

# Volunteer Opportunities in and around Burlington, MA

A list compiled by Burlington Public Library staff – updated January, 2015

## **IN BURLINGTON:**

### **BCAT (Burlington Cable Access TV)**

Volunteers (ages 13 – adult) are wanted for production crews that film town meetings and events. Training is provided at the cable studio, located at Burlington High School on Cambridge St (Rt 3A), and much of the filming is done there as well. Other volunteers are wanted at the studio to do light office work, some easy data-entry on a computer, and to update bulletin boards. The cable studio is open Mon-Fri 10-10 and Saturdays 10-4. Closed Sundays. Call Jennifer Dodge at 781-273-5922. Website: [www.bcattv.org](http://www.bcattv.org)

### **Burlington Council on Aging**

The Council on Aging welcomes volunteers for front desk reception and to help in the kitchen and fitness room. The Council on Aging is located in Burlington's Human Services building on Center Street. Contact: Marge MacDonald at 781-270-1953.

### **Burlington Historical Museum**

"Volunteers are always wanted, particularly to help set up displays." The museum is located at the corner of Bedford and Cambridge Streets in Burlington, and is open to the public in the summer on the second and fourth weekends, and on Tuesday nights. Call Toni Faria at 781-272-1049 for further information.

### **Burlington Players**

The Burlington Players are an all-volunteer community theater group, housed at the Park Playhouse, 1 Edgemere Avenue in Burlington. Volunteers handle all aspects of theater production, both on-stage and off. Volunteers are wanted to build sets, operate lights and sound equipment, make costumes, as well as man refreshment and ticket booths. Help is also wanted with cleaning, gardening, desktop publishing and grant writing. A mentor program is available for those who want to learn. Volunteers need to be 18 or older. Learn more at [www.burlingtonplayers.com](http://www.burlingtonplayers.com). Send inquiries about volunteering by email at [mailings@burlingtonplayers.com](mailto:mailings@burlingtonplayers.com).

### **Burlington Public Library**

Adult and teen volunteers are welcomed to help with shelving of returned materials, typing, and various other clerical tasks. A commitment of 2 hours a week for a minimum of 10 weeks is expected. There is sometimes a waiting list to volunteer. Contact Michael Wick at [mwick@burlington.org](mailto:mwick@burlington.org) or 781-505-4985 for details. Teen volunteers are also wanted in the summer to help younger children with the Summer Reading Program: teens interested in summer hours must apply to the Youth Services department by late May each year. Watch library website for details: [www.burlingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.burlingtonpubliclibrary.org)

### **Burlington Recreation Department**

The Recreation Department has volunteer opportunities for adults and for boys and girls who have completed eighth grade. If you like working with people, enjoy recreational activities, or have a special skill, you may be able to use your talents volunteering at one of our programs or special events. Summer volunteers should apply by late May. For information, call 781-270-1695 or visit the website at [www.burlingtonrecreation.org/](http://www.burlingtonrecreation.org/)

### **Cooperative Elder Services**

This organization operates an adult day program for senior citizens at 37 B Street in Burlington. Volunteers are wanted to visit, play cards or board games, and generally give individual attention to elderly clients. Volunteers can also assist with activities, provide entertainment, help in the kitchen and push wheelchairs. Contact Arline Parillo at [a.parillo@elderdayservices.com](mailto:a.parillo@elderdayservices.com), or 781-270-5751.

### **FISH (Friends in Service Helping)**

Drivers are wanted to deliver local folks to local medical appointments. Call 781-270-1691 and speak with Rose Udics.

### **Friends of the Burlington Public Library**

Adult volunteers are always wanted either to assist with spring and fall book sales, or to serve on the executive board, which meets monthly. Contact the Friends of the Library at [bpnews@gmail.com](mailto:bpnews@gmail.com).

### **Lahey Clinic**

Opportunities available for teens and adults year-round between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.. Provide support and companionship to patients and their families, or assist with transport of patients, specimens, equipment and medical records. Four hours a week for a minimum of 6 months is expected. Additional summer opportunities available for high school students who can commit to two 4-hour shifts a week in July and August. Phone 781-744-8803 or E-mail: [VolunteerServices@Lahey.org](mailto:VolunteerServices@Lahey.org)

### **Minuteman Senior Services**

Adult volunteers are welcomed to deliver 'MEALS ON WHEELS, provide friendly visits, grocery shopping, or transportation for medical visits for elderly or homebound people in Burlington. Call 781-272-7023 for information or apply on-line at [www.minutemansenior.org/volunteers](http://www.minutemansenior.org/volunteers).

### **People Helping People**

Burlington's non-profit, mostly volunteer organization that oversees:

- Burlington Food Pantry (Call 781-270-6625 or email [burlingtonpantry@gmail.com](mailto:burlingtonpantry@gmail.com) to volunteer)
- Covenant for Basic Needs (781-270-1961)
- The Holiday Program (Call Judy Walsh to volunteer at 744-722-3859\_

Learn more about the many volunteer opportunities at [www.peoplehelpingpeopleinc.org](http://www.peoplehelpingpeopleinc.org).

### **Saheli**

Saheli is a Burlington based women's group dedicated to helping South Asian women. Volunteers are currently needed to teach English to South Asian immigrants in Burlington and Billerica, and computer literacy at the Cambridge Public Library to new immigrants. See website for details ([www.saheliboston.org](http://www.saheliboston.org)) email [sahelihelp@gmail.org](mailto:sahelihelp@gmail.org)

### **SHINE ("Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders")**

Volunteers are given extensive training in order to provide guidance about health insurance options for seniors. Volunteers also take phone calls, make home visits, and see people on-site at Minuteman Senior Service on Third Avenue in Burlington. Training is provided in spring and fall. Contact SHINE Program Director at 1-800-243-4636.

### **FURTHER AFIELD:**

#### **Bedford VA Medical Center**

The Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Bedford welcomes many individual (youth ages 13-20 and adults) and corporate volunteers. **There are also opportunities for students, both individual or in groups, to earn community service credits.** To learn more about volunteer opportunities go to <http://www.bedford.va.gov/giving/>, or call Volunteer Service at 781-687-3076 to make an appointment for an interview. The hospital is located at 200 Springs Road, Bedford, MA 01730

#### **Caring Canines**

Join the Caring Canines volunteers and participate with your dog in group visits to nursing homes, hospitals, adult day care programs and assisted living facilities in the greater Boston area. For more information about the pet therapy program and the certification process to register your dog, please visit the website at [www.caringcanines.org](http://www.caringcanines.org).

#### **English at Large**

Adult volunteers are wanted to learn how to tutor adults learning to read or speak English. Extensive training is provided. After training, the tutoring can be done in many communities, including Burlington. Call 781-395-2374, or email [volunteer@englishatlarge.org](mailto:volunteer@englishatlarge.org). "Volunteer opportunities with English At Large are varied enough to suit almost any schedule and level of commitment."

#### **Greater Boston Food Bank**

Volunteers (individuals or groups) are wanted to inspect, sort and package food products at the GBFB warehouse located at 70 South Bay Avenue, Boston, MA 02118. Apply on-line and choose a time for a 3-hour shift at <http://www.gbfb.org/how-to-help/volunteer.php>. Come once or make it a regular commitment: **a good way to meet community service requirements.** The Food Bank is a 15 minute walk from Andrew Station on the MBTA's Red Line, convenient to anyone who can drive or take the 350 T bus to Alewife Station. There is also a parking lot at the Food Bank for those who choose to drive in.

#### **Horizons for Homeless Children**

This is an independent non-profit organization that helps children throughout Massachusetts. Volunteers (ages 18 and up, or 16 with a parent) are welcomed. Training is provided to become Playspace Activity Leaders (PALs) who participate in educational play activities with children on a weekly basis in homeless shelters in area communities. A commitment of 2 hours a week for 6

months is expected. Occasional help is wanted with administrative projects/special events, as well. Learn more at [www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org](http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org), and then apply online or by mail or fax.

**Massachusetts Commission for the Blind** [www.mass.gov/mcb](http://www.mass.gov/mcb)

Readers and friendly visitors needed. Volunteers are matched with people in their own community. Contact Laurie Korajczk at [laurie.korajczk@state.ma.us](mailto:laurie.korajczk@state.ma.us) or call the MCB Boston office at (617) 727-5550. Volunteer Application can be downloaded on-line at <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/mcb/volunteer-app.pdf>

**Mission of Deeds**

A one-of-a-kind non-profit organization in nearby Reading, MA that collects furniture and household items in good condition for needy families living in Middlesex and Essex counties. Their website says: *"Our volunteers range in age from 16 to 95 years and perform a wide range of functions that include picking up donated items for storage in our warehouse; cleaning, repairing, and organizing items; sorting for distribution to clients; assisting clients with their selection of items; and providing office / administrative support."* Volunteers can choose from weekday or weekend hours. Learn more at [www.missionofdeeds.org](http://www.missionofdeeds.org)

**North Suburban YMCA**

The YMCA, located at 137 Lexington St. in Woburn, welcomes both teen and adult volunteers to help with daycare, preschool class instructors, preschool and youth sports coaches, birthday party coordinators, and so much more. "This is a great way for people to get their community service hours completed and serve the community at the same time." Learn more at [www.ymcaboston.org/woburn](http://www.ymcaboston.org/woburn). There is a volunteer interest survey that can be submitted online.

**NuPath, Inc (formerly Central Middlesex Association for Retarded Citizens)**

Volunteer opportunities are available for individuals and groups who want to work with adults with developmental disabilities. Volunteers can serve as instructors, 'buddies', musicians, or for one-day projects. Apply on-line at [www.nupathinc.org/advocacy](http://www.nupathinc.org/advocacy) or contact Ilana Rubin at [irubin@socialcapitalinc.org](mailto:irubin@socialcapitalinc.org). The administrative office is located at 147 New Boston Street in Woburn, MA 01801.

**Samaritans of Boston**

The Samaritans of Boston, a non-profit, non-denominational suicide prevention center, seeks teenage and adult volunteers to help staff our telephone "befriending" services. Accepted applicants will be trained to provide non-judgmental listening and support to lonely, troubled callers. Internships also available. Call 617-536-2460 for information or visit [www.samaritansofboston.org](http://www.samaritansofboston.org).

**Science Museum (Boston)**

Adult and youth (ages 14-18) volunteers are wanted to staff the information desk, assist with the care of small animals, and serve as interpreters at a variety of exhibits at the Science Museum. Morning, afternoon, evening and weekend shifts are available. Volunteers are expected to commit to one shift a week for 4-6 months. Call Volunteer Services at 617-589-0380, or email [volunteers@mos.org](mailto:volunteers@mos.org). Volunteer applications are available online. Volunteers who have completed 50 hours may apply for internships.

**VNA Hospice Care.**

The VNA (Visiting Nurse Association) of Massachusetts welcomes caring and compassionate volunteers to: provide companionship and support to patients, provide respite care for families, help with errands or transportation, assist in fundraising, and provide office support. Training is provided. A commitment of one year is wanted. For more information, call 781-756-2888, or email [lpalais@vnab.org](mailto:lpalais@vnab.org). The headquarters of VNA Hospice Care is located in Woburn, MA.

**Websites** that list a changing array of additional volunteer opportunities in this area are:

[www.mass-service.org](http://www.mass-service.org)

[www.bostoncares.org](http://www.bostoncares.org)

[www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)