

CREATED BY **NANCY MARKS**, TISCH/TUSDM COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR  
TUSDM, Dept. of Public Health and Community Service

## Community Service Overview and Virtual Opportunities

Community service is a moving target this year and yet, engaging in the community work, is more important than ever. This is a time for reimagining community engagement: thinking outside the box, becoming uber creative and remaining committed to the outcome.

### In this document:

- Overview Q&A
- A note about Boston Public Schools
- Virtual Volunteering: as part of a student organization group and/or as an individual
- Virtual Community Service Links (non-oral health)

### Overview: A few Questions and Answers

**What is community service like, as of Sept 2020:** All Community Service is virtual for the foreseeable future until TUSDM and our community partners establish safety measures moving forward.

**When can we do in-person community service:** Steps are being taken to put together a phased safety plan, which TUSDM's Dept. of Public Health will share with you when it's ready for primetime. We are working with a pilot site so we can learn: what risk mitigation efforts, PPE and contracts are necessary to have in place with our community partners to keep students and faculty advisors safe. When we start, it will be only oral health education (vs education and screenings).

**What's virtual community service:** Read the rest of this document and find out! Also, read the PDF manual Nancy Marks (Nanc) on Virtual Best Practices.

**What's happening with our community programs that provide oral health screenings (i.e. Service with a Smile):** Oral health screenings at community sites are on hold for now while TUSDM and the community partners work out safety issues.

**What's happening with our larger community events that take place at TUSDM (i.e. Give Kids a Smile and Autism Smiles):** These events are on hold for the 2020-2021 school year. However, work is happening to figure out how to best meet the needs of the pediatric population during the pandemic.

**Do I/we need to tell Nancy Nanc when I or my student organization volunteers are in the community even if that event is virtual:** Yes, please let Nanc, as well as your faculty advisor, know your plans before you start and share all relevant details.

**Do I/we need to fill out a documentation form:** Yes please... it is our only way of knowing what is going on in the community including virtual events, so connect with Nanc about this and/or fill out a form.

## Community Service and the Boston Public School System

Many TUSDM students are interested in working with kids in BPS one way or another. This is great. As some may know, most students are starting virtually on Sept. 21, 2020 but what education and the virtual classroom will look like is still (sadly) very much a work in progress.

### Classroom Support and Tutoring

**Classroom support** means going online when class is in session and helping a teacher with a particular subject (such as reading) and going into a breakout room with one or two students and helping them with a particular assignment in real time---it can be very helpful for a teacher to have people available to do this each week.

**Tutoring** is afterschool and is usually for homework support.

Prof Dolan and Nanc are working to establish some ongoing ways for students who want to either do support classroom work and/or tutor. These include:

- Reaching out to JQS Elementary, Middle and Upper School (in Chinatown) principals and lead teachers to assess need;
- Reaching out to the Lee School (Dorchester) principal and lead teachers to assess need;
- Working with Priyanka Kumar D22, who is pulling together students who want to tutor so there is a way to easily match tutors with need (note: this will be launched once we have a better sense of school needs)

**\*\*\*Note: Please refer to the Nanc's Community Service and Engagement: Best Practices for Leading Activities Remotely to understand how to best support students using remote learning.**

### Virtual Community Service: Oral Health Education

There are two ways to do this virtually: online workshops or create videos which we share with community partners and in the schools.

**Why Videos:** They can be shared easily; they can be fun to make; they give a teacher or any group conveyer a break from presenting; they are asynchronistic; they can be paired with a 'live workshop', etc. In addition to this reasons, there is also zoom fatigue—esp with kids...so educational videos is more passive so in this way, gives them a break too.

- **If you or your group would like to make a video, contact Nanc to discuss.** Think about: age range for your video, topic, literacy level, language, etc.

**Why Workshops:** More in depth; teaching in real time so you can answer questions; develops on-going relationships, etc. There are lots of fun creative ideas out there! Please refer to the Community Service and Engagement Best Practice document for ideas. Once we have good workshops and videos, they will go up on Dental Central (with the permission of the creators) to support other's efforts.

**\*\*Note all workshops and videos must be approved by the Dept. of Public Health faculty for content and process before going out into the field.**

## Community Service as part of a Student Organization

Many student groups are ready to rock and roll with community service. Please note if you have already started any virtual community service this year, you must send details to Nanc!

Whether you are approaching a new group or if you are a group that already has a relationship with a community partner (i.e. YMCA, Immigrant Center, St. Francis House, etc.), here are some suggestions for moving forward:

- Contact community partner to see what their current needs are—dig deep so really know what they and the population the work with need and how they can best learn. You are there to meet their needs first.
- Engage them! You can tell them what you can bring but then ask them questions about the group so you know who will be joining in.
- Figure out what can be done online and what needs to wait to be done in person
- Look at what you did last year and see if you can turn into an interesting online workshop—i.e. *Rethink your Drink* poster could be turned into a virtual activity pretty well if you wanted to still use that activity.
- Be mindful how what worked last year may not work this year. Covid has led to a lot of pain and loss. Be aware of this and understand that some people have or still are experiencing real trauma
- How to work community partners: Ask. Listen. Offer. Deliver. Assess.
- Leave yourself time to prepare!
- Check out the Dental Central to see if we have materials you can use in your sessions
- Still want to give out toothbrushes etc and goodie bags even while teaching virtually? Contact Nanc to coordinate!

## Still looking for other ideas?

Be creative!

### **Raise money and Bring your community/friends together virtually for local charities**

- Choose a charity that needs support: Create a challenge—such as, how many pushups can you do in 90 seconds...Ask folks to pledge an amount per push up! Set a date and time for folks to do the activity from home. And then let the games begin! People report in how many—or you can do them live on Zoom. Collect the money via Venmo and then send in one check!
- Get a Zoom account: ask invite 10 friends to a sing-a-long from home. Collect a certain amount of money via Venmo (\$10 – \$20?) for a particular charity. Set a time, send out a song list with lyrics and have a great time!

## Volunteering as an individual

Not everyone wants to work in a group. And that's perfectly fine! Figure out what you are interested in and look at the opportunities presented in this packet.

### What's your niche?

First, think about what it is that you can offer others. Can you provide that skill across the web? The way your talents translate virtually may surprise you. For example, do you know how to build or update a website? Are you fluent in the language of computer coding or programming? Lend your skills to a nonprofit, effort or charity doing work you believe in.

Are you a grammar whiz or love to write? Foundations and nonprofits are always trying to get the word out about their mission and their work. Offer to help with outreach to potential donors, fundraising or grant writing and editing. Or help the organization keep a blog or social media feeds updated. The list goes on! Who are you?

### Consider your passion

Once you have a good feel for what it is you can offer, ask yourself what you're most passionate about—and then what organizations can benefit most from your skills. What's convenient about being a virtual volunteer is every organization across the world is at your fingertips. No matter your abilities, you're bound to find one with the mission—and needs—perfectly suited for you.

**The world is your volunteering oyster!**

## Virtual Community Service (non-oral health) Links and Opportunities



These links have not been vetted or organized in any particular way. If you or your student organization are interested, *please*

- Review the opportunity carefully
- Please let Nancy Marks know that you are moving ahead with an opportunity and discuss how to document your contributions

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, GIVE A SHOUT: [NANCY.MARKS@TUFTS.EDU](mailto:NANCY.MARKS@TUFTS.EDU)

### Find local partners to help virtually until you can go in person:

- [Boston Cares](#)
- [Meals on Wheels](#)
- [Make to Give – Protective Face Masks](#)
- [Taproot](#)
- [Volunteer Match Boston](#)
- [Createthegood.aarp.org](#)
- [Building Impact](#)

## Virtual Opps to check out:

- **Record audiobooks:** [LibriVox](#)
- Volunteers sign up to send a weekly note or small gift to someone undergoing **chemotherapy:** [Chemo Angels](#)
- **Transcription Opportunities:** [Smithsonian Institute](#); [Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team](#), [TechSoup Global](#), [Zooniverse](#)
- **Mentoring Opportunities:** [Upchieve](#), [Business Council for Peace Inc.](#), [CareerVillage](#), [icouldbe.org](#)
- **Elder support:** [TimeSlips](#), [Love for the Elderly](#), [Family Eldercare Inc](#)
- **Translating:** [Tarjimly](#), [Translators Without Borders](#)
- **Crisis intervention:** [Crisis Text Line](#), [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#), [Become a Crisis Counsellor](#), [The Trevor Project](#)
- **Proofread** Project Gutenberg's digitized books: [Distributed Proofreaders](#)
- **AllForGood.org:** Points of Light's digital hub for volunteerism and community engagement pulls data from many sources to provide the most comprehensive database of volunteer opportunities in the world.
- **Catchafire – Skills-Based Volunteer Matching:** A community of individuals seeking to support and strengthen the social good sector. Matches professionals who want to donate their time and talent with nonprofits who need those skills.
- **Hire Heroes USA:** Service opportunities to support veterans and their families.
- **GivingWay**
- **Amnesty International Decoders**
- **UNV Online Volunteering** is a service by United Nations Volunteers that connects individual volunteers with organizations working for sustainable human development around the world.
- **Volunteer Match** links volunteers to virtual opportunities both in nearby communities and across the globe.
- **Idealist.org** is a great search tool for locating volunteer opportunities with a nonprofit focus—and you can search by location, focus area, schedule and more.
- **DoSomething.org** allows you to volunteer for any cause, from anywhere, at any time.