

2026 Catawba County United Way Community Partner Volunteer opportunities – Updated June 25

	Agency	Opportunities	Days/Times needed	Information/Sign Up
1.	The Kindness Project	<p>Volunteer opportunities for the homeless outreach every Sunday 10 am -1pm starting at Highland United Methodist church and leaving from there to provide hot meals in the community.</p> <p>No restrictions - just need to be notified if you can't drive so we can arrange transportation for them from the church to the stops. Email: KindnessProjectHky@gmail.com</p>	<p>Special Event – July 18 - Shower Day at Hickory Soup Kitchen.</p> <p>10 am – 2 pm</p> <p>Showers, haircuts, lunch, hygiene items.</p>	<p>Volunteer at - https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4FA8AE2EA2FFCF8-47371992-sunday#/</p> <p>Information at - www.kindnessprojecthky.org</p>
2.	American Red Cross	<p>Blood Collection Support: Join a lifesaving team to help support blood collections in your community.</p> <p>Disaster Action Team: You can be part of a team that helps people who are forced from their homes due to fires, storms and other disasters.</p>	Varies	<p>Alexis May at Alexis.may@redcross.org</p> <p>https://www.redcross.org/local/north-carolina/volunteer.html</p>
3.	Catawba County Council on Aging	SHIP Medicare Counseling, AARP Tax Counseling, Special Events, Class Instruction, Office Assistance, Newsletter Distribution, Telephone reassurance outreach (calls to seniors).	Varies	<p>https://www.catawbacoa.org/contactus</p> <p>828-328-2269</p>
4.	The Hickory Soup Kitchen	<p>Lunch preparation, lunch service and grocery (bagging, shelving, etc.). Includes periods of standing, lifting objects, interacting with the public.</p> <p>No restrictions on who can volunteer.</p>	<p>Monday – Friday</p> <p>Lunch: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm</p> <p>Grocery: 8:30 am - 11 am</p>	Call and ask for Bonnie Salisbury at 828-327-4828.
5.	The H.O.P.E. Center	<p>Part of the Hickory Soup Kitchen, providing transportation to jobs for HSK clients. Needed: afternoon drivers (once a month or a few times a year). Includes periods of standing, lifting objects, interacting with the public.</p> <p>No restrictions on who can volunteer.</p>	M-F 2:30-3:30/4 p.m.	Call and ask for Bonnie Salisbury at 828-327-4828
6.	Walk With Me Healing Steps Equine Therapy	<p>Yard maintenance, bunk house repairs, plumbing, cleaning offices.</p> <p>Volunteers can expect: Uneven terrain, heavy lifting, outdoor activities. The only inside, light work would be cleaning the offices.</p> <p>Restrictions: Must have a clear background check, 18+</p>	Monday-Friday 10-2 (need to call ahead to work with the Coordinator)	https://walkwithmehealingsteps.com/volunteers/

7.	Centro Latino Hickory	<p>Tutoring Monday-Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM children in grades 1-5, must be at least 16 years old</p> <p>Community Food Pantry Fridays 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Organizing, packing, delivery (varies)</p> <p>ESL Partners- help our Adult ESL students practice their English language skills, please contact agency for more information</p>	Varies	<p>Office: 828-330-0477</p> <p>https://www.centrolatinohickory.org/</p>
8.	The Salvation Army of Greater Hickory	<p>Volunteer Opportunities at Youth Center and Crisis Help Center.</p> <p>Also, The agency operates the Shelter of Hope for the homeless, and three Thrift Stores to provide clothing and furniture for those on a limited budget. Volunteer opportunities would include: providing weekend meals for the homeless shelter (dinner), pantry help sorting, stocking items.</p>	Varies	<p>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/TSARedShieldYouthCenter</p> <p>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/TSACrisisHelpCenter</p>
9.	Adult Life Programs	<p>Three centers in Catawba County provide daycare for older and/or disabled adults. There are unlimited opportunities for interested individuals to volunteer.</p>	Monday – Friday between the hours of 10 am – 2 pm (Can host Saturday volunteers).	<p>Interested volunteers should call 828-326-9120 to discuss options or visit</p> <p>https://www.adultlifeprograms.com/</p>
10.	The Corner Table: Community Kitchen In Newton and Backpack Program.	<p>There are opportunities include helping on cook teams, serving guest during lunch service, pack meal bags for local students for the Backpack program, stockroom helper, delivery driver for food donations, making Friday to-go bags.</p> <p>The Corner Table: Community Kitchen, helping on cook teams, serving guest during lunch service.</p> <p>Backpack Program – Packing food bags for students. Days/Times vary.</p>	Varies	<p>Contact:</p> <p>For Community Kitchen contact Allison Watson at awatson@thecornertable.org or call 828-464-0355 ext. 101.</p> <p>For Backpack Program contact Aundrea Hawn at backpack@thecornertable.org or call 828-464-0355 ext. 104.</p> <p>https://www.thecornertable.org/</p>
11.	Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry	<p>The agency provides and coordinates services for the uninsured, individuals and families facing crisis, living in poverty and/or experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Volunteers needed to help with client services: answer phones, data entry, assist in lobby. The medical clinic needs volunteers to help with greeting/screening patients, clerical/data entry and other duties related to the pharmacy.</p>	Varies	<p>Learn more by calling 828-323-7904 or visiting https://ccmhickory.org/volunteer/.</p>

12.	Ashure Ministry in Newton	The agency offers help with rent, mortgage, utilities, and necessary medication for those who need it. They also offer a food pantry with canned and dry goods. Needs: Thrift Store - sorters, stocking volunteers, cashiers; Food pantry - pantry door worker to greet the clients in the food line, groceries bagger and grocery store driver.	Varies	Visit: https://ashureministry.org/volunteer Or call 828-465-1702 ext.123 about the Thrift Store Or 828-465-1702 about Food Pantry.
13.	Women's Resource Center	The agency also offers life-enriching workshops and events for women regardless of their station in life. WRC is seeking long-term volunteers to assist with the front desk, packing pantries and assisting with community events.	Varies	Email communitysupport@wrchickory.org or call 828-322-6333 for more information.
14.	Council On Adolescents	Mentoring volunteers needed – The Lunch Buddy Program is a mentoring initiative implemented in middle schools in Catawba County School, Hickory Public Schools, and Newton-Conover City Schools.	Varies	Learn more - call Bunny Eaton at 828-322-4591 or email BEaton@coacatawba.org or visit https://coacatawba.org/lunch-buddy .
15.	Highways And Hedges	Highways and Hedges needs volunteers to deliver clothes, small household goods – no appliances.	Varies	Call or text 828-781-8095
16.	DSS Senior Nutrition Services – Meals on Wheels	Volunteers pick up meals from one of our locations and deliver the meals to seniors' homes. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old, complete an application, provide references, and pass a criminal background check. Meals on wheels also operates a pen pal program for clients.	Monday through Thursday. Volunteers deliver just one day per month for up to 1.5 hours.	Learn more at http://www.catawbacountync.gov/county-services/social-services/senior-nutrition-services/volunteer/ or call 828-695-5610
17.	Safe Harbor	The Community Center is a walk-in center for individuals experiencing homelessness (women/children). It meets essential needs (showers, laundry, food) and provides case management, referrals, classes, support groups and transitional housing programs for women and women with children. Resource Warehouse thrift store provides funding for our programs along with job training/experience.	Varies	To learn about volunteer opportunities visit: https://safeharbornc.org/ways-to-get-involved/volunteer/
18.	Strong Life Ministries	The Strong Life Rescue Mission serves individuals who are homeless in the Catawba County area. Volunteers are needed to: organize clothes closet, give haircuts, mow lawn, clean facility, facilitate a Bible study, receptionist.	Varies	For more information visit https://www.stronglifenc.org/ or email stronglifenc@gmail.com or call 828-994-4321.

19.	Habitat for Humanity	They welcome individual and group volunteers. Habitat Repairs volunteers help with exterior projects. Volunteers are also needed at the ReStore Catawba Valley store to help sort and price incoming donations, arrange displays, and run the cash register. Habitat cannot offer certified hours for court mandated community service at this time.	New Construction program accepts volunteers on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 8am – 12 pm Store volunteers Tuesday – Saturday, with both morning and afternoon shifts available.	More information, call: 828-328-4663 or email melissa@habitatcatawbavalley.org
20.	Family Care Center	The agency serves homeless families with dependent children through an emergency and transitional residential program.	Varies	Call 828-324-9917 and ask about current or upcoming volunteer opportunities.
21.	Corinth Church – HOPE Garden	The food grown and harvested goes to Hickory Soup Kitchen and PACE. People of all ages are welcome. No experience needed	Work at the community garden every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays, 8:30-10:30am.	For more information, call Christine S Cofer at 828-312-8298 or Lou McGuth at 910-262-0885 email cchope2012@gmail.com
22.	Cooperative Extension	Volunteer opportunities include being a 4-H Club Leader or volunteering within the 4-H/youth programs. Teen volunteer opportunities through 4-H and Catawba County Youth Council. Master Gardener volunteers training with Extension and then are involved in gardening volunteer activities throughout the county or volunteering in the Extension office assisting with gardening questions. Individuals interested in food insecurity and local foods, can volunteer with the Donation Station Table. Restrictions - volunteers working with youth need to complete a volunteer online enrollment that includes references and background check.	Flexible	Info: Cooperative Extension Office - 828-465-8240 https://catawba.ces.ncsu.edu 4-H/Youth Volunteer Roles - Lisa Ortiz, 4-H Agent, lortiz2@ncsu.edu Master Gardener - Jake Haynes, jehaynes@ncsu.edu Donation Station - Donna Mull, Extension Dir., dhmull@ncsu.edu