



WHAT CAN CHICAGO CARES DO FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION?

ABOUT CHICAGO CARES

Chicago Cares provides opportunities for individuals, businesses and youth to improve the Chicago community through creative, structured group volunteer programs that address Chicago's most pressing needs. Since our inception, Chicago Cares has created, managed and led more than 17,500 community service projects, engaged more than 250,000 individuals in volunteerism, and dedicated 780,000 hours of service to the City of Chicago.

Issues addressed include (but are not limited to):

- Adult education and development
- Children's education and development
- Teen and young adults
- Community building
- Environment and rehabilitation
- Health and Wellness
- Hunger
- Senior services

WHAT WE OFFER

To address the critical needs of our community, we partner with schools, parks and social service agencies in four ways:

	ONGOING PROGRAMS	SERVE-A-THON & CELEBRATION OF SERVICE	BUSINESS SHARES	YOUTH IN SERVICE
DESCRIPTION	Chicago Cares creates, manages, and leads more than 200 ongoing service projects every month. Any individual volunteer may sign up and attend.	Chicago Cares mobilizes thousands of volunteers at many sites throughout the city to make a dramatic difference in just one day.	Chicago Cares creates customized one-time service projects for corporate or private groups who want to improve their community.	Chicago Cares designs, implements, and oversees one-time and ongoing service projects tailored specifically for youth volunteers.
PROJECT FREQUENCY	Ongoing (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly)	Two annual one-day events – Celebration of Service (January) & Serve-a-thon (June)	One time	Flexible (Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or one time)
TIME OF DAY	Monday - Thursday evenings and weekends (some exceptions)	All day	Scheduled at the request of the commissioning group; may be weekdays, evenings, or weekends	
# OF VOLUNTEERS	6-30	20-200 per site; 3,000 – 6,000 total	10-600	10-100
VOLUNTEER AGE	8 and up or adults only (project specific)	12 and up – mostly adults	Usually adults	Youth ages 8 to 18
LEADERSHIP	Trained volunteer leaders provided by Chicago Cares		Chicago Cares staff	Trained volunteer leaders and one chaperone per 10 youth volunteers provided by Chicago Cares and youth group
ISSUES ADDRESSED	Any critical need (see issues addressed above)			
SUPPLIES	Provided by community partner or supplemented by Chicago Cares	Portions provided by both Chicago Cares and community partner	Provided by Chicago Cares and commissioning client	Provided by community partner or supplemented by Chicago Cares
APPLICATION DEADLINE	Ongoing	Ongoing with seasonal periods of consideration	Ongoing	

WHAT WE EXPECT FROM OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Whether we're working with your organization for a one-time event like Serve-a-thon, or developing a recurring program, we require ALL of the following from our community partners:

- **COMMUNICATION** – Your organization must work with Chicago Cares to help make your project(s) possible and successful – reliable communication and follow-through are required.
- **COMMON GOAL** – Your organization or project must have a vision or goal consistent with the Chicago Cares mission (see mission below).
- **HANDS-ON PROJECT FOCUS** – Project tasks must be ‘hands-on’ – either involving facilities improvement, client interaction, or tasks directly related to your organization’s product (no office, administrative, or fundraising work).
- **GROUP-BASED TASKS** – Your project(s) must allow volunteers to work in pairs or groups.
- **APPROPRIATE FACILITIES** – Your agency must provide a space conducive to project tasks and the number of volunteers. All spaces to be used must be unlocked and accessible at the time of the project(s).
- **SUPPLY COOPERATION** – You may be asked to provide a portion of the necessary supplies depending on project model & scope. For some projects, you may be asked to receive and securely store supplies provided by Chicago Cares.
- **AGENCY REPRESENTATION** – An appropriate representative from your organization must attend each project, give a brief site introduction and remain on-site for the duration of the project.

WHAT’S NEXT? GETTING YOUR ORGANIZATION INVOLVED

1. Whether your school or agency could use painting, a regular after school program, or a field trip for your residents, **the first step to hosting a Chicago Cares project is completing the enclosed application.** If you’ve already completed a Chicago Cares application, please complete another and consider it an update for our records!
2. Our staff reviews all applications received, following up with sites based on their identified availability and the type of work requested. Some tasks are a better fit for one type of project or another. **Applicants are kept on file until a partnership opportunity with Chicago Cares becomes available. Once we identify a partnership opportunity, a member of the Chicago Cares team contacts you.** Chicago Cares works closely with you to provide overall program development and management including work assessment, supply planning, and project implementation and leadership.
3. Although Chicago Cares accepts applications all year long, our staff plans projects for the Celebration of Service (January) and Serve-a-thon (June) 3-6 months in advance of the actual events. Please keep this in mind when submitting your site’s application.

CHICAGO CARES’ MISSION IS TO RESPOND TO THE CRITICAL HUMAN SERVICE, EDUCATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEEDS OF CHICAGO BY CREATING, MANAGING AND LEADING EFFECTIVE AND INNOVATIVE VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAMS WHICH FOSTER THE ETHIC OF VOLUNTEERISM, PROMOTE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND SUPPORT OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

CHICAGO CARES DOES NOT “BROKER” ITS VOLUNTEERS
OR SUPPLY VOLUNTEERS TO DO ADMINISTRATIVE OR FUNDRAISING WORK