

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK STUDENT VOLUNTEER CENTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Students must complete 25 hours of volunteer or paid experience in a social service agency prior to acceptance in to the Social Work Program. Below are examples of Bloomington/Normal area social service agencies.

Children and Family Services/Crisis Intervention

ABC Counseling and Family Services

Phone: 451-9495

Contact: Lynn Willard

This is a nonprofit child welfare agency that deals with children in need of adoption and counseling for sexual abuse. Volunteers are needed to help primarily with clerical work, but there are opportunities to interact with children.

The Baby Fold

Phone: 452-1170

Contact: Human Resources

This organization provides charitable care, education, and training for children to assist them in developing their potential: emotionally, mentally, physically, socially and spiritually. Volunteers are needed to help maintain a caring relationship with a child and to facilitate special events like the Festival of Trees.

Bloomington Housing Authority

Phone: 829-3360 ext. 209

Contact: Stacey Wiggins

The Bloomington Housing Authority is committed to providing safe and affordable housing to the elderly, low - income families and people with disabilities. Volunteers are needed to help youth living in public housing. Volunteers are needed to commit to an entire semester of service.

Boys and Girls Club

Phone: 829-3034

Contact: Laura Duvendeck

The goal of the Boys and Girls Club is to enhance the lives of youth from culturally and economically diverse backgrounds, with special concern for those from disadvantaged circumstances, through structured programs that will aid them in becoming productive members of society. Volunteers are needed to assist with one - on - one interaction with youth 5-18 years old.

Catholic Charities

Phone: 829-6307

Contact: Iris Heildreth ext. 203 or
Laura Slander ext. 208

The goal of the Catholic Social Service is to provide people with social services wherever they are needed. The program tries to promote programs of special concern for the needy and most vulnerable in order to assist them toward self - sufficiency. Volunteers are needed to provide childcare for foster children during training sessions. Volunteers are needed to be Camp Counselors for the Bloomington - Normal Area Project Youth Summer Camp.

Children's Foundation

Phone: 827-5246

Contact: Holly Crotty

The Children's Foundation is dedicated to providing a home and school for children from dysfunctional families. Volunteers are needed primarily to work in the Crisis Nursery and Child Care Center.

Dept. of Children and Family Services

Phone: 828-0022

Contact: Molly Mientus

The goal of the Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services is to provide child welfare for both children and families in need. Volunteers are needed to perform a variety of duties including supervising visits between parents and children.

PATH Crisis Center

Phone: 828-1022 ext. 285

Contact: Mike

PATH is a 24 - hour telephone listening and support, crisis response, information and referral service for McLean, Livingston and DeWitt Counties. Volunteers are needed to work on the phone lines, performing tasks like crisis intervention, suicide assessment, community referrals, and active listening. Volunteers must complete an eight-week extensive training program focusing on communication skills.

McLean County Juvenile Court Services

Phone: 888-5432

Contact: Lori McCormick

McLean County Juvenile Court Services offers the Extended Day Program as an alternative to detention for youth 10 - 17 years of age. Tutors are needed.

Project OZ

Phone: 827-0377

Contact: Kellie Hedrichs

Project OZ concerns itself with the detrimental effects that alcohol, drugs, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and running

away have on youth and their families. Project OZ is also concerned with educating children and adolescents regarding the misuse of drugs and alcohol. Volunteers are needed for Crisis Intervention work, classroom teaching, Youth Outreach, and to perform miscellaneous special projects.

Great Plains LIFE Foundation: Stay 4 Program Phone: 828-3406 Contact: Paul Segobiano or Liz Skinner
"Stay 4" is a project designed to identify, help, and retain students who demonstrate the ability to succeed, yet who are considered to be at risk for dropping out of high school. Upon completion of the "Stay 4" criteria, high school graduation, and enrollment in a secondary education program, students will be awarded a \$1000 grant from the Great Plains LIFE Foundation.

Western Avenue Community Center Phone: 829-4807 Contact: Dir. Pat Morland or Julie Short
The goal is to make available a comprehensive system of services including health, education, welfare, recreation, and related services that are coordinated around the family unit. Volunteers are needed to help with the After School Club (kindergarten through 6th grade), the Teen Club, assist with programs for senior citizens, help with Hispanic outreach programs, and participate in recreation programs.

YMCA Phone: 827-6233 Contact: Carrie Muterstaug ext. 31 or Chris Weittenhiller ext. 25
The goal of the YMCA is to provide services to the residents of McLean County to enable them to build healthy minds and spirits, as well as healthy bodies. Volunteer supervisors are needed for all programs within the organization.

YWCA Phone: 662-0461 ext. 223 Contact: Yadira Ruiz
Volunteer opportunities include assisting with the care of children ages six weeks to twelve years old. Duties would include help with meals, bathroom time, naps, crafts, playtime, etc. Hours of childcare are Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Volunteers will be required to complete all DCFS paperwork and background checks.

Criminal Justice

Safer Foundation Phone: 630-844-1475 Contact: Rachel Bradley
The Safer Foundation helps formerly incarcerated individuals re-enter their communities. Safer has been working for more than 30 years to reduce recidivism by helping people with records obtain employment and social services. Clients are non-violent offenders.

Examples of Volunteer Opportunities: Direct Client Opportunities (Individual and/or Group); Academic Tutoring; Mentoring; Substance Abuse Counseling; Creative Writing; Photography; Planned recreational activities; Parenting skills; Financial management; Interviewing and job tips; Any other talents or skills you can share; Office/administrative support

Requirements: At least 18 years of age; Possess a valid state ID or passport; Able to successfully complete background and drug screens ; Good interpersonal and communication skills; If applicable, be out of jail /prison or off parole/probation for at least one year. Additional requirements for PACE Institute: Able to pass Cook County Department of Corrections screening; Willing to commit at least one block of time (for example, one day or evening) on a weekly basis for a minimum of six weeks; Experience working with adult or juveniles with a criminal record or substance abusers is a plus.

Locations: Decatur, Joliet, Rockford, Aurora, Sheridan and Chicago

Day Care

Bloomington Day Care Center Phone: 829-1541 Contact: Becky Freehill
The goal is to provide affordable childcare services to low-income families. Volunteers are needed to work with individual children, assist staff in general housekeeping duties, assist with the general management of classrooms, assist with meal times and clean up, and assist young children with walks, art activities, and stories.

Child Care Resource and Referral Network Phone: 828-1892 ext. 21 Contact: Lisa Thompson
The goal of the Child Care Resource and Referral Network is to access the need for childcare services and to identify existing childcare options to meet that need. The network also works to improve the quality and affordability of childcare. Volunteers are needed to perform clerical functions, clean/sanitize toys, recall overdue materials, and help with special events.

Day Care Center of McLean County Phone: 829-4202 Contact: Melinda Swearngen
The Day Care Center of McLean County is a non-profit agency, which is committed to providing affordable, high quality pre – school, and day care experiences for children of low-income families. Volunteers are needed to interact with children who are from 6 weeks to 6 years old. Volunteers interact during free play times, supervise rest times, and participate in group activities.

Education

Heartland Head Start

Phone: 662-4880 ext. 20

Contact: Deb O'Connell

The purpose of Heartland Head Start is to provide comprehensive development services to children ages 3 to 5 who come from very low-income families. Volunteers are needed to work in classrooms with young children who need assistance with their fine motor, gross motor, and speech development skills.

ISU Peer Education

Phone: 438-2053

Contact: Jim Almeda

The goal is to assist students in striving for and maintaining a healthy lifestyle and a positive sense of well being. Peer Educators serve as role models for positive lifestyle choices. Volunteers are needed to present workshops/programs, assist with promotions, perform recruiting functions, and other activities that support the program. Approximately 35 students are selected each year to be Peer Educators.

STAR Adult Literacy Program

Phone: 888-9884

Contact: Charlotte Cooney

STAR provides tutors for adults in the basic skills of reading, writing and math. Volunteers are needed to work one – on – one with adult learners. Volunteers must complete training sessions totaling 16 hours.

Youth Build

Phone: 261-3689

Contact: Sherry Pierce

Volunteers are needed to tutor youth in preparing for the GED and/or moving forward to college.

Relief Services

Habitat for Humanity

Phone: 438-3734

Contact: Dr. Thomas Gerschick

Their mission is to build simple, decent houses for low – income families, at no interest. Volunteers are needed to help build houses on Saturday mornings

Mid Central Community Action

Phone: 829-0691

Contact: Cathy Grafton

Building community by helping people move to self-sufficiency and an improved quality of life, with particular commitment to people in need. (<http://www.mccainc.org/>)

Salvation Army

Phone: 829-9476

Contact: Marilyn Boyd

Volunteers are needed to work in the food pantry performing tasks such as putting together baskets, stocking shelves, and sorting canned goods. Volunteers are also needed to perform mailings and miscellaneous office functions. During the holiday season volunteers are needed to ring bells, collecting donations for those in need. **Safe Harbor** is a program that provides overnight shelter for mostly men.

Home Sweet Home Mission

Phone: 828-7356 ext. 241

Contact: Michelle Cook

A shelter for homeless men, women and children. Meals are served daily to non-residents. Volunteers are needed to work one-on-one with residents, reading stories to children, coordinating art projects, and assisting with serving meals.

Western Avenue Community Center

Phone: 829-4807

Contact: Julie Short

The goal is to make available a comprehensive system of services including health, education, welfare, recreation, and related services that are coordinated around the family unit. Volunteers are needed to help with the After School Club (kindergarten through 6th grade), the Teen Club, assist with programs for senior citizens, help with Hispanic outreach programs, and participate in recreation programs.

Marc Center

Phone: 451-8888 ext. 227

Contact: Julie Lindstrom

Marc Center provides opportunities for people with disabilities to be actively involved in determining where and how they live, learn, work and play. Marc provides a lifetime of services for more than 300 McLean County residents. These include early intervention services for children from birth to age eight through SPICE, supported employment, respite, community developmental training and residential housing. Marc owns and maintains 14 different homes throughout the community where 3 – 5 people live and are supported by staff 24 hours a day. We need volunteers to adopt a home and help provide services which could include raking, mowing or trimming the yard, planting spring flowers, washing windows, or helping people clean closets. Adopt a home activities could include people cooking or making cookies together, going on a group cook-out or a church activity, sending birthday cards, helping decorate for the holidays, or wrapping Christmas gifts. The activities are not limited to those listed, but would be based on the interests of the people involved. This is a wonderful opportunity for people to meet and form friendships with local individuals and see firsthand the impact of their efforts in people's lives. http://www.marcofillinois.org/events/how_can_i_help_marc.htm

Center for Human Services

Phone: 827-5351 ext. 162

Contact: Mary Horgan

Mental Health Service. Does not use volunteers due to need for confidentiality.

Neville House

Phone: 828-7179

Contact: Michelle Links

Shelter for domestic violence victims. Offers emergency shelter, support groups, legal advocacy, and counseling for women and children. 24 hour intake. Volunteers will be accepted to work on the hotline, the children's group and child care after completing a 40-hour training program through Neville House. Volunteers can also work in non-client areas, such as making ribbons, and helping with community work. One example of community work is the candle-light vigil that is held to make people aware that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Aging/Elderly/Disabled

ASTA Care Center of Bloomington

Phone: 827-6046

Contact: Melissa Martinez

A nursing home providing care to the elderly. *Volunteers help with recreational activities, social service needs, and serve as translators – especially with Spanish and Chinese speaking residents.*

Bro-Menn Hospice

Phone: 888-0930

Contact: Mary Nugent

A social service agency offering assistance to individuals diagnosed with a terminal illness. Volunteers will participate in activities such as reading, playing cards, and listening to music.

East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging

Phone: 829-2065

Contact: Elizabeth Perry

Our mission is to help older adults live with dignity, independence, and safety as long as possible. We are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults and their families by providing information about and access to a variety of services in their community, including senior dining programs, home delivered meals, senior centers, transportation, in-home respite care, legal assistance, elder rights programs, and senior employment programs.

Heritage Manor

Phone: 828-4361 ext. 334

Contact: Rita Anderson

A nursing home providing care to the elderly. Volunteers pour coffee at meals, transport residents to and from the beauty shop and assist with activities. Other activities include visiting one-on-one with the residents, delivering personal mail, giving manicures, assisting with parties, decorating bulletin boards and resident's doors to their room, and taking residents outdoors on the patio. In addition, we appreciate volunteers sharing their talents with the residents. Some students have given music therapy, and/or given arts and crafts shows.

LIFE-CIL (Center for Independent Living)

Phone: 663-5433

Contact: Marianne Cavanaugh-Wozniak

LIFE-CIL provides services to individuals living with disabilities. The center provides equipment loan, sign language classes, interpreter referral personal assistance training, and independent skills training. Volunteers are needed for reading and tape recording to visual impaired individuals, drivers for the disabled, sign language training (knowledge of basics required) for the deaf, and supporting administrative staff.

Manor Care Health Services

Phone: 452-4406

Contact: Rebecca Reinholz or Melody Hollowings

A nursing home providing care to the elderly. Volunteers help with letter writing, reading to residents, playing card games, taking walks, and assisting with special activities.

McLean County Nursing Home

Phone: 888-5316

Contact: Donna Hieronymus

A nursing home providing care to the elderly. Volunteers assist with special service projects, shop, play games, accompany residents to medical appointments and provide recreational activities as needed.

Western Avenue Community Center

Phone: 827-6046

Contact: Patty Tegenkamp

A nursing home providing care to the elderly. Volunteers help with recreational activities, social service needs, and serve as translators - especially with Spanish and Chinese speaking residents.

**This is not a complete listing of volunteer opportunities in the
Bloomington/Normal Community.**

**Please contact the Director of Admissions and Recruitment with any questions at
309-438-3631 or swadmissions@ilstu.edu**