



# English Language Learners

## Locate volunteer opportunities to improve your skills

By volunteering, you can help people in need, share your culture, improve your English skills, and get involved in the Bloomington community. Find out how at [BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org](http://BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org)!

### USA - A country known for volunteerism

About 61 million people volunteer in the USA each year; over 26% of the population. [U.S. Department of Labor] Volunteering- contributing time, effort and expertise without financial benefit- is an essential part of the lives of many Americans, as they work to build community assets and solve community problems.

### Bloomington - A city with a strong volunteer tradition

The City of Bloomington Volunteer Network was formed in 1980. At that time Bloomington was only the second municipality in the country to sponsor such a program! Now, over 200 community organizations request volunteers through the Volunteer Network each year. Volunteers are particularly needed when the majority of the IU students leave town because of spring, winter and summer break. People who remain in Bloomington at those times are especially needed.

### Why should I volunteer?

Volunteering is a great way:

- To meet new people
- To connect with the community
- To help people in need
- To share your culture
- To use your skills or learn new ones
- To keep your resumé current
- To practice English
- And to have fun!

### How do I get started?

Do you like animals? Do you like children?  
Do you have a skill to use through volunteering  
or do you want to learn new skills?

1. First, find your interest.
2. Then, find your available time.
3. The next step is searching for volunteer opportunities that match your preferences. Nonprofit organizations may interview you or may ask you to take training before volunteering to make sure your services will fit their needs.



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## City of Bloomington Volunteer Network

City Hall • 401 N. Morton St., Suite 260, Bloomington, IN 47404 • [www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/volunteer)

hrs: 8am - 5pm Monday-Friday • ph. 812.349.3433 • fax 812.349.3483 • [volunteer@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@bloomington.in.gov)



## Sample Volunteer Opportunities

### Musicians for Regular Music Performances

Autumn Hills Alzheimer's Special Care Center  
*Minimum age of 18*  
*Required to have TB shot*  
<http://jeaseniorliving.com>  
Email: Abby Stafford, [astafford@cardon.us](mailto:astafford@cardon.us)

### Community Orchard Workday

Bloomington Community Orchard  
Wednesdays, 5 pm - 8 pm, June 5 - August 7  
*Minimum age of 16*  
[www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org](http://www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org)  
Email: [getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org](mailto:getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org)

### Summer Breakfast Preparation and Delivery: prepare and deliver food to children in Bloomington/Monroe Co.

Community Kitchen of Monroe County  
Preparation: Monday-Saturday, 7:30 am - 9:00 am (4 volunteers needed)  
Delivery: Monday-Saturday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (2 volunteers needed)  
[www.monroecommunitykitchen.com](http://www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)  
Email: [volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com](mailto:volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com)  
Phone: 812-332-0999

### Meal Preparation Assistance

Community Kitchen of Monroe County  
Monday-Saturday, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm (6 volunteers needed)  
[www.monroecommunitykitchen.com](http://www.monroecommunitykitchen.com)  
Email: [volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com](mailto:volunteer@monroecommunitykitchen.com)  
Phone: 812-332-0999

### Garden Program: help grow and distribute fresh produce to local food banks

Hoosier Hills Food Bank  
Site location: Will Detmer Park, 4140 W. Vernal Pike  
Monday & Thursday, 9:00 am - 11:00 am --- Tuesday, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
*Minimum age of 14*  
[www.hhfoodbank.org](http://www.hhfoodbank.org)  
Email: [volunteer@hhfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteer@hhfoodbank.org)

### Repack Assistance: repackage prepared foods donated from local restaurants, catering companies, and cafeterias.

Hoosier Hills Food Bank  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm  
*Minimum age of 12*  
[www.hhfoodbank.org](http://www.hhfoodbank.org)  
Email: [volunteer@hhfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteer@hhfoodbank.org)

### Garden Volunteers at Hilltop

IU Hilltop Garden & Nature Center  
Monday-Saturday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
*Minimum age of 18*  
[www.indiana.edu/~hilltop](http://www.indiana.edu/~hilltop)  
Phone: (812) 855-8808

### Bryan Park Creek Maintenance Days

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Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department  
Site Location: Bryan Park, 1100 S. Woodlawn Ave.  
July 3, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
*Minimum age of 12*  
[www.bloomington.in.gov/parks](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/parks)  
Email: [parks@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:parks@bloomington.in.gov)

#### **Hoosier to Hoosier Community Sale Pick-Up & Sorting**

Indiana University Office of Sustainability  
Upcoming sorting days:  
Tuesday, June 11 (2-5 pm)  
Wednesday, June 26 (12-4 pm) Pick-up Day  
Friday, June 28 (9 am - 12 pm)  
Monday, July 15 (9 am - 12 pm)  
Saturday, July 20 (10 am - 4 pm) Pick-up Day  
*Minimum age of 16*  
[www.indiana.edu/~sustain](http://www.indiana.edu/~sustain)  
Email: [h2h@indiana.edu](mailto:h2h@indiana.edu)

**BBBS Volunteer Opportunities:** work a one-time event, help with office work, or mentor children in a particular neighborhood/school

Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central Indiana  
*Minimum age of 18*  
[www.bbbssci.org](http://www.bbbssci.org)  
Email: [Mark.Voland@bigsindiana.org](mailto:Mark.Voland@bigsindiana.org)

## **How do I find specific information about volunteer needs?**

Use the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network four ways:

- 1) People who are new to volunteering often start with one-time volunteer opportunities, such as volunteering at a special event or program. The calendar on our website will help you find those. Go to [BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org](http://BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org). Click on "**Calendar**". The volunteer opportunities described are for the general public, but some are perfect for English language learners.
- 2) The Network has a comprehensive collection of volunteer opportunities on our website. Go to [BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org](http://BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org). Click on "**Ways to Volunteer**". Click on "**English Language Learners**". This search function will match your interests with volunteer opportunities that are comfortable for English language learners. Volunteer opportunities geared towards English language learners are marked with an [el], but these are by no means the only opportunities available to English language learners. For more information, click on the specific opportunity, and if it interests you, use the listed contact information to reach out to the organization.
- 3) The Network sends an e-newsletter each week, called "**VolunteerBloomington!**", which highlights five current volunteer needs. It's free, with no obligation to volunteer. When a volunteer opportunity comes along that interests you, you can inquire about it by simply replying to the contact person listed. To subscribe, go to [BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org](http://BloomingtonVolunteerNetwork.org), click on "**Stay Connected**" icon on the right hand side and then on "**Subscribe Now**". This newsletter is a great way to stay updated on upcoming volunteer opportunities in the community. Once you are subscribed, you will receive only one email per week.
- 4) Contact our friendly staff! Contact Bet Savich at [volunteer@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:volunteer@bloomington.in.gov) or (812) 349-3472.

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