



GIVE HELP/GET HELP

Community Outreach Newsletter - MARCH/APRIL 2021

The P.S. 58 PTA's Community Outreach Committee is a group of parents who love our school community. We are dedicated to building a broader and deeper sense of community through actions that build ties with surrounding neighborhoods and bring us together with a shared purpose.

Whether you are looking to lend a hand or need support right now, we hope this newsletter can be a resource to connect with local opportunities and resources. We've tried to make it convenient by including a calendar and links to ease the scrolling! A few things we'd like to highlight this month:

- Doing some Spring cleaning? [South Brooklyn Mutual Aid is currently looking for additional items for their weekly free store in Sunset Park.](#)
- Also on the theme of Spring cleaning, help keep our streets and parks clean by signing up for regular cleans up with [OneBlock Brooklyn.](#)
- [Red Hook Initiative is seeking volunteers for pop-up vaccination events](#) they are holding on April 9 and April 16. Volunteers who speak Spanish, Mandarin, or Cantonese are especially encouraged. For more information, please contact Meghan Hickey (meghanhickey@gmail.com).
- Looking for remote family-friendly volunteering opportunities and to stand in solidarity with our AAPI community? Families can volunteer remotely by [writing handwritten notes](#) or [by illustrating paper bags](#) for [Heart of Dinner](#) which delivers meals and care packages to homebound elderly Asian Americans.
- There are also ongoing opportunities to help our neighbors in Red Hook by volunteering at [weekly food distribution](#) , or [donating items for families in need at PS 676](#). Please have a look below to find what most interests you!

The calendar will be updated as we find out about new opportunities, so the best way to stay informed is to bookmark the [Google Doc](#). Do you know of opportunities, events, or organizations that should be featured in a future newsletter? Let us know! We'd also love to hear about any events you participated in or organizations you supported this month. Please fill out this [Google Form](#) or email Veronique Nguyen (veronique.nguyen@gmail.com) with the subject "GIVE HELP/GET HELP".

Thank you!

-P.S. 58 Community Outreach

Meghan Hickey, Veronique Nguyen, Marcie Roth, Sara Woster

Table of Contents:

***** Click to be directed to the section *****

[MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR](#)

[MARCH](#)

[APRIL](#)

[GIVE HELP](#)

[Ongoing Local Volunteering Opportunities](#)

[Remote/Family Friendly Volunteering Opportunities](#)

[Other resources for family-friendly volunteering opportunities](#)

[DONATE - Clothes, Foods, Supplies + Funds](#)

[GET HELP](#)

MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR

MARCH

****Click on event for more info****

*** THE CALENDAR WILL BE UPDATED WITH NEW EVENTS. PLEASE CHECK IN FOR UPDATES ***

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5 Red Hook Food Distribution @ PS 676, 10am	6	7 Gowanus Mutual Aid New Member Zoom Meeting @ 5pm
8	9	10	11	12 Red Hook Food Distribution @ PS 676, 10am	13	14 Gowanus Mutual Aid New Member Zoom Meeting @ 5pm
15	16	17 Volunteer Trash Pick Up - Smith Street 8:45-9am Details below.	19	19 Red Hook Food Distribution @ PS 676, 10am	20 Brooklyn-wide "Clean Up Day" by Beautify BK	21 Gowanus Mutual Aid New Member Zoom Meeting @ 5pm
22	23	24	25	26 Red Hook Food Distribution @ PS 676, 10am	27	28 Gowanus Mutual Aid New Member Zoom Meeting @ 5pm
29	30	31				

APRIL

****Click on event for more info****

*** THE CALENDAR WILL BE UPDATED WITH NEW EVENTS. PLEASE CHECK IN FOR UPDATES ***

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2 Red Hook Food Distribution @ PS 676, 10am	3	4 Gowanus Mutual Aid New Member Zoom Meeting @ 5pm
5	6	7	8	9 Red Hook Food Distribution @ PS 676, 10am RHI Vaccine Pop-Up - 9am-4pm	10 Gowanus Oysters Health Check @ 1-3pm	11
12	13	14	15	16 Red Hook Food Distribution @ PS 676, 10am RHI Vaccine Pop-Up - 9am-4pm	17	18 Gowanus Mutual Aid New Member Zoom Meeting @ 5pm
19	20	21	22	23 Red Hook Food Distribution @ PS 676, 10am	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

GIVE HELP

Ongoing Local Volunteering Opportunities

Red Hook Food Distribution at PS 676 - Weekly food distribution occurs at PS 676 every Friday at 10:00 a.m. until all food is distributed. Volunteers meet near the school parking lot on Huntington between Henry and Hicks; distribution occurs outdoors with Covid protocols, so please wear a mask, dress for the weather, and be aware that activities may include lifting heavy objects. Contact Edwin Pacheco edwin@redemptionredhook.com for more info.

Volunteer at Vaccine Hubs: If you are a city employee or a medical worker who wants to volunteer at a city-run COVID-19 Vaccine Hub (aka Point-of-Dispensing, or POD), you can sign up [here](#). Please note that non-city workers and non-medical workers cannot volunteer at city-run PODs at this time.

Gowanus Canal Conservancy (<https://gowanuscanalconservancy.org>) is hosting socially distant Clean & Green volunteer shifts this spring. Volunteers can join us to learn about Gowanus history, geography, and plant communities as they care for native plants in our nursery and maintain local green infrastructure. Click [HERE](#) to sign up for volunteer shifts

Fresh Direct Bag Collection: Brad Lander's office is collecting Fresh Direct Bags for redistribution to food pantries and mutual aid groups. Drop your bags (folded, please) in Carroll Gardens at 71 3rd Pl, M-F, 8 AM to 6 PM, and in Cobble Hill at 359 Henry St, Mon-Wed, 9 AM to 6 PM.

Red Hook Initiative/Red Hook Farms - Community-based nonprofit organization working to overcome systemic inequities by empowering 6,500 youth and residents year-round through leadership, employment and academic opportunities. Seasonal volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups include gardening on RHI's urban farms, which will start its growing season next month. [Sign up to join RHI's volunteer list here.](#)

[You might also consider making a donation here to support their vital work.](#) Last year, RHI invested in residents by paying over \$1.5M to youth and community members; distributed 90,000 pounds of produce; and launched a census campaign to ensure an accurate count in a historically underrepresented district - all while ensuring that the needs of young people and vulnerable residents were met during the height of the pandemic. RHI is now celebrating 19 years of service in the Red Hook community.

[You can watch this recent video from the TODAY Show about RHI's urban farms.](#)

Red Hook Initiative is seeking volunteers for pop-up vaccination events they are holding for Red Hook residents in partnership with Red Hook Justice Center and Nate's Pharmacy on April 9 and April 16. Each event has morning and afternoon sessions (approximately 9-12:30 and 12:30-4) at 767 Hicks Street in Red Hook. Volunteers who speak Spanish, Mandarin, or Cantonese are especially encouraged. For more information, please contact Meghan Hickey (meghanhickey@gmail.com).

Gowanus Mutual Aid (<https://www.gowanusmutualaid.org/>) - A very active local mutual aid group serving the Gowanus, Park Slope and South Slope areas. They help provide groceries, transportation and social support to neighbors in need.

- Fill in their [VOLUNTEER INTAKE FORM](#) to get matched with volunteer opportunities.
- They also have a volunteer [CALENDAR](#) including street clean ups and food distributions.
- You can also sign up to volunteer at their Free Store by signing up [HERE](#).
- Their [Instagram page](#) also is regularly updated with resources and volunteering opportunities.

West Brooklyn Waterfront Mutual Aid (<https://www.wbwmutualaid.org/>) - Local mutual aid group serving mainly Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, Columbia Waterfront, and surrounding areas. They are actively looking for volunteers for no-contact pickups and deliveries of groceries, prescriptions, and other essential items to neighbors in need. Fill in their [VOLUNTEER INTAKE FORM](#) to get notified of opportunities or directly email wbwmutualaid@gmail.com.

Their [Instagram page](#) is regularly updated with resources and volunteering opportunities.

South Brooklyn Mutual Aid (<https://southbkmutualaid.com/>) - Local mutual group serving mainly the Sunset Park, Borough Park, and Bay Ridge areas. Various volunteering opportunities including buying and delivering groceries, picking up prescriptions, 1:1 conversation & companionship (via Skype, Zoom, etc), translation, social services guidance (filing for medicare, unemployment) and preparing cooked food for neighbors in need. Fill in their [VOLUNTEER INTAKE FORM](#) to get matched with opportunities.

South Brooklyn Mutual Aid is currently looking for additional items for their weekly free store in Sunset Park. The biggest needs are seasonally appropriate baby and kid clothing/shoes, diapers, and toys. Women's and men's clothing accepted as well.

To donate, please fill out this form: bit.ly/pplsmarketdonate

CHiPs (<http://chipsonline.org/volunteer/>) - Soup kitchen and women's shelter located in Gowanus. While the dine-in soup kitchen is closed, they are running a program called the Pop-Up at CHiPS. Volunteers can prepare pre-individually-packaged meals, either home-cooked or ordered from restaurants, to be redistributed to our hungry visitors in to-go bags. Email Ashlie at admin@chipsonline.org to sign up for a drop-off slot. More info [HERE](#) as well as [HERE](#) for family-friendly opportunities.

OneBlock Brooklyn (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/855284011669590>): Community run group committed to keeping our streets and parks clean. [Sign up to “adopt” a block or park](#) and commit to helping keeping it clean with weekly clean ups!

Brooklyn Bridge Park - (<https://www.brooklynbridgepark.org/support/volunteer/>) Brooklyn Bridge Park offers many opportunities to volunteer and keep the waterfront healthy and their conservation efforts strong. Opportunities include the Green Corp, Coastal CleanUp and serving as a park docent. All ages are welcome, kids must be accompanied by an adult.

The Arab-American Family Support Center <https://www.aafscny.org/> Looking for volunteers to tutor, teach, assist with curriculum development, act as a classroom assistant, or a case manager. Arabic language skills necessary for case management only. Youth Program: Provide Arab-American immigrant youth with one-on-one homework help and engage youth in social and cultural enrichment activities. Tutors must have basic reading, writing, and math skills.

Brooklyn Community Pride Center (<https://lgbtbrooklyn.org/>) provides a safe, common space offering physical and mental health services, social support, recreational and cultural programming, as well as being a hub of information for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and families in Brooklyn. Looking for volunteers to help with reception, program facilitators, operating and event support

Friends of Carroll Park (Friends of Carroll Park) Volunteer opportunities include help with gardening, fundraising, special events, promotions, kids concerts, web design, and social media. You can also stop by the garden and see what’s happening! carrollparkbrooklyn@gmail.com

Gowanus Dredgers (<http://www.gowanuscanal.org/>) The Dredgers need enthusiastic volunteers at all skill levels and all ages who love the sport of canoeing, the Gowanus neighborhood, or just generally care about supporting the environment and revitalization of New York Harbor. You can stop by any of our events and volunteer.

[Gowanus Oysters Health Check](#)

What: Join the Dredgers in our effort to restore a sustainable oyster population and to foster awareness, affinity, and understanding of our harbor and urban waterways. We are growing a colony of oysters at the Gowanus Canal and will be checking on their size, health and growth at this event.

When: Saturday, April 10th 2021 1:00pm to 3:00pm

Remote/Family Friendly Volunteering Opportunities

Food Bank for New York City (<https://www.foodbanknyc.org/>) is the city's largest hunger-relief organization, has a list of actions kids and teens can do to help support their mission, including writing cards, sharing on social media, etc. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

God's Love We Deliver (<https://www.glwd.org/>) - GLWD prepares and delivers nutritious, high-quality meals to people who, because of their illness, are unable to provide or prepare meals for themselves. Children can make birthday cards for clients of God's Love We Deliver. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Heart of Dinner (<https://www.heartofdinner.org/>) - Heart of Dinner exists to combat food insecurity and isolation within NYC's elderly Asian American community by delivering care packages of hot lunches and fresh produce. Families can volunteer remotely by [writing handwritten notes](#) in Korean, Japanese or Chinese to attach to the care packages, or [by illustrating](#) paper pages.

Win NYC (<https://winnyc.org/volunteer/>) is the largest provider of family shelter and supportive housing in New York City. There are many volunteering opportunities as well as donation drives throughout the year.

CAMBA (<https://camba.org/programs/>) is a wonderful organization that provides over 160 programs including providing emergency and affordable housing, teaching technical skills, parenting support and legal services. There are various food and gift drives throughout the year. They are also open people proposing volunteering activities given their many programs, including organizing food/donation drives. More info [HERE](#) or call (718) 287-2600.

HEIGHTS AND HILLS (<https://www.heightsandhills.org/>) Their mission is to support older adults to age successfully in their Brooklyn communities and they have volunteer opportunities

Repair the World - Brooklyn (<https://wepair.org/brooklyn/>) has served in Crown Heights and neighboring communities since 2014. They frequently post both remote and in-person volunteering opportunities for a number of causes.

Other resources for family-friendly volunteering opportunities

Doing Good Together publishes a list of citywide family-friendly volunteering opportunities each month. Click [HERE](#) for more info.

Hope for New York (<https://www.hfny.org/volunteer/opportunities>) has many listings for volunteering opportunities citywide. There is an option to search for remote volunteering opportunities, including family-friendly ones such as [sending cards](#) to residents of Bailey-Holt House.

New York Cares (<https://www.newyorkcares.org/>) is one of the biggest organizations managing volunteering opportunities in NYC. There are a variety of volunteering opportunities citywide including some family-friendly ones.

DONATE - Clothes, Foods, Supplies + Funds

PS 676 Donation Center - Accepting pantry items, clothing, school supplies, books, toys, and computers/tablets on an ongoing basis, for families enrolled at the school. Items may be taken to the school's front entrance at 27 Huntington St between 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m Mon-Fri. Ask for Marie Hueston.

Gowanus Free Store - Gowanus Mutual Aid group runs a free store at the corner of Bond and Douglass called the Sharing Corner. Lists of items needed are frequently posted on their [Instagram Page](#). Mostly need bathroom and cleaning supplies, non-perishables, masks and hand sanitizers.

Saint Mary's Church Clothing Donation - Accepts gently used women, men and children's clothing and accessories. Can also arrange for a free pick up:

<https://stmarysclothingdrive.com/stmarys/schedule>

Chips Food Pantry has a [LIST OF ITEMS](#) they always need. Also accepting donations of pre-individually-packaged meals, either home-cooked or ordered from restaurants, to be redistributed to our hungry visitors in to-go bags. Email Ashlie at admin@chipsonline.org to sign up for a drop-off slot. More info [HERE](#) as well as [HERE](#)

Upcoming local CHiPS food drive - The children of nearby St. Paul's Episcopal Church (199 Carroll Street) are running a food drive for CHiPS' food pantry during the month of February. Please click [HERE](#) for more.

Community Refrigerators - These are neighborhood refrigerators where all items are free. Take what you need, leave what you can. No raw meat, prepared foods or opened or partially wrapped food.

Some nearby community refrigerators:

- Red Hook - Outside of JamitBistro at 366 Columbia
- Carroll Gardens/Gowanus - On 3rd street and Bond

Brooklyn Book Bodega (<https://www.brooklynbookbodega.org/>) accepts new and gently used books for babies, kids, and teens. Brooklyn Book Bodega's mission is to "increase the number of 100+ book homes for kids 0-18 in NYC".

Little Essentials (<https://www.littleessentials.org/>) accepts a variety of baby items, including large items such as cribs and strollers. List of accepted items are [HERE](#). Little Essentials offers “at-risk families living in poverty urgently needed children’s supplies and parenting education to promote the health, well-being and safety of their children under five years of age”.

*** collections are paused while they move warehouses but will resume shortly***

You can donate stained or damaged textiles and clothing to **GROW NYC Textile Recycling** (<https://www.grownyc.org/clothing>). They have a collection box at the Carroll Gardens Farmer’s Market by Carroll Park on Sundays between 8-11am.

MS136 PTA Covid19 Emergency Aid

The amazing, strong, and vibrant MS 136 community has been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. Some families have lost loved ones. They have also suffered job loss, food insecurity, inability to pay for housing and utilities or have fallen victim to this virus themselves. Our Title I school is home to a hard-working community - who even in the best of times may live paycheck to paycheck - and today those families are struggling to meet basic needs on a much greater scale. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ms136-pta-covid19-emergency-aid>

Never Sleeps NYC (<https://neversleepsnyc.wordpress.com>) is a forum to bring public awareness to fundraisers and mutual aid benefitting New Yorkers in times of crisis. They have a list of wonderful local organizations in need of funds. You can search by area of interest.

GET HELP

P.S. 58 Families: In addition to the resources below, our school can offer support. Please contact Joan (bredthauer2@schools.nyc.gov) for more information.

Mutual Aid

These local mutual groups are community-organized groups of neighbors helping other neighbors. They assist community members with basic needs like financial assistance, groceries, transportation, and social support. Please fill in for forms below for assistance:

Gowanus Mutual Aid - Serving Gowanus, Park Slope and South Slope areas.

<https://www.gowanusmutualaid.org/get-help>

West Brooklyn Waterfront Mutual Aid - Serving Brooklyn Heights, Carroll Gardens, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, the Columbia Waterfront area and surrounding areas.

<https://www.wbwmualaid.org/get-help>

South Brooklyn Mutual Aid - Serving Sunset Park, Borough Park, and Bay Ridge areas

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9w6XOcscWJsLTWdh569CB2Obzc-6k-5ZoFkgzw88pLNC-A/viewform>

Mutual Aid for Parents NYC (MAPNYC) is a mutual aid network specifically providing aid to parents and families in NYC. They have an extensive resources list for families that can be found [HERE](#)

NYC RESOURCES

Free Virtual Homework Help Brooklyn Public Library: If your child is in grades 1 through 8, a trained volunteer can help with your child's homework through one-on-one and small group help with assignments in math, science, social studies, and other topics, providing direction, clarity, and understanding. <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/event-series/homework-help>

Emergency Food Hotline - 866-888-8777. You can also call 311 to find a local food pantry or kitchen by you.

Mental Health Services - NYC Well is your connection to free, confidential mental health support. Speak to a counselor via phone, text, or chat and get access to mental health and substance use services, in more than 200 languages, 24/7/365.

<https://nycwell.cityofnewyork.us/en/>

Meals delivered to your home - GetFoodNYC Emergency Home Food Delivery is available if you can't go outside, have no one who can help you get food, and can't afford delivery as a result of COVID-19. <https://portal.311.nyc.gov/article/?kanumber=KA-03304> .

Other at-home delivery non-profits include:

Meals on Wheels (<https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/>)

God's Love We Deliver. (<https://www.glwd.org/>)

Red Hook Hub (<http://redhookhub.org>) is has an active community posting board with many helpful resources such as food distributions, vaccination info town halls, etc

The Hebrew Free Loan Society created a [Coronavirus Financial Impact Loan](#) to provide interest-free loans of \$2,000-\$5,000 to residents of New York City who are facing financial challenges caused by the Coronavirus outbreak. These loans address:

- Lost wages due to being unable to go to work
- Child care costs due to school closures
- Small business losses
- Canceled study abroad programs
- Related medical costs

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Some nearby community refrigerators:

- Red Hook - Outside of JamitBistro at 366 Columbia
- Carroll Gardens/Gowanus - On 3rd street and Bond

Grab & Go Free Meals - New York City is committed to making free meals available daily for all New Yorkers. Any New Yorker can receive free meals available across the city. Grab & Go breakfast/lunch available for any New Yorker at specific Meal Hubs around the city. [Click here](#) for more information.

FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

- All families and students can visit to pick up three free grab-and-go meals.

- Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 12:00pm
- No registration, ID, or documentation required
- No dining space is available, so meals must be eaten off premises
- Parents and guardians may pick up meals for their children
- Use the search below to find a Take-Out location near you

FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

- Monday through Friday, 3pm to 5pm
- No registration, ID, or documentation required
- No dining space is available, so meals must be eaten off premises
- Multiple meals may be picked up at once
- Find a [Kosher or Halal location](#)
- Visit [GETFOODNYC](#) to find a location 3pm to 5pm

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/food/community-meals>

Neighbor Network for Seniors: If you know a senior who would benefit from free friendly calls from the Neighbor Network, they can sign up to receive calls by filling out this [form](#) or calling 914.572.5526. More info can be found [here](#). The Neighbor Network was created by the partnership between Greenwich House, Heights & Hills, the New York Civic Engagement Table and the Office of NYC Council Member Brad Lander to help participants build friendship and connection by phone during this isolating time.

Legal Services Hotline: The NYC Financial Justice Hotline is a free legal hotline for low-income NYC residents. The hotline, staffed in English and Spanish, provides free legal information, advice, and referrals on a wide range of financial justice issues, from discriminatory banking practices to predatory debt collection. More information is available [here](#).

Access Benefits Helpline through Legal Aid: Anyone having trouble with an application to apply for or recertify for HRA cash assistance, SNAP, or Medicaid benefits, can call the Legal Aid Society's Access to Benefits Helpline at **888-663-6880 M-F 10am-3pm**.