



IEA-RETIRED COMMUNITY OUTREACH TOOLKIT

This toolkit will support especially the Membership Committee and chapters as it offers ideas for engaging members and building more diverse and active chapters.

Chapters often are stronger and have more participating members when they offer a variety of programs and opportunities, the something for everyone concept. Additionally, community outreach provides good visibility and PR for education and our active locals, as well as our retired chapters, retired members, and retirees in general. Community partnerships sometimes can provide the chapter with resources and opportunities too. Additionally, the IEA-Retired Mission-Vision-Goal Statements include “promote community outreach and visibility” as one of our goals.

Ideas for Community Outreach and involvement:

- Help at food banks/pantries by bringing items to meetings to donate
- Collect school supplies to donate to area schools, gift cards, snack items, reward items, etc.
- Collect personal care items for low-income schools
- Support/work with Back-to-School backpack/school supplies projects
- Connect with local school districts to assist as needed, volunteer in schools
- Volunteer in nursing homes such as providing music, writing letters, helping with crafts
- Collect plastic bottle caps for friendship benches (if there is a local organization sponsoring them)
- Join other groups of educators in local Labor Day parades, celebrations, and community events
- Work at area phone banks
- Referendum support
- Support college aspiring educators and their chapters and provide programs
- Volunteer at the USO (by O’Hare) or in one in your area
- Volunteer at Ronald McDonald Houses across the state
- Collect items for shelters and those in need – socks, hats gloves, coats, etc., purses with personal items for women’s shelters
- Support and donate to little libraries
- Support “Almost Home” for unhoused individuals and similar projects

Consider a monthly chapter outreach activity

AS SHARED BY: WEST SUBURBAN CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER – collect school supplies, toiletries, and gift cards for foster kids

OCTOBER – gift card collection for aspiring educator members' conference, create an item for the Scholarship Table at the One Conference

NOVEMBER - collect for early career grant

DECEMBER & JANUARY – members give to local food pantries and food banks on their own and chapter makes a donation

FEBRUARY & MARCH – collect for Read Across America (for kids in foster care), collect an item for the NEA RA PAC table (no dues money can be used)

APRIL & MAY – collect for chapter early career grant

ONGOING – collect items for those in need, for migrants, people in shelters, food pantry items

More resources for community outreach and involvement:

VOLUNTEER MATCH

volunteermatch.org

The above link allows one to select an area for volunteering by zip code and to select areas of volunteering interests (Cause Areas), such as Arts & Culture, Children & Youth, Education & Literacy, etc. Most importantly, since one searches by using a zip code, volunteering opportunities suitable for one's Retired Chapter can be searched across Illinois.

RED CROSS - ILLINOIS REGION

redcross.org/local/illinois/volunteer

There are volunteering opportunities that do not involve medical knowledge. These can be things like fund-raising efforts or assisting at blood drives. However, a local Chapter can consider hosting a blood drive as a community activity.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

lchumanesociety.dog

Most areas have a Humane Society nearby. To find one for volunteering opportunities, simply search Humane Society for your area. The organization offers opportunities to volunteer in several ways. Must be 18 years old and go through a training program. Opportunities range from dog walking to baking items for bake sales, etc.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

mcleancochamber.org/invest/volunteer

Local chambers of commerce seek assistance in helping the local community. The above is provided as an example.

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

artsblooming.org/about/about-us/volunteer-information

The above provided as an example. Check for ones in your area. Volunteers act as ushers at performances, cashier at bar/concessions, coat check, and there are other non-event opportunities

SCARCE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

info@scarce.org

Looking for a place to donate gently used classroom materials for active teachers? SCARCE has a warehouse of donated materials of all kinds.

MUSEUMS NEED VOLUNTEERS

Museums from around the state are listed as examples for volunteering opportunities. However, there are museums not listed that could be in your area that are seeking volunteers since volunteers are important ways of keeping local museums functioning.

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (Springfield)

<https://presidentlincoln.illinois.gov/support/volunteer/>

The Art Institute of Chicago

<https://www.artic.edu/careers/volunteer-opportunities>

Burpee Museum of Natural History (Rockford)

<https://burpee.org/volunteer-at-burpee/>

Children's Discovery Museum (Normal)

<https://www.childrensdiscoverymuseum.net/161/Volunteer>

Children's Museum of Illinois (Decatur)

<https://cmofil.org/volunteering/>

Effingham County Museum

<https://www.effinghamcountymuseum.org/get-involved>

Field Museum (Chicago)

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/volunteer>

Forest Preserves Champaign County

<https://www.champaignforests.org/education/museum-education/volunteer-opportunities>

General John A. Logan Museum (Murphysboro)

<https://loganmuseum.org/get-involved/>

Illinois State Museum (Springfield)

<https://www.illinoisstatemuseum.org/welcome-ism-springfield/ism-springfield-volunteer-jobs.html>

Griffin Museum of Science & Industry (Chicago)

<https://www.msichicago.org/support/volunteer>

Peoria Riverfront Museum

<https://www.peoriariverfrontmuseum.org/about/volunteer-opportunities>

ONE-DAY EVENTS across the state such as the Million Meals Pack event held in September, 2024 at CEFCU Arena on the Illinois State University campus.