PASS) professionals. They are equipped to handle and secure wheelchairs in each van and riders' safety is the goal of every trip. Fares are kept low with the help of grants and generous donor contributions from area residents and local businesses/churches. To make a donation contact the office at 540-463-3346 or at 712 N. Main Street, Lexington, VA 24450

### **Sarah Lanford Mission Emergency Fund (MEF)**

The Lanford Mission Emergency Fund (MEF) assists residents of Rockbridge County who request emergency help in meeting rent, utility, medical, or temporary housing expenses. The MEF primarily receives its funding from Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas offerings as well as a small number of pledges that are designated "Mission Emergency Fund."

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, beginning in mid-March the state of Virginia directed utility companies (electric, natural gas, and water) to suspend disconnections for 60 days. New rent requests continue to come to us through RARA (Rockbridge Area Relief Association) which does the vetting to verify need; costs are shared among RARA, Grace, Lexington Presbyterian, and St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church. While there is currently a moratorium on existing utility accounts and landlords cannot evict current renters without going to court, once the moratoriums are lifted, there will be many more requests for assistance.

A donation to the MEF can be made on Grace's Website <https://onrealm.org/graceepiscopalVA/-/give/now> or in the form of a check made out to Grace Episcopal Church with "Lanford MEF" noted on the memo line.

Contact: Gail Dickerson [gdickerson447@gmail.com](mailto:gdickerson447@gmail.com) ; 540-817-3466

### **Sudan Mission Group**

The Sudan Mission Group needs new members interested in Sudan and South Sudan and their people in Africa and in the US. The group needs especially, but not necessarily, a member who likes taking pictures and who could contribute to writing short articles for parish distribution.

Contact MJ Mayerchak at [mjpmchak@gmail.com](mailto:mjpmchak@gmail.com) or 540-463-9457.

### **Yellow Brick Road Early Learning Center**

Yellow Brick Road ELC is a non-profit organization offering educational programs for children ages six weeks to six years old. We are guided by the complimentary values of social diversity, personal responsibility and developmentally appropriate education. We believe that every child has the potential to be a productive, engaged member of the community. Embracing the role as an institution that both serves and is sustained by the local community, Yellow Brick Road is one of the only early childhood facilities in the Rockbridge area providing need-based scholarships. Ultimately, Yellow Brick Road seeks to lay an educational and social foundation for all students, guiding each child towards his or her potential in a loving and nurturing environment.

To donate to their mission go to <http://yellowbrickroadelc.weebly.com/support-us.html>