Greater Newburyport Volunteer Opportunities
Prepared by Pennies for Poverty to Encourage Volunteerism
Updated March 2014

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Action, Inc.
145 Essex Street, Haverhill with programs also in Amesbury, Newburyport
Contact: 978-373-1971
Website: www.communityactioninc.org
Community Action, Inc is a private non-profit organization established in 1965 to address the causes and consequences of poverty in the Greater Haverhill, Amesbury and Newburyport areas. See our current list of Volunteer Opportunities under “About CAI” on our website. We often seek volunteers for Head Start, GED Tutoring, the Income Tax Assistance Program, and for administrative tasks.

Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center (978-388-1888 (24-hour Crisis Hotline)
2 Harris Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
5 Market Square, Suite 109, Amesbury, MA 01913
Contact: Laura Sampson, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, 978-834-9710 or lsampson@jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org
Website: www.jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org
The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center is a nationally recognized leader in the effort to end domestic violence and provide care for victims. Our mission is to empower members of our community to live free from fear, intimidation, violence or the threat of abuse by providing support, advocacy and education. The Center provides a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week crisis hotline, legal advocacy, emergency and transitional shelter, counseling and support to victims of domestic violence in the communities we serve. Whether you would like to work in direct support of victims or offer office support, we are in need of caring, giving people, like you, to join in our commitment to create stronger, healthier families in our community.

Our Neighbors’ Table,
P.O. Box 592, Amesbury, MA 01913.
Contact: 978-388-1907 or community@ourneighborstable.org
Website: http://ourneighborstable.org
Our Neighbors’ Table serves a free community meal every Wednesday, 4 to 6 p.m., and hosts a food pantry every Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are needed throughout the week to help prepare for and implement these programs.

Salvation Army
40 Water St., Newburyport
Contact: Lt. Meghan Brunelle at 978-465-0883
Website: www.use.salvationarmy.org/use/www_use_Massachusetts.nsf
Volunteers needed to assist elderly, visit nursing homes, do odd jobs, support youth programs, feeding programs, food pantry, seasonal help.

Please send updates to pennies@penniesforpoverty.org. Thank you.
Pennies for Poverty  
Contact: pennies@penniesforpoverty.org  
Website: www.penniesforpoverty.org  
We are a volunteer-run nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing poverty and alleviating its devastating impact on individuals and families in the Greater Newburyport Area. We need volunteers for event planning, food drives, communications, and some research projects. If you are interested in learning more or contributing your ideas and time, please contact us by email.

Pettengill House  
13 Lafayette Road, Salisbury, MA  
Contact: Julie Havey, Volunteer/Program Coordinator, at 978-463-8801 or by email at jhavey@pettengillhouse.org  
Website: www.pettengillhouse.org  
The Pettengill House is a nonprofit social service organization serving the nine surrounding communities of Amesbury, Byfield, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury. Volunteer opportunities range from helping with food pantry, restocking and shelving to special events, fundraisers and programs.

Leeward Light Thrift Store  
126 Bridge Rd. Salisbury, MA 01952  
Contact: 978-465-1141  
Website: www.leewardindustries.org  
Leeward Light is a non-profit charitable thrift store. Their mission is to recycle, reuse and renew for charity. They process and sell donations from the community to feed, clothe and warm local families. In 2013 they were able to donate over $135,000 in cash and goods to local charities. They rely heavily on the hard work of volunteers and are always looking for energetic new team members. If you would like to meet new people, form lasting friendships and experience the satisfaction of helping others, please call or visit us.

Coastal Connections, Inc  
35 Water Street, Amesbury, MA  
Contact: Deb Plumer, Executive Director 978-388-1119  
Website: www.coastalconnections.org  
Coastal Connection is a non-profit organization supporting individuals with disabilities in the community by providing programs, advocacy and individualized support. Coastal Connections also operates Thrifty Threads, a thrift store featuring clean, gently used clothing. We are always looking for donations of clothing. In addition, volunteers may come in to cover the store, or provide activities for individuals with special needs – especially music!

Community Giving Tree  
572 Main Street, West Boxford, MA  
Contact: Leslie Levenson at 978-223-5767 or info@communitygivingtree.org  
Website: www.communitygivingtree.org  

Please send updates to pennies@penniesforpoverty.org. Thank you.
Community Giving Tree provides recycled baby equipment and children’s clothing to low income families living on the North Shore. Donations can be brought to the Kent Street playground the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9am-12noon. Volunteer opportunities for businesses, scouts, social groups, teens and adults can be found on our website. Volunteers are needed to collect school supplies in the fall, toiletries in the spring, or help assemble baby bundles at our West Boxford facility Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and one Saturday each month.

**Opportunity Works**  
10 Opportunity Way, Newburyport, MA  
Contact: Karen Nicholas at 978-462-6144, ext. 240, or karen.nicholas@opportunityworks.org  
Website: [www.opportunityworks.org](http://www.opportunityworks.org)  
This organization serves adults with developmental disabilities beginning at age 22. Volunteers are enthusiastic, compassionate and willing to work hard for the benefit of others while having lots of fun. The organization offers a variety of high-quality services that lead people to independence, including socialization and employment. A sampling of volunteer opportunities: landscaping, special activities such as music, exercise, hothouse gardening, community events and one-to-one relationships.

**The Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce**  
38R Merrimac Street, Newburyport, MA  
Contact: Anne Wilt at 978-462-6680 x13 or awilt@newburyportchamber.org  
Website: [www.newburyportchamber.org](http://www.newburyportchamber.org)  
The Chamber currently has openings for volunteers to work in our front office. The position would entail receptionist duties, such as answering the phones and greeting visitors and disseminating information about the town & general area, as well as some administrative support to the Chamber Staff. Our Volunteers work a morning or afternoon shift once a week.

**HOUSING**

**ROOF Over Head Collaborative**  
Contact: info@roofoverhead.org or 978-267-ROOF.  
Website: [www.roofoverhead.org](http://www.roofoverhead.org)  
ROOF Over Head works to support homeless and at-risk families in our community as they transition to permanent housing and independent living through community collaboration, education and advocacy. Volunteer opportunities include readying homes for families, serving on a committee and helping with events.

**Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity**  
60 Island St., Lawrence, MA  
Contact: Sharon Mason, email sharon@merrimackvalleyhabitat.org or 978-681-8858  
Merrimack Valley Habitat builds homes, shares hope and changes lives by moving families from overcrowded, dispiriting living conditions to safe, decent and affordable homes, providing the stability and foundation they need to build a better life. It is a partnership of hope, and of a helping hand. Construction and administrative volunteers are needed to help continue the mission, as well as

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as volunteers to help at our ReStore, a discount retail outlet that sells donated new and gently used building materials, appliances, furniture and home improvement items at greatly reduced prices. Flexible arrangements.

**CHILDREN & YOUTH**

**YWCA**
13 Market Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
Contact: 978-465-0981  
Volunteers needed at the pool desk and after-school day care program, etc. Help needed for specific projects.

**Big Friends Little Friends, A Program of Family Services of the Merrimack Valley**
430 North Canal Street, Lawrence, MA 01840  
Contact: 978-327-6600  
Website: [www.fsmv.org](http://www.fsmv.org)  
Youth mentoring program that matches caring adult mentors, couples, or families with young people who could benefit from a relationship with a positive adult role model. Serves 15 towns in the Merrimack Valley.

**Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Merrimack Valley**
Maple Street, Salisbury, MA  
Contact: James Keenan 978 462 7003  
Website: [www.bgclmv.org](http://www.bgclmv.org)  
The Boys and Girls Club seeks to provide every child with the essential tools necessary for a successful and bright future. The Club needs volunteers of all ages to work in the office, as athletic coaches, recreation assistants, cooking instructors, homework tutors, arts and crafts leaders and fundraisers.

**Horizons for Homeless Children**
60 Island St, Lawrence MA 01840  
Contact: 978-557-2182 or [northeast@horizonschildren.org](mailto:northeast@horizonschildren.org)  
Website: [www.horizonschildren.org](http://www.horizonschildren.org)  
Horizons for Homeless Children is the only organization in Massachusetts focused exclusively on the needs of young homeless children and their families. We are recognized as a national leader in the education of homeless children. Today, we provide high-quality early education, opportunities for play, and family engagement services to more than 3,000 homeless children each week in Massachusetts.  

Founded in 1990, our Playspace Program builds age-appropriate, child-friendly, educational Playspaces in shelters and stock them with books, developmental toys, and art supplies. Our Playspace Program ensures that each child living in a homeless shelter in Massachusetts has the opportunity for developmentally appropriate play, something we believe is essential to child development. Playspaces are staffed by trained volunteers, called Playspace Activity Leaders.

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(PALs), who commit two hours weekly for at least six months. PALs enable parents to participate in activities such as parenting groups, budgeting classes or job searches.

**Newburyport Youth Services**
60 Pleasant St., Newburyport, MA 01950
Contact: Andrea Egmont, supervisor of youth services at 978-465-4434 or by email: aegmont@cityofnewburyport.com
Website: www.cityofnewburyport.com
Volunteer opportunities helping with programming or events.

**The Newburyport Learning Enrichment Center (NLEC)**
15 Storey Avenue, Newburyport, MA 01950
Contact: Nancy Earls at (978) 884-1343 or at nearls@newburyport.k12.ma.us
The Newburyport Learning Enrichment Center provides after school tutor/mentor services, literacy support, cultural arts programs and summer recreation opportunities for low income, at-risk youth. All programs are free. There is always a need for volunteer tutors, leaders of after-school clubs (book clubs, drawing, knitting, cooking, etc.) that meet weekly or monthly and “family mentors” to work with low income families.

**Northern Essex County CASA Program**
430 North Canal Street, Lawrence, MA
Contact: 978-327-6615 or casa@fsmv.org
Volunteers are trained to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in court by providing careful research to the court. CASA volunteers advocate for children in the Greater Lawrence, Haverhill, and Newburyport areas.

**ELDERLY**

**Newburyport Council on Aging**
40 Water Street, Newburyport, MA
Contact: Roseann Robillard, Director, at 978-462-8650 or RRobillard@cityofnewburyport.com
Website: www.cityofnewburyport.com/council-on-aging
The Newburyport Council on Aging matches the needs of elders with the resources in the community. Volunteers are needed to drive senior citizens to their medical appointments.

**Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley, Inc.**
360 Merrimack St, Bldg. 5, Lawrence, MA
Contact: Volunteer Program Manager Renee Baker at 978-946-1463 or rbaker@esmv.org
Website: www.esmv.org/get-involved/volunteer-program/
Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley is a private non-profit agency serving elders and disabled adults who reside in Northeast Massachusetts. Established in 1974, our mission is to support an individual’s desire to make their own decisions, secure their independence, and remain living in the community safely. We have a number of programs, operated solely by a dedicated team of volunteers, that provide critical support and services to older adults. Each program has its own
guidelines regarding the requirements that volunteers must meet in order to participate in them, such as time commitment, and training. We welcome individuals and groups, of all ages and backgrounds, that are interested in volunteering with Elder Services.

24 HOUR HOTLINES

Parents Helping Parents
Contact: 617-926-5008 x111 or Lalita@parentshelpingparents.org
Website: www.parentshelpingparents.org
Volunteer on a Parental Stress Helpline (800-632-8188, 24-hours) to defuse parental stress. Requires a one-year commitment. Calls are taken in the volunteer's home via a call-forwarding system. Ten hours of training and mentoring takes place in Watertown. Opportunities to facilitate a parent support group may also be available.

The Samaritans -- 24-hour suicide prevention hotline. (Hotline number is 866-912-4673.)
Contact: Call (617) 536-2460 or register online for training schedule.
Website: http://samaritanshope.org/index.php/volunteer.html
The Samaritans mission is to reduce the incidence of suicide. Volunteers are trained to take shifts responding to hotline calls.

HEALTH

Anna Jaques Hospital
25 Highland Avenue, Newburyport, MA 01950
Contact: Cheryl Satryb at csatryb@ajh.org or 978-463-1150 (volunteer office)
Website: www.ajh.org
Seeking information desk volunteers. The shifts are: Fridays from noon to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday from 4:00-7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00-12:00 noon. Volunteers will greet patients and visitors, provide directions, and occasionally escort patients and visitors to their destinations. There are also available volunteer shifts for the gift shop and the mailroom. Call the Anna Jaques Hospital volunteer office at 978-463-1150 or email Cheryl Satryb, Director: csatryb@ajh.org

Merrimac Valley Hospice
360 Merrimack St Bldg 9, Lawrence MA 01843
Contact: Volunteer Manager VolunteerManager@homehealthfoundation.org or 978-552-4522
website: www.homehealthfoundation.org/mvh-volunteers
Volunteers needed to provide a wide variety of services and support to patients facing life-limiting illness and to their families/caregivers. Volunteers visit in patient homes and the Merrimack Valley Hospice House in Haverhill. Volunteers are also needed in the Hospice House kitchen and at the front desk.

Merrimack Valley Hospice, Home Health VNA
Offices in Lawrence, Newburyport, Peabody, Haverhill, Lowell and Northampton, NH; York ME

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Merrimack Valley Hospice is a nonprofit organization serving northeastern Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and southern Maine. Volunteer opportunities include working with patients and families directly in their homes and at the Merrimack Valley Hospice House in Haverhill, administrative support to hospice staff, kitchen and reception, fundraising, and more. Volunteers receive training and ongoing support. A commitment of two hours a week is required.

**Area Nursing Homes**
Amesbury Village Skilled Nursing and Rehab, 22 Maple St., Amesbury, 978-388-4682
Brigham Manor Nursing and Rehab Center, 77 High St., Newburyport, 978-462-4221
Country Rehab and Nursing Center, 180 Low St., Newburyport, 978-465-5361
Genesis Health Care-Maplewood Center, 6 Morrill Place, Amesbury, 978-388-3500
Port Health Care, 113 Low St., Newburyport, 978-462-7373
SeaView Retreat, 60 Mansion Drive, Rowley, 978-948-2552

Nursing home welcome volunteers. Contact the activities director and go in for an orientation. Typical activities are one-on-one room visits, writing or reading letters and stories, card or board games, sharing your interests and skills, and helping with their programs. Popular times are late morning and mid-afternoon.

**ENVIRONMENT & ANIMALS**

**The Peace Garden**
Waterfront, Newburyport, MA
Contact: Joanna Hammond at 978-270-3941

Seeking volunteer gardeners. Established on the waterfront to honor those who have lost their lives in Iraq, the garden was created by a local chapter of the national organization Women’s Action for New Directions (WAND). Volunteers work together in the garden as part of a team and receive notice of gardening times by email once or twice a month during the growing season. Gardening times are weather-dependent and usually last about two hours.

**The Garden Committee of Maudslay State Park**
Curzon Mill Road, Newburyport, MA
Contact: Sandee Liversidge at gardenwork2@earthlink.net

The historic gardens at Maudslay State Park need volunteers for hands-on gardening and fundraising. Times are flexible and are designed to meet many schedules - weekday or weekend.

**Massachusetts Audubon Society**
Joppa Flats Education Center, Newburyport, MA
Contact: Melissa Vokey at 978-462-9998 ext 3 or joppaflats@massaudubon.org
Website: www.massaudubon.org/joppaflats

Mass Audubon’s Joppa Flats Education Center on the Plum Island Turnpike in Newburyport welcomes volunteers with or without a birding background. Volunteer opportunities include welcoming visitors, helping with school, children’s, and family programs, providing grounds
maintenance, and assisting with data collection at the bird banding station. Volunteers receive regular trainings, discounts on local day programs, invitations to special events, and reciprocity with other non-profits.

**The Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society**  
63 Elm Street (Route 110), Salisbury, MA  
Contact: 978-462-0760 or apply online or at the shelter.  
Website: www.mrfrs.org  
This nonprofit, no-kill cat shelter, needs volunteers to help with cat care, administrative tasks and special events. Also need feral cat feeders (volunteers ages 15 and older), as well as volunteers for foster care, feral spay/neuter clinics, feral cat trappers and more (volunteers ages 18 and older).

**Parker River National Wildlife Refuge**  
6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA  
Contact Jean Adams at 978-465-5753, ext.208.  
Website: www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/  
Volunteer positions available in visitor information and as plover wardens.

**Newburyport Parks Commission**  
60 Pleasant Street, Newburyport, MA  
Contact: Lise Reid. Email: parks@cityofnewburyport.com  
Website: www.cityofnewburyport.com  
Volunteers perform a variety of tasks, from playground repairs and the Spring Clean Sweep, to organizing the Winter Carnival and fundraising.

**CULTURAL**

**Cushing House Museum**  
98 High Street, Newburyport  
Contact: Jay Williamson, curator, 978-462-2681 or at hson@newburyhist.org  
Website: www.newburyhist.org  
Volunteers are needed as docents (tour guides), for historical research, special events, collections management and gardening.

**Historic New England**  
Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm, 5 Little’s Lane, Newbury, MA  
Contact: Bethany Groff, 978-462-2634  
Website: www.historicnewengland.org/  
Volunteers needed at historic house museums in Newbury. Historic New England is looking for people to assist with a variety of positions, including animal care, landscape assistants, reception desk at visitor center, special event volunteers and others as needed. Training provided. High school and college volunteers welcomed.
Lowell’s Boat Shop
459 Main St., Amesbury, MA
Contact: 978-834-0050 or info@lowellboatshop.com
Since 1793: the oldest wooden boat shop in America! Volunteers needed as docents and for maintenance projects and administrative activities.

Custom House Maritime Museum
25 Water St., Newburyport, MA
Contact: 978-462-8681 or info@thechmm.org
Website: www.thechmm.org
Volunteers needed for the museum store, guides for tours (docents), as well as assisting with research, events, marketing and administrative support.

Firehouse Center for the Arts
Market Square, Newburyport, MA
Contact: Evelyn Kovach, volunteer coordinator, at 978-499-9931 or evlkova@aol.com
Website: www.firehouse.org
Volunteers needed for ushering, the box office, backstage, office, public relations, photography, posting posters, hospitality, and clippings.

DISASTER RELIEF

Office of Emergency Management
National Guard Armory, 59 Low Street, Newburyport
Contact: 978-465-4424
Website: http://newburypoem.com/
The Office of Emergency Management is looking for volunteers to provide a variety of important support services while promoting disaster preparedness including response programs and activities throughout Newburyport and its surrounding area. Activities include public education, disaster exercises and emergency center operations.

Still can’t find what you’re looking for? Try www.volunteermatch.org