



# VOLUNTEER MONTGOMERY

## May 2024 Updates:

Dear Volunteer,

We are excited to join the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce! We invite you to attend our Ribbon Cutting event and celebrate our growth at Volunteer Montgomery on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at noon (just after the Volunteer Montgomery Advisory Council meeting) for light hors d'oeuvres and remarks from Montgomery County officials.

**Ribbon Cutting**

**Thursday, May 16th**  
**12:00 - 1:00 PM**  
**210 Pepper St SE, Ste D**  
**Christiansburg, VA**

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE  
Connect. Engage. Prosper.

Don't forget that our Fundraising Committee continues to seek recipes for our upcoming Cookbook Fundraiser. The deadline to submit your favorite recipe is July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Please see below for an invitation to this year's recognition event. **You are encouraged to wear your Volunteer Montgomery t-shirt.** If you do not have one, please let us know your size when you register to attend.

Email [volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov) or call 382-5775 to register. Don't forget to let us know if you prefer Pork BBQ or Vegetarian Lasagna. The deadline to register is **Wednesday, May 22** at 5pm.

**A NEW BEGINNING**  
WITH VOLUNTEER MONTGOMERY  
*Volunteer Celebration*

May 30, 2024, 11 a.m.  
Christiansburg Rec. Center

*We invite you to join us!*

Please respond to **volunteermontgomery**  
**@montgomerycountyva.gov** or **540-382-5775** before  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024,**  
to provide your meal choice.

You may choose Pork BBQ or Vegetarian Lasagna.





## Program Updates:



### **Thank you for supporting our Kids' Bedding Drive for Sleep in Heavenly Peace -NRV!**

Our group collected 15 Bed in a Bag sets, 5 sheet sets, 2 mattress protectors, 6 pillows, 8 plush throws, and 1 decorative pillow.

Many thanks go out to Deena Flinchum, Sharon Brown, Alex Strickler, Brenda Arnold, Mandy Hayes, Karen Anders, Carol Kauffman, Rosemary Jones, Mike & Kara Vellines, Michelle Cox, Carolyn Alls, Hannah Cox, and Glenda Caldwell for your generous donations!



### **Support "One More Can for the Food Pantry" A Message from Joyce Kelley**

***For more information, please call Joyce at (540) 268-2916***

We consistently run low on stock items, such as peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables and fruits, canned soups, crackers, pasta, cornmeal mix, cake mix, icing, pie crust mix, dried potatoes, jello and pudding cups, etc. We do have available funds in the organization's treasury to purchase the foods; however, it is extremely difficult to find what we need in the amount we need and at the best cost. So "Dale's Place" Food Pantry really needs your help in assuring we have what we need to fill food boxes for our clients.

***NEEDED FOR MAY: Peanut butter — smooth or crunchy, any size***

We realize there are families who might not be able to share once a week, or once a month, but they could just share as they can, and if they are unable to participate, they can pray for us as we work together to provide nourishing food items for our neighbors.

**Please bring donations of peanut butter to the Volunteer Montgomery office during the month of May. We plan to deliver your contributions to "Dale's Place" Food Pantry and follow up with a photo.**

ELIAS Lay Ministerial Association partners with Eastmont Community Foundation and Feeding Southwest Virginia.

## VOLUNTEER MONTGOMERY:

### Expanding Volunteer Efforts for all in our Community

BY HOLLY MCFALL

Montgomery County has had a flourishing volunteer program dating back to 1969. Formerly, the organization was known as the Retired Senior and Volunteer Program of Montgomery County and Radford (RSVP). However, RSVP was only open for senior citizens aged 55+ to join. In April of 2023, RSVP evolved to become Volunteer Montgomery in order to broaden volunteer efforts and welcome all individuals within the community of Montgomery County to unite together as volunteers and strengthen the community by doing so.

Volunteer Montgomery has two main functions for the community:

#### 1. Serving as a community hub and offering "in-house" volunteer opportunities.

We partner with 60+ organizations located mainly in Montgomery County that are seeking volunteers, to provide various community service opportunities. Some of our partners include the American Red Cross, Montgomery County Animal Care and Assistance, Lewis Gale Hospital, the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program, and many more. Once an individual enrolls with Volunteer Montgomery, a staff member schedules and conducts a one-on-one orientation to discuss the individual's skills, preferences, and availability. Based on this discussion, Volunteer Montgomery staff connect enrolled individuals to one or more of our many partners so that they can start volunteering. Enrolled members also receive monthly newsletters as well as additional updates about potential volunteer opportunities within the area. We are happy to be able to welcome volunteers of all ages! Our current focus is on getting awareness out about Volunteer Montgomery and the fact that everyone, no matter the age or capability, has a volunteer opportunity that is perfect for them. We want folks to feel that they are fully participating in their community, getting to know others with the same passion for service, and contributing to the community. While donations are always happily encouraged and accepted, our primary hope is to assist folks with finding purpose while giving back to the community we love.

#### 2. Volunteer Montgomery has multiple in-house volunteer opportunities that volunteers can participate in as well.

Below, you will find a listing of our annual major events along with a brief summary.

- **Supplies for Homebound Seniors:** Occurring every January, our Supplies for Seniors event focuses on providing household items and hygiene products to

homebound seniors and veterans within Montgomery County. We work with the NRV Agency on Aging and Virginia Veteran and Family Support to identify seniors and veterans in need of the bags. Our volunteers fundraise tirelessly throughout the year so that we can purchase the items for the bags. They then bag all of the items up, and we collaborate with local police departments in order to make deliveries throughout the county. This past year, 230 bags valued at approximately \$50 per bag were delivered.

- **Valentine's for Vets:** Every February, we participate in the National Salute to Veteran Patients by crafting valentines for the Salem VA Medical Center and Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem. We hold a craft day at our office where supplies are provided for volunteers to create valentines. This February, we were able to deliver 490 handcrafted valentines.
- **Scholarships:** Each year we sponsor two \$1,000 scholarships available for seniors in Montgomery County Public Schools to apply to. Applicants must be seeking further education (whether 2-year university, 4-year university, or technical school) in a Human Services related field.
- **Patriot Day Activity:** Each September volunteers put together donations of treats and goodies for all of our first responders within the County. We were able to deliver these goody baskets to 17 first responder locations throughout the county.
- **Flowers for Veterans:** Every November we choose to honor our veterans by creating and delivering flower arrangements. We collect vase donations throughout the year and partner with Gates Florist for the flowers. Volunteers deliver arrangements to veterans at four of our local assisted living facilities.
- **Holiday Tote Bag Project:** In December, we request donations of filled bags to deliver to one of our local assisted living facilities. We provide the tote bags along with a list of recommended items to donate. Volunteers prep the bags and deliver them (along with Santa and Mrs. Claus) to one of our local assisted living facilities. This past year, we were able to deliver 100 tote bags to English Meadows in Blacksburg.



While Montgomery County graciously covers our overhead, all volunteer projects and events are paid for solely out of donated funds. Our volunteers work diligently throughout the year to fundraise including offering multiple bingo nights, conducting a Walk-A-Thon, hosting a bake sale, partnering with local restaurants for dine-to-donate events, and so much more. We have had fashion shows in the past, a themed mystery dinner, and are hoping to have a chili cook off and a cookbook coming out in the near future. We accept individual donations as well as sponsorships from businesses. What we are able to offer to the community is based solely off of these donations, sponsorships, and fundraiser events.

Volunteers are able to enroll with Volunteer Montgomery either online, on our social media sites, by calling, or coming by our office.

[montva.com/departments/humanservices/about-volunteer-montgomery](http://montva.com/departments/humanservices/about-volunteer-montgomery)

Health & Human Services Bldg.  
210 S. Pepper St., Ste. D  
Christiansburg  
(540) 382-5775



Let us help you connect with service opportunities that are perfect for you and perfect for our community! ●

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APRIL 2024 • 19

PHOTO BY GRAPHY

**Thank you** to everyone that participated in our **Dine to Donate** fundraiser at **Sandro's** on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>! We raised \$400 to support our community programs!

## Family Gift Card BINGO Fundraiser



# BINGO!

## June 29, 11am-2pm

**TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON MONDAY, MAY 6<sup>TH</sup>!**



**Creed Fields Park**  
4390 Riffe St, Elliston



**Cabo Fish Taco food truck,  
Spoons Frozen Yogurt, shaved  
ice and more!**



**\$10 gift card prize** | **\$50 gift card**  
for each game | grand prize



**\$10 donation per admission ticket**  
Buy online using the code, or stop by the  
Volunteer Montgomery office:  
210 S. Pepper St., Suite D.

We are offering our corps of volunteers and community partners the first opportunity to get tickets for our upcoming Family BINGO Fundraiser. We are accepting donations for 75 tickets. **They will go fast. Get your tickets soon!**

We are still in need of volunteers to donate **\$10 gift cards** for this fundraiser. Please stop by the office if you are able to contribute a gift card(s) for this fun event.

All of the donations for tickets will benefit our community programs.

**We hope to see you there!**

Fundraiser with proceeds benefiting programs administered by



540-382-5775 | [volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov](mailto:volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov)

### Volunteer Opportunities:

You will receive our annual **Volunteer Montgomery Satisfaction Survey** during the month of May from [volunteermontgomerymontva@gmail.com](mailto:volunteermontgomerymontva@gmail.com) via Google Forms. Please submit your answers online or contact the office for help with the form. We appreciate your feedback!

### **Cards & Coupons**

This event will be held on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in May instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday**. Our office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.

**Evening Opportunity!** Create a No Sew Fleece Blanket for Project Linus at Volunteer Montgomery – Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm

Volunteers of all ages are welcome to join us as we welcome Penny Sweet, Regina Howard, and Laura Eanes of Project Linus. The ladies will provide all of the materials needed and a demonstration on how to make the blankets. **All supplies will be provided by Project Linus.**

**This is one event not to miss if you would like to begin creating blankets for Project Linus, a nonprofit organization that provides blankets to children in emergency situations.**

Blankets are distributed to a variety of locations in the New River Valley. Sheriff's Departments and local police departments carry blankets with them to provide comfort to children in crises situations. Fire departments have blankets to distribute in times of need. Local neo-natal intensive care units give blankets to children in their hospital beds. Social services distributes blankets to children who have to be relocated on an emergency basis. Blankets are given to children who have parents deployed in the line of duty. We also contribute to national disasters, such as hurricanes, fires, and other emergency situations when many children are affected. [www.nrvprojectlinus.org](http://www.nrvprojectlinus.org)

**Please call, text, or email the Volunteer Montgomery office if you would like to help!**

### **MCEAP Meal Delivery**

Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program (MCEAP) is run entirely by volunteers, providing a thrift store, food banks, and other opportunities. Right now, MCEAP is in need of drivers to help deliver a prepared meal for seniors in need in the Shawsville, Elliston, and Riner/Auburn areas. **Volunteers are needed for recurring deliveries on Thursdays.** If you are interested in helping with meal deliveries with MCEAP, please contact Margie Vitale at 540-449-2415.

Interested volunteers can stop by 400 West Main St. or 308 W. Main St. in Christiansburg between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm to pick up meal(s) to deliver to clients. MCEAP has a questionnaire prepared to ask clients if they are in need of pet food or adult diapers. If so, these items can be provided with the next meal delivery.

A **"Purrricane Prep Pawty"** will be held at the **Montgomery County Animal Care and Adoption Center (ACAC)**, 480 Cinnabar Road, Christiansburg, on **Saturday, May 18** from **12-3 pm**. The Animal Care and Adoption Center is requesting supplies to help care for the flood of tiny felines that make landfall soon.

**They are collecting the following items.** Kitten Formula (Kitten Milk Replacer) powder, Purina Kitten Chow (yellow bag), "Pate" wet adult or kitten food, Non-clumping Clay Litter, "Yesterday's News" (or any brand) paper litter, Kitten nursing bottles and replacement nipples, Miracle Nipples (mini and original), Digital thermometer, Flea combs, Fleece blankets, Small cat beds, Double sided food bowls, "Snuggle Kitty or Puppy" stuffed toy with heartbeat, Toys, Treats, Laundry soap (liquid), and Dawn "Ultra" dish soap (blue).

**The ACAC encourages the community to stop by to enjoy the festivities, including a visit from The National Weather Service in Blacksburg.**

### **Saint Francis Service Dogs**

Saint Francis Service Dogs in Roanoke, VA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to help people with disabilities achieve their goals and have greater independence through partnership with exceptional service and facility dogs. We have formed a new partnership with this wonderful agency and they are in need of volunteers in Montgomery County!

They have many volunteer opportunities for people to get involved, but **their biggest need at the moment is puppy sitters and puppy raisers.**



- **Puppy/Dog Sitters** care for Saint Francis puppies and dogs on weekends or for periods of one or two weeks while their regular puppy raisers are on vacation, or to give dogs in training a change of scenery. Sitters help Saint Francis puppies and dogs by exposing them to new friends and different places.
- **Puppy Raisers** open their homes and hearts to future service dogs, raising puppies for approximately one year, and helping them learn their basic obedience skills before returning them to Saint Francis Service Dogs for advanced training. Puppy Raisers must attend weekly training classes. They have classes in both Blacksburg and Roanoke.

Learn more about Saint Francis Service Dogs here: <https://saintfrancisdogs.org/> [saintfrancisdogs.org] and about the Volunteer Program here: <https://saintfrancisdogs.org/volunteer/> [saintfrancisdogs.org]

**To sign up for this opportunity, contact Volunteer Montgomery.**



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### **Designer Handbags Needed**

Volunteer Montgomery is making plans for a Designer Handbag Auction to come! In preparation for the event, we are seeking new and gently used designer purses whose original retail value exceeded \$100 for the auction. Handbags can be dropped off at the Volunteer Montgomery office during business hours—Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

Please note, any purses that show significant wear (rips, tears, stains, extensive fraying, etc.) or do not meet the \$100 retail value will not be accepted for this particular event but can potentially be donated to MCEAP Thrift Store.

Your support will help ensure that we can continue to benefit community members in need. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Volunteer Montgomery office.

### **We accept the following donations:**

- **Stamps for the Wounded** – please leave at least a quarter-inch margin of paper around used postage stamps you tear off envelopes or packages.
- Gently-Used Paperback Books for **Operation Paperback**. We have a container for books inside the volunteer office.
- Manufacturer's Coupons for the **Overseas Coupon Program** (can be used for 6 months after expiration date)
- Eyeglasses for the **Lions Club**
- Aluminum tabs for the **Ronald McDonald House**
- Bud vases for our annual **Flowers for Veterans** program

The following activities are scheduled in **May** and we will be providing transportation for volunteers. Contact the office for more details.

- Kroontje Health Care Center – Birthday Party                      May 15                      2:30 pm



- Spring Oak Senior Living - Birthday Party May 17 3 pm
- English Meadows – Tea Party May 20 10 am
- Virginia Veterans Care Center – Birthday Party May 21 2:30 pm
- Commonwealth Senior Living – Party May 23 3:15 pm

**Volunteer Information:**

**Volunteer Hour Sheets**

You can submit volunteer hours by mail, email or by visiting <https://forms.montva.com/Forms/RSVP-hours>. If you use this link, your volunteer time will be emailed to staff.

Please let us know if you would like a paper copy or a fillable form to save to your tablet or PC.

**Thank You from Auburn United Methodist Church**

March 30, 2024


Dear Friends at Volunteer Montgomery,

We want to sincerely thank you for your donation of food for Backpacks of Blessings. Your donation of food and your community support means that together we will help feed more children better food. For the 2023-2024 school year we will provide an estimated 3096 bags to children in need in the Auburn school strand. At the current cost per bag of \$9.62 the potential cost for the year could be as high as \$29,784, but because of donations of money and food like yours we are on track to spend only \$19,614. This is only possible because we are all working together to feed these kids and be the hands and feet of Christ! Here is an update for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Auburn Elementary School – 58 bags per week
- Auburn Middle School – 15 per week
- Auburn High School – 13 per week
- Total bags by May 2024 = 3096

From Everyone here on the Outreach Committee at Auburn United Methodist Church, thank you for partnering with us and helping keep children in our community fed and healthy!

Sincerely,



Emilie Tolliver  
Outreach Committee Chair  
Auburn United Methodist Church





**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Health and Wellness Fair**  
Wednesday, September 18, 2024  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Christiansburg Recreation Center  
1600 North Franklin Street

For more information, please contact: Sue Magliaro, [sumags@vt.edu](mailto:sumags@vt.edu)  
For sponsor/exhibitor application/payment:  
<https://www.blacksburgaarp.org/2024-health-and-wellness-fair>





# VOLUNTEER MONTGOMERY

## May 2024

*The month of May  
is the gateway to  
summer*

**210 S. Pepper St.,  
Suite D,  
Christiansburg, VA  
24073**

 = VolunteerMontgomeryVA

 = volunteermontgomeryva

Office: (540) 382-5775  
Cell: (540) 239-1088

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 	6 Cards/Coupons 9AM-12PM	7	8	9	10	11
12 	13 Cards/Coupons 9AM-12PM	14 Evening Event with Project Linus 6-8PM	15 Kroontje Party 2:30PM	16 Advisory Council Meeting 11AM  Ribbon Cutting 12PM	17 Spring Oak Party 3:15PM	18 ACAC 'Purricane Prep Pawty' 12-3PM
19	20 English Meadows Tea Party 10AM  Fundraising Committee 10:30AM	21 VA Veterans Care Center 2:30PM— Leave VM @ 1:30PM	22	23 Commonwealth Senior Living Party 3:15PM	24	25
26	27  <b>Office Closed</b>	28	29	30 Volunteer Celebration 11AM @ Cburg Rec Center	31	



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### May Birthdays:

Volunteer	Birthday
Dominick Fugate	5/1
Adelia Arrington	5/2
Barbara R. Parrish	5/3
Matt Tolbert	5/3
Sherri Blevins	5/4
David Armstrong	5/5

Nabiha Faisal	5/5
Helen Whitaker	5/6
Laura Wilson	5/6
Philip Pappas	5/8
William Hanger	5/10
Lisa Wolf	5/13
Chase Stewart	5/14

May is Older Americans Month! Join us throughout the month as we celebrate how our senior volunteers strengthen the community. Get involved by sharing stories, photos, and videos on social media. Don't forget to tag us on your Facebook posts. If you don't use social media, feel free to call or email the office and we will share your story!

We are grateful to work with a remarkable corps of volunteers! Once again, I hope you will join us at the Christiansburg Recreation Center on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> to celebrate YOU!

Don't forget to make a reservation by Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In service,

*Mandy Hayes*

Volunteer Montgomery Coordinator  
Montgomery County Human Services

