



VOLUNTEER MONTGOMERY

February 2024 Updates:

Dear Volunteer,

Here's to a busy start to 2024! We completed the 16th Annual Supplies for Seniors project and we are in the process of preparing for our Open House on February 3rd from 2-4 pm. **We are thankful for all of our volunteers** and look forward to having a great time on Saturday!




Open House February 3, 2024, 2-4 pm

Come Grow With Us!

We invite volunteers of all ages to join us. We empower you to use your time and skills to strengthen our great community!

Stop by our open house to meet some of our community partners. Enjoy some sweet treats as well as a crafts area for kids.

 **Health & Human Services Building**
210 S. Pepper St., Suite D
Christiansburg, VA 24073



Our entrance is at the back of the building.

Participating Partners

- NRV CARES
- Montgomery Co. Fire & EMS
- Office of the Attorney General, Commonwealth of Virginia
- Poverty & Later Life in Rural Appalachia Research

Animal Care & Adoption Center **Adoptable pets from the ACAC**

will visit! If you're not in a position to adopt, you can learn about volunteering at the Center or providing a foster home to an animal in need.



 **Learn about us on the web**
www.montva.com/volunteer-montgomery

Supplies for Seniors

16th Annual Supplies for Homebound Seniors

Volunteer Montgomery and community members joined together to bag the 16th Annual Supplies for Homebound Seniors project. This program provides another support system for seniors to maintain dignity and independence while remaining in their home environment. Many of these seniors do not always have transportation to the store and during the winter months, many are housebound for even longer periods of time. They live on fixed incomes, struggling to pay increased medical, heating and utility costs, especially during the winter.

The project took place at the Christiansburg Recreation Center on January 24th and the supplies will be delivered to everyone by February 2nd. As a result, 230 homebound seniors identified by the New River Valley Agency on Aging and veterans living in Montgomery County and the City of Radford received about \$50 worth of basic household supplies and personal care products.

We want to express our appreciation to all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly moving supplies, sorting, bagging, and delivering. Heartfelt thanks go out to Regina Howard, Shirley Mullins, Rosemary Jones, Sharon Brown, Deputy Jason West, Todd Hayes, Robbie Hall, Sharon Hall, Mike McGilliard, Marcia Murphy, Raymond Lyons, Jade Harris, Sarah Carter, Carol Kauffman, Laura Wilson, Barbara Wilson, Walter Pirie, Rozetta Reed-Steele, Brenda Arnold, Amy Webb, Kate Patteson, Lynn Brammer, Julia Costello, Julie Hammond and Bonnie Marston. We would also like to thank Tammy Caldwell, Sean Stump, Joe Oley, Kennedy Harris, Ryan Hubble, Darren Graham, Isaac Ritenour, Nick Yopp, Wil Oldham, Dylan Vest, and Scott Howard of Christiansburg Parks and Recreation, Christiansburg Police Department, City of Radford Police Department, Blacksburg Police Department, and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for their partnership and support of this project. We would also like to thank Robbie Hall for helping with the delivery of bags.

Many thanks go out to our sponsors for helping to make this possible! Christiansburg Parks and Recreation, Auburn United Methodist Church, Sentara, AARP, WoodmenLife Chapter 14, Shelor Motor Mile, First Baptist Church of Radford, CPA Brenda Flora, Horne Funeral Home, Pawn Plus, Ideal Cabinets, Mullins Funeral Home, Creative Looks, and Pizza Inn.



Program Updates:

2023 Fundraising Committee

Volunteer Montgomery would like to acknowledge **Chairperson Sally Anna Stapleton, Susan Miller, Barbara Parrish, Deena Flinchum, Lynn Brammer, and Carol Cornish** of last year's Fundraising Committee. They set a goal to raise \$5,000 and raised **\$18,812** through numerous fundraisers throughout 2023. This total **exceeded their goal by \$13,812!** We can't say thank you enough to this hard-working committee! Our team looks forward to working with the 2024 Fundraising Committee.



BINGO!

March 6, 6-9pm



Iron Tree Brewing Company
5 Roanoke St., Christiansburg



Cabo Fish Taco Food Truck
4-8pm, front of Iron Tree Brewing Company



\$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.

Fundraiser with proceeds benefiting programs administered by



540-382-5775

volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov

Valentines for Veterans – Deadline is February 9th

We will once again participate in the nationwide Valentines for Vets program by making valentines for the patients at the VA Medical Center and the Virginia Veterans Care Center in Salem. **A craft day will be held at the office on Friday, February 9 from 10 am to 12 noon.** Materials will be provided. The deadline to turn in valentines is Friday, February 9th.

Welcome New Volunteers! Revised Version!

We would like to welcome **twenty-five** new volunteers that enrolled with Volunteer Montgomery in 2023: Braiden Beckner, Lynn Brammer, Hedi Cannon, Jack Davis, Nabiha Faisal, Diane Gabriel, Marguerite Goodhart, Todd Hayes, Jane Hundley, Katherine Jackson, Kevin Jones, Mihika Khubchandani, Bonnie Marston, Miriam Rose McClure, Timothy O'Bryan, Airya Patel, Rhonda Rash, Nick Raymond, Rozetta Reed-Steele, Zoë Schombert, Hannah Schulte, Ava Stilwell, Constance Teele, and Laura Wilson.

Inclement Weather Policy

If Montgomery County Schools are closed, all scheduled activities will be cancelled. If schools are on a delayed schedule, regularly scheduled morning activities will be cancelled. For afternoon activities, a decision will be made by 12:00 noon, so volunteers should call the office to check on those activities. If you are signed up to help with a seasonal activity and schools are on a delayed schedule, please call 382-5775.

Montgomery County Government Closing Information

If Montgomery County Government offices close due to inclement weather, the Human Services Division/Volunteer Montgomery office is closed. Please call 540-394-2120 or visit www.montgomerycountyva.gov for updates.

Lifelong Learning Institute Announces Spring Term Schedule

Spring term for the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech begins soon! Become a member to enjoy an exciting array of classes, field trips, special events, and webinars. New members are always welcome. Preview all 54 new learning adventures by Zoom webinar on January 23, 10:00 – 11:30. (The Zoom link is on the LLI homepage, below). It's a great way to learn more about the amazing instructors, planned adventures, and great talks available during the upcoming LLI term. Check out the [pdf catalog \[cpe.vt.edu\]](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/pdfcatalog) and [course details \[cpe.vt.edu\]](http://www.cpe.vt.edu/coursedetails) on the website. Then register beginning at 10:00 a.m. on January 30. Classes begin the week of February 19.

Becoming an LLI member means you join a community of folks who love to explore a topic they know little about, or nurture their creativity, or simply enjoy the company of others in a no-stress environment. Classes are held at the Corporate Research Center and Warm Hearth Village Center in Blacksburg, where parking nearby is available. Some classes are offered online, so you don't need to leave your home and you can join in from a distance.

For more information, visit our website [https://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/ \[cpe.vt.edu\]](https://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/), call 540-231-1725, or email lifelonglearning@vt.edu.

If you need anything else to send out this exciting news, or would like to include a photo or two with your release, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Regards,

Lyndsay LaLonde

Programming Coordinator, Lifelong Learning Institute

Virginia Tech

P. 540-231-1725

[https://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/ \[cpe.vt.edu\]](https://www.cpe.vt.edu/lifelonglearning/)

Volunteer Opportunities:

Gift Cards Needed

We need your help! Bingo Night was well attended in 2023. This year, we are planning to give \$10 gift cards to retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores, etc. as bingo prizes. If you would like to contribute to this fundraiser, please call the office or email volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov.

American Red Cross

The Red Cross Donation Center at Kent Square in Blacksburg needs volunteers, 16 and over, to assist with registration. Free parking is provided in the parking garage. Training is provided. Contact the office for more information.

CarePortal Ambassador

Volunteer Montgomery is now a Community Champion on CarePortal, a collaboration with Montgomery County through CarePortal via KARE Society. We are seeking a volunteer to serve as an Ambassador. This task involves downloading the CarePortal application, watching videos on how to navigate the website, and team management. Be a part of our CarePortal team, sign up today! For more information, visit www.careportal.org or contact Mandy at hayesaw@montgomerycountyva.gov.

A message from Literacy NRV

VOLUNTEER TUTORING NEEDED

Are you interested in helping another adult to improve their skills in reading, writing, basic math, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), or basic computer skills, or to prepare for exams such as the GED or U.S. Citizenship Exam? We need your help! You can make a significant impact by helping adults in New River Valley improve their literacy skills. Literacy NRV provides one-to-one or small group tutoring and classes in public locations throughout the NRV, in-person or virtually. We have short-term and long-term volunteer commitments and would love to have you join our mission to change lives through literacy! No experience is required, just a willingness to help. Find out more at www.literacynrv.org or give us a call at (540) 382-7262.



Make a butterfly... make a difference in the life of someone in need of encouragement!

At Spirit FM, we're collecting butterflies made out of anything you would like – construction paper, fabric, pipe cleaners, coffee filters... let your imagination soar! Your butterfly will be paired with an encouraging note and given to one of our friends and neighbors needing love and hope. It's a very special project called Butterfly Hugs®!

There is no deadline! We will be collecting butterflies indefinitely. Smaller butterflies that can fit inside greeting card envelopes are especially needed. Your greeting card-sized masterpieces will be mailed to those precious friends who are too far away to receive a hand-delivered Butterfly Hug®.

Our Monday morning Coupon/Card group participated in this special program. Pictured below are Irene Dowdy, Marguerite Goodhart, Linda Parah, Rosemary Jones, and Marilyn Hill.



Thank you, Marguerite, for the inspiration!

A message from **Project Linus**

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Blanket Day on Saturday, March 16, 2024! More details will follow in the future, but we wanted to get this date out to everyone right away. We are looking forward to seeing everyone who can attend that day!

Happy Blanket Making!

Penny Sweet, chapter coordinator

Laura Eanes, assistant

www.nrvprojectlinus.org [nrvprojectlinus.org]

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 February and we will be providing transportation for volunteers. Contact the office for more details.

- | | | |
|--|-------------|---------|
| ● Spring Oak – Birthday Party | February 16 | 3 pm |
| ● Virginia Veterans Care Center – Birthday Party | February 20 | 2:30 pm |
| ● Kroontje – Birthday Party | February 21 | 2:30 pm |
| ● Commonwealth Senior Living – Birthday Party | February 22 | 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.

February 2024



**VOLUNTEER
MONTGOMERY**

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

www.montva.com



= VolunteerMontgomery VA
= volunteermontgomeryva
www.montgomerycountyva.gov
540-382-5775

♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3 Volunteer Montgomery Open House 2-4 PM
4	5	6 Advisory Council Meeting 11:30 AM Orientation 10:30 AM	7	8	9 Valentines for Veterans Craft Day 10-12 in Activity Room	10
11	12 Coupons/Cards 9-12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Spring Oak Party 3 PM	17 Open House Snow Date 2-4 PM
18	19 President's Day Office Closed	20 Virginia Veterans Care Center Visit 2:30 - Leave Office at 1:30	21 Kroontje Party 2:30 PM	22 Commonwealth Senior Living Party 3:15 PM	23	24
25	26 Coupons/Cards 9-12 Fundraising Committee 10:30 AM	27	28	29		

February Birthdays:

- Taska Bailey 2/1
- Marilyn Zeckoski 2/3
- Rosemary Jones 2/5
- Linda Powers 2/5
- Ila Groseclose 2/7



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Sandy Weeks	2/7
Arlene Walls	2/9
Joyce Epperly	2/12
June Sowder	2/13
Robert L. Hall Jr.	2/19
Deena Flinchum	2/20
Betty Garard	2/20
Nanette Dial	2/24
Sandra Johnston	2/27

The Volunteer Montgomery office **will be closed** on Monday, February 19th in observance of President's Day.

Volunteer Testimonials Needed!

We continue to seek volunteers to send a **photo and quote** or do short (30 seconds) videos for our social media pages and future advertising. We will ask you to answer "**what is your favorite thing about Volunteer Montgomery**" in one sentence. Sign up today! Let's share all of the great things that we accomplish through Volunteer Montgomery with our followers.

Thank you for all you do to make volunteering a vibrant part of our community!

In service,

Mandy Hayes

Volunteer Montgomery Coordinator
Montgomery County Human Services

