

IMPACT

🌱 A Kids Give Back Update 🌱



Spreading Love on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Kids Give Back helped to bring the community together on MLK, Jr. Day by hosting a project at Volunteer Fairfax's "Give Together" family event. Volunteers worked alongside Kids Give Back to create 400 "cupcake" sock Valentines for Fellowship Square and Capital Caring Health. Attendees also made emergency kits, blankets, food packs, and more to support the community. What an excellent way to celebrate MLK Jr. Day, considered a national day of service — a "day on, not a day off."



April 1, 2024

Volunteer Spotlight

This February, we hosted a Kids Volunteer Day and received a warm welcome from families in Great Falls, a new community for us! Kids crafted care packages for foster children served by UpsideDown Moments, snuffle mats for Homeward Trails Animal Rescue, and bedtime snack packs for Cornerstones. Three second grade attendees were so inspired by their experience that they walked around their neighborhood to fundraise for Kids Give Back! Way to be proactive, girls!

Thank you to these girls and to Christ the King Lutheran Church for the space. We'll be back June 24-28 for Summer Volunteer Camp!



Look What the Stork Dropped Off! Holiday Baskets for Babies

By Dana Khan, Program Coordinator



Kids Give Back decked the halls with bottles and bibs during our annual Baskets for Babies in December. Families and children prepared 75 baskets of newborn essentials for low-resource parents in Fairfax County. Attendees wrapped open boxes with festive paper (we might have seen a few Grinches with this challenging task), then stuffed them with more than 20 items: teddy bears, books, lotions, bottles, onesies, pajamas, handknit blankets, first aid kits, and more.

Homemade baby ornaments were the icing on the sugar cookie. We also prepared gifts for the expectant moms — beautifully decorated tote bags with lotions, soaps, bath products, and more! Those baby rattles were jingling as they were delivered to Fairfax County's Department of Family Services to be distributed just in time for the holidays. Kids Give Back donated more than 125 baby baskets in 2023—and 300 since we started this project in 2020!

Thank you to our sponsors, M&T Bank and Land Design Consultants; our co-sponsors, Sagenet and Lead Day School; and our event partner, babycito. Thanks to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for hosting and to all the women whose fingers are still sore from knitting 40 baby blankets and hats to include in the baskets.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2020, we've donated 300 baby baskets for distribution to low-income expectant parents!



Parents and children worked together to prepare the baby baskets and gifts for the Moms.

SAVE
-THE-
DATE

- **April 6, Vienna Health & Wellness Fair, 10:00 am–2:00 pm.** We're hosting a kids' volunteer activity at this event, which takes place at the Vienna Community Center.
- **April 10, Kids Volunteer Day, 9:30 am–3:00 pm.** FCPS is closed, so we will offer another full day of volunteer service. Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairfax. Registration is open at www.kidsgiveback.org/events.
- **May 4, Oakton Spring Bazaar, 9:00 am–2:00 pm.** We're hosting a kids' volunteer activity at this event, which takes place at Oakton United Methodist Church.
- **June 9, Proceeds Day at Caboose Commons, Merrifield, 3:00–9:00 pm.** Stop by Caboose for a Kids Give Back get-together! Caboose will donate 10% of beer sales to us to support our ongoing volunteer service projects!



Kids Give Back Named “Best Summer Camp 2024” —Registration Now Open

Things are heating up at Kids Give Back as we prepare for summer! We are proud to have been named one of *Northern Virginia Magazine's* “Best Summer Camp 2024” and listed in *Arlington Magazine* as one of 25 “Super Summer Camps!”

Join the fun at five Summer Volunteer Camps in Fairfax, Oakton, and Great Falls. Kids will spend their week learning about volunteerism, kindness, and how to impact our community.

Attendees will use their talents to:

- Make meals for individuals facing food insecurity
- Prepare activity kits for disadvantaged children
- Make First Aid kits for people experiencing homelessness
- Make tie-dye items for adults with different abilities and more.

Every camp features guest speakers from local nonprofits (including some teenagers!) actively making our community a better place.

Thank you to **United Bank**, our Summer Volunteer Camp sponsor!

Schedule: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm daily

- June 17–21, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairfax -- *full*
- June 24–28, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Great Falls
- July 8–12, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairfax
- July 22–26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairfax -- *only 2 openings remain*
- July 29–August 2, Oakton United Methodist Church, Oakton



Four Ways to Get Involved

1. **Sponsor!** Sponsor an event, school project or be an annual partner and place your business, civic organization, or community group in front of 1,400 local families.
2. **Volunteer!** Adult and teens are needed to help plan **Costumes for Kids, A Fall Volunteer Festival, which takes place October 19 in Fairfax**. Join us to help us make more than 120 Halloween costumes for kids in low-resource communities.
3. **Work for us!** We hire teachers, instructional assistants, substitute teachers, and others to help manage our programs
4. Shop our **Amazon Wish List**, which includes supplies for many of our volunteer service projects!



“I want to express my sincere gratitude for the fantastic program you’ve provided the kids! It has truly enriched their lives through volunteering.” -- Linda Do, parent

Parents' Night Out Engages Kids in Volunteer Service

In March, kids ages 5-11 participated in our second **Parents Night Out in the Mosaic District**.

While parents enjoyed dinner and shopping, the kids used their time and talents to bring joy to others.

Throughout the night, they prepared 24 Easter baskets full of handmade crafts, eggs, toys, stuffed animals, bubbles, and more to donate to Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO) in Springfield, VA. ECHO is an all-volunteer organization that assists individuals and families in need by offering food, clothing, housewares, and financial assistance for housing and utilities. The kids enjoyed meeting Susie Miller from ECHO, playing games, eating dinner together, and more.

"It was such a delight to see the children excitedly working on Easter baskets for the children of the clients at ECHO in Springfield." -- Susie Miller, enrichment program coordinator, ECHO.



Youth Bakers Help us Raise Dough for Our Projects

THANK YOU!



The Kids Give Back Virtual Bake Sale was a huge success, raising nearly \$1,200 for our volunteer service projects!

We are grateful to the 23 youth and teens aged 7-18 who generously donated their time and talent to make this bake sale successful. The young volunteers contributed a variety of delicious treats, including lemon raspberry cake, brookies, sugar cookie bars, Oreo cheesecake, cupcakes, cake pops, and more! Youth from the following schools participated:

- Ad Fontes Academy
- Cunningham Park
- Eagle View ES
- Frost Middle
- Fusion Academy
- Katherine Johnson Middle
- Kilmer Middle
- Lane ES
- Madison High
- Mantua ES
- Louise Archer ES
- Oakton ES
- Saint Joseph
- Thoreau Middle
- Trinity Christian School
- Westfield High
- Woodson High

Let's stay connected!

kidsgiveback.org

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