

Did you know that over 2,000 people volunteer for the Department of Human & Leisure Services?

The Town wishes to thank all of the dedicated volunteers who give their time to truly make West Hartford "The Town That Cares" and invites you to join this growing group. Please take a few minutes to explore some of the volunteer opportunities that are available. A little time can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Volunteer Services

**Contact: Volunteer Coordinator - Linda Hanson
860-561-7561**

The office of Volunteer Services offers many exciting and rewarding ways to get involved in your community and most require only one hour per week. Please contact the volunteer office for more information on these and other programs or with your ideas for new volunteer opportunities.

Friendly Visitor: Provide a homebound resident with socialization and support and enjoy making a new acquaintance from another generation.

Grocery Volunteer: While at the store, pick up groceries for someone else for whom shopping has become a difficult task, and help that person remain at home independently.

Medical Escort: Whenever you have some free time, take an older resident who can no longer drive to a local medical appointment. You'll be glad you did.

Hillcrest Area Neighborhood Outreach Center: Valuable volunteers provide tutoring for adults and children alike, and help with a wide variety of creative endeavors, such as gardening projects, Creative Writing classes, Story Hours and more. Join us!

Food Pantry: Help us keep pantry shelves stocked by organizing a food drive or working in the pantry. The food you collect, donate or sort in the pantry will make a considerable difference in your community.

The All Sports Council-Youth Sports League

Contact: Leisure Services - 860-561-7510

The West Hartford All Sports Council is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to unite all West Hartford voluntary youth athletic programs toward common philosophies and goals.

Volunteers are needed to fill the following roles. Please contact the Department of Leisure Services for more detailed information:

- **Coaches (various sports)**
- **Game Officials (various sports)**
- **League Officers**
- **Fundraisers (various sports)**

The Elmwood Senior Center

Contact: Gina Marino - 860-561-8180

The Elmwood Senior Center is a focal point in the community for the delivery of programs and services to West Hartford Seniors. We are able to successfully operate our facility because of a very strong and dedicated volunteer base. Volunteer opportunities include:

Administrative: Can you do it all? If you enjoy answering phones, registering customers and providing information to the general public, this 3.5 hours a week position will be a perfect way to keep your office skills and remain on top of your game.

Instructor or Program Leader: Do you have a special skill, talent or hobby that you would be willing to share? We can create a volunteer opportunity, doing something you love and work around your busy schedule.

Complimentary Coffee: Be the person who welcomes others by serving a hot cup of coffee or tea with a warm smile. It is a wonderful way to meet new people with a commitment of only one morning a week.

The West Hartford Senior Center **Contact: Ned Skinner - 860-561-7583**

The West Hartford Senior Center is very fortunate to have over 150 dedicated volunteers that assist with the daily operations of the center. All efforts are important and appreciated. Some of the volunteer opportunities available include:

Instructors/Facilitators: These individuals would lead or instruct classes such as computer skills, knitting or a current events group.

Fitness Room Monitors: Individuals would monitor the fitness room on a scheduled basis. Training is provided and the activity fee is waived in exchange for volunteering.

Office Assistant: Duties would include processing financial transactions, registrations, answering the phone and related duties.

Mail Team - Volunteers would prepare mailings for the senior center and other non profit organizations.

Westmoor Park **Contact: Doug Jackson - 860-561-8260**

Westmoor Park is the Town's premier environmental, agricultural and horticultural education center dedicated to generating awareness and appreciation for the natural world. Volunteers may get involved with many different aspects of the park's mission depending upon the skills, interests, and available time of the volunteer. Some of the volunteer opportunities available include:

Plant-a-Row Gardening Volunteer: Volunteers participate in all aspects of gardening in flower and vegetable gardens. Food is grown primarily to be donated to local food shelters and organizations that serve those in need.

Special Events: Volunteers help run games, activities, and direct traffic during Farm Day and Pumpkin Festival special events. These events are held seasonally at the park.

Natural History Volunteer: Individuals participate in various natural history and related ongoing projects at the park.

Celebrate West Hartford **Contact: Helen Rubino-Turco - 860-561-7512**

This two-day town event features top notch entertainment, an international food court, a juried arts & crafts show, rides and amusements, community and civic booths, and a 5K road race. The event is self supporting, and would not be possible if it were not for the support of sponsors and assistance from several town departments, the Celebrate West Hartford committee, and a corp of volunteers working before the event and during the weekend. Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

Set-up Crew: Volunteers help set up tables and chairs, signage and other event materials.

Arts & Crafts Show: Volunteers help with parking, and work in the information booth, and occasionally assist exhibitors.

5K Road Race: Hundreds of runners sign up for the event, and volunteers are needed to help register them all and hand out materials.

Pre-Event General Volunteer: There are many tasks before the event, from laminating signage to delivering posters to calling exhibitors. There is a job for every talent.

Event General Volunteer: There are dozens and dozens of necessary tasks during the two days of the event, and helpful volunteers join in to make everything run smoothly.