

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERISM

## Poor and Homeless

- **Agape Food Bank:**
  - *Description:* Food distribution warehouse for over 200 non-profit agencies within the community.
  - *Contact:* Katrina Pelham at 863-665-7074
- **Anchor House ministries:**
  - *Description:* Provides care to young boys 10-17, a place to stay, go to school, and counseling.
  - *Contact:* 863-665-1916
- **Florida Baptist Children's Home**
  - *Description:* Provides housing for young children, and shows children that someone loves them and that God loves them too.
  - *Contact:* Lakeland Residence, 941-687-8811
- **Lakeland Housing Authority:**
  - *Description:* provides affordable housing to the Lakeland and Polk County community through public housing and section 8 programs
  - *Contact:* Jamie Barreto, 863-687-2911
- **Light House Ministries:**
  - *Description:* Shelter and care for homeless, victims of domestic violence
  - *Contact:* Linda Robinette, 863-687-4076
- **Salvation Army:**
  - *Description:* Halo, Kettle campaign, homeless shelters, disaster relief, TLC, Soup Kitchen, tutoring, and outreach canteen are a few events that the Salvation Army Provides for the community.
  - *Contact:* Cynthia Kinny, 863-853-2214
- **SHARE:**
  - *Description:* Self help and resource exchange
  - *Contact:* Marissa Acosta, 813-248-3379 or 1800-536-3379
- **Talbot House Ministries:**
  - *Description:* Helps out people who are in need
  - *Contact:* Talbot House, 863-687-8475
- **Farmworkers Ministry:**
  - *Description:* Provides food and tutoring for migrant workers and their families
  - *Contact:* Sandi Thivierge, 863-604-3952, rnsandi@tampabay.rr.com

## Justice

- **Department of Juvenile Justice:**
  - *Description:* This is an opportunity to work in the juvenile justice and/or one-on-one.
  - *Contact:* Nick LeFrancois, 863-534-0231

- **Lakeland Police Department:**
  - *Description:* Help with crime prevention and community policing efforts.
  - *Contact:* Officer Sam Sostre, 863-603-6369

## Special Projects

- **City of Lakeland, Lakes and Stormwater:**
  - *Description:* Adopt-a-Lake, and lake clean ups
  - *Contact:* Cindy Hill, 863-834-8429
- **Explorations V children's Museum**
  - *Description:* Provides children with hands-on activities to have a fun learning experience with their families.
  - *Contact:* Sue Schluender, 863-587-3869
- **Geico:**
  - *Description:* Support our troops. "Send a Card" to injured member of the US military.
  - *Contact:* Christine Franklin, 863-619-4448
- **Girl Scouts:**
  - *Description:* Lead girls throughout different situations
  - *Contact:* Toni Jones, 863-688-7648
- **Habitat for Humanity:**
  - *Description:* A non-profit, ecumenical Christina housing ministry, which seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness.
  - *Contact:* Barbara Mitchell, 863-687-2475
- **Polk County Historical Venues:**
  - *Description:* offers people a look at what Polk County used to be pre-1926.
  - *Contact:* Jennifer Cullimore, 863-534-4386
- **Polk Museum of Art**
  - *Description:* Holds all of Polk County's special art work, offers programs and tours for children and families.
  - *Contact:* Main Office, 863-688-7743
- **Polk Theater:**
  - *Description:* A non-profit organization owns this theater.
  - *Contact:* Polk Theater, 813-682-8227
- **SPCA:**
  - *Description:* Provides animals with shelter, low cost spay and neutering, pet adoptions, foster home program, humane educations, lost & found, and the guardian angel program.
  - *Contact:* Main Office, 863-646-7722
- **Sun n' Fun**
  - *Description:* Help out with Sun n' Fun Fly-In
  - *Contact:* Robin McFarland, 863-644-2431

## Substance

- **Drug Prevention Resources Center:**

- *Description:* Outreach programs for adults and youth. They sponsor community programs like red ribbon campaign, literature and awareness and many other courses.
- *Contact:* Billie Martino, 863-802-0777

- **MADD:**

- *Description:* The mission is to stop drunk driving, support victims of this violent crime, prevent underage drinking, and promote community awareness.
- *Contact:* Shirley Sharp, 863-665-8685

## Special Needs

- **Best Buddies:**

- *Description:* A college based volunteer program designed to promote friendship between college students and person with disabilities.
- *Contact:* Whitney Lear, 941-209-0493

- **Central Florida Autism Institute, INC**

- *Description:* Non-profit organization supporting families, providing autism awareness in local community, providing direct instruction parent training.
- *Contact:* [info@cfaii.org](mailto:info@cfaii.org) or 863-680-1396

- **Central Florida Deaf Services:**

- *Description:* help with deaf communications
- *Contact:* Main office, 863-606-0800

- **Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center:**

- *Description:* This is a full service center, which provides service from birth to 100 in speech and audiology.
- *Contact:* Dawn Count, 863-686-3189

- **Noah's Ark of Central Florida:**

- *Description:* Noah's Ark is a non-profit organization for adults with developmental disabilities.
- *Contact:* Sue Patterson, 863-529-6694

## Women's Issues

- **A New Creation:**

- *Description:* This program provides pregnancy test, counseling, and makes available information on community resources.
- *Contact:* Diane Smith, 863-683-2341

- **A Women's Choice:**
  - *Description:* Crisis pregnancy medical program for women. Free pregnancy testing, free ultra sound, education about adoption, abortions, and abstinence. Pro-life counseling and post-abortion counseling.
  - *Contact:* Donna Davis or Krista Yurchak, 863-683-2341
- **Peace River Center:**
  - *Description:* Provides free and confidential services to victims of rape and their families, including immediate crisis counseling for victims, ongoing counseling, support groups, 24- hr hotline and exec.
  - *Contact:* Candace Barnes, 363-413-2703

## Education

- **Achievement Academy:**
  - *Description:* A pre-kindergarten program is designed to let our children with special needs continue to learn and develop in a setting that ensures their success.
  - *Contact:* Stacey Williams, 863-683-6504 or Stacey@achievementacademy.com
- **AmeriCorps:**
  - *Description:* K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading tutoring programs, located at seven school sites around Polk County.
  - *Contact:* Vicki Ginda, 863-519-8638
- **Big Brother and Big Sisters:**
  - *Description:* Volunteers serve as mentors to kids playing games, walking a dog, going to the movies, shopping, or just hanging out together.
  - *Contact:* Lori Briggs, 888-293-2535 ex202 or www.bbbsfl.org
- **Blake Academy**
  - *Description:* Academy mentoring of 1st and 2nd grade students who are struggling in reading. Everything is planned and prepared for the mentor and student.
  - *Contact:* Andrea Beckley, 863-413-2665
- **Boy Scouts of America:**
  - *Description:* The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes in them values of Scout Oath and Law.
  - *Contact:* Main office in Tampa, 813-872-2691
- **Boys and Girl Club of America:**
  - *Description:* Offers a place where children can go to develop a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging ,and influence
  - *Contact:* John Sanders, 863-686-0721
- **Camp Fire USA:**
  - *Contact:* Scott Murrell, 863-688-5491
- **East Area Adult School:**
  - *Description:* Adult education GED/ABE and ESOL programs
  - *Contact:* Hilda Ringlye, 863-965-5475

- **First Presbyterian Church of Lakeland:**
  - *Description:* Offers a place where people can go for guidance and help.
  - *Contact:* Main office, 863-686-7187
- **First United Methodist Church:**
  - *Description:* Offers families' adult programs care giving ministries Christian unity counseling and other various programs.
  - *Contact:* Administrative Office, 863-686-3163
- **Girls Incorporated:**
  - *Description:* Helps girls enhance reliance and life planning skills.
  - *Contact:* Administrative offices, 863-682-3002
- **Grace Lutheran:**
  - *Description:* A festival where parents can bring their kids to have a good safe time for Halloween.
  - *Contact:* Grace Lutheran Church
- **Junior Achievement:**
  - *Description:* Provides children with a positive role model and helps illustrate ways to build self-confidence.
  - *Contact:* Monica McNerney, 813-631-1410
- **Lakeland Family YMCA:**
  - *Description:* Helps mentor children
  - *Contact:* Cindy Carson, 863-644-3528
- **Learning Resource Center:**
  - *Description:* United way-nonprofit educational agency providing programs to children-adults.
  - *Contact:* Pam Craven, 863-688-9477
- **Life Path Solutions:**
  - *Description:* Outreach after-school program.
  - *Contact:* Judy M. Lord, 863-808-6251
- **PACE**
  - *Description:* Alternative school for at-risk girls that focus on individual counseling as well as education.
  - *Contact:* Leah Availan, 863-688-5596
- **Parker Street Ministries:**
  - *Description:* Faith-based ministries that provide an academic enrichment program for K-8 students and a monthly community dinner and holiday events.
  - *Contact:* Christina Allen, 863-286-4376
- **Police Athletic League:**
  - *Description:* Competitive Leagues, after school tutoring and summer programs are offered in this program.
  - *Contact:* Captain Randy Harrison, 863-834-8961
- **Polk's Center for Adult Literacy:**
  - *Description:* Helps adult Polk County women and men learn how to read.
  - *Contact:* Main Office, 941-965-5592
- **READ Lakeland:**
  - *Description:* Designed to help adults learn to read or read well.
  - *Contact:* Lakeland Public Library, 941-858-6745

- **Take Stock in Children:**
  - *Description:* Provides help for low-income families to get scholarships for their child's college funds.
  - *Contact:* Dick Mullenax, 863-534-0519
- **Toys for Tots**
  - *Description:* Provides toys to children on Christmas.
  - *Contact:* Claire Chambers, 863-859-3770
- **United Way/Family Fundamentals:**
  - *Description:* Events for pre-school children.
  - *Contact:* Shawana Butler, 863-686-1221 ex222
- **West Area Adult School:**
  - *Description:* Adult education for individuals who have either dropped out of school or who are learning English as a second language.
  - *Contact:* Gaye Ciesinki, 863-499-2835

## Senior Citizens

- **Faith in Action:**
  - *Description:* Consists of five elements: interfaith, volunteer, care giving, long-term health needs, and home based.
  - *Contact:* John Tutton, 863-686-7153
- **Florida Presbyterian Homes:**
  - *Description:* A non-profit organization, home for elderly, nurses available.
  - *Contact:* Samantha Barrett, 863-688-5521 ext. 124
- **Genesis Elder Care:**
  - *Description:* This is a hands-on opportunity to assist residents and staff. Long and short-term care, all ages 180 bed facilities and average stay is 7-10 days.
  - *Contact:* Bunny Pirdeaux, 863-519-7579
- **Polk County Association for Handicapped Citizens:**
  - *Description:* Serves 130 developmentally disabled adults.
  - *Contact:* Ashley Hall, 863-665-3846
- **Tandem Health Care at Lake Parker:**
  - *Description:* Helps the elderly with everything they need, including recreation events like Bingo, decorating, and cookouts.
  - *Contact:* Tina Branch, 863-680-7580
- **VISTE:**
  - *Description:* Helps the elderly continue to live independently in their own homes where they can maintain their independence, pride, self-esteem, and dignity.
  - *Contact:* Linda, 863-284-0828

## Health

- **American Cancer Society:**
  - *Description:* Many programs available to students.
  - *Contact:* Eunice Hutto, 863-688-2326

- **American Heart Association:**
  - *Description:* Helps people understand what heart problems are out there and puts on special meets like walking charities and speeches.
  - *Contact:* Main Office, 863-686-8424
- **American Red Cross of Polk County**
  - *Description:* disaster response and relief, health and safety training, and disaster preparations in education/public affairs.
  - *Contact:* Phil Attinger, 863-294-5941
- **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation:**
  - *Description:* The CF Foundation raises money for a cure through annual events such as Great Strides Walker, gold and fishing tournaments and Galas.
  - *Contact:* Sally Pool, 813-249-2111 or tampa-fl@cff.org
- **Lakeland Regional Medical Center:**
  - *Description:* Offers assistance to patients, visitors and staff in variety of areas and activities. Opportunity for musicians and choral groups to play in lobby and during holidays.
  - *Contact:* Peg O'Leary-Parsge, 863-687-1115
- **Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine**
  - *Description:* Provides primary health care to the working uninsured.
  - *Contact:* Claudia Jordan, 863-688-5846 ext. 118
- **Life Path Hospice:**
  - *Description:* Hospice volunteers are men and women who have sincere desire to help patients and their families. Patients have 12 months or less to live.
  - *Contact:* Christine Boring, 863-682-0027
- **PHHAE**
  - *Description:* Crisis Support, Education & Literacy, Gay Lesbian Bi & Trans, Medicine, and Homeless & Housing.
  - *Contact:* Lori Irwin, 863-644-2645
- **Polk County Health Dept.**
  - *Description:* Helps the community by meeting their health needs.
  - *Contact:* Main Clinic in Lakeland, 863-413-2620