



VOLUNTEER MONTGOMERY

March 2026 Updates:

Dear Volunteer,

We are excited to welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Alex Howard! She joined us on Tuesday, February 17 and has already stepped into her new role with enthusiasm and positivity. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her pets and reading a great book.

Alex shared one of her favorite quotes with us:

“A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal.”

— Steve Maraboli

We are thrilled to have her here at Volunteer Montgomery. Please feel free to stop by the office and introduce yourself as she begins getting to know all of our wonderful volunteers.



Designer Handbags Needed

Volunteer Montgomery is making plans for a Designer Handbag Auction on May 2, 2026! In preparation for the event, we are seeking new and gently used designer purses whose original retail value exceeded \$100 for the auction. Handbags can be dropped off at the Volunteer Montgomery office during business hours—Monday through

Friday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

Please note, **any purses that show significant wear (rips, tears, stains, extensive fraying, etc.) or do not meet the \$100 retail value will not be accepted** for this particular event but can potentially be donated to MCEAP Thrift Store.

Your support will help ensure that we can continue to benefit community members in need. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Volunteer Montgomery office.

Program Updates:

March Supply Drive

Volunteer Montgomery & NRV CARES **SUPPLY DRIVE**

- Positive Affirmation Stickers
- Diamond Painting/Diamond Art Kits for Kids
- River rocks for painting
- Paint markers for rocks
- Bold and Easy Positive Affirmation Coloring Books
- Party Packs of fidget toys and mini slimes
- Party Packs Sensory toys
- Crayons and Colored Pencils
- Manila Envelopes (9x12" & 10x13")
- Cardstock
- #10 Envelopes
- Printer Paper
- Legal Pads
- Labels for Files
- Colorful Paper
- 1-inch binders

**All donations due
by March 31.**

Drop off items at the Volunteer Montgomery
office at 210 S. Pepper St., Suite D,
Christiansburg



You may also visit their Amazon Wish List at

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3M1ZPMJGM4058?ref=wl_share\[amazon.com\]](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3M1ZPMJGM4058?ref=wl_share[amazon.com]).

Your donation will help NRV CARES to deliver programming and support services to families in our communities. They will also be using the toys and stickers to gift to children at their upcoming Spring Family Fun Festivals. These festivals are free to families in our communities and will help connect kids and their families to community resources.



AFTERNOON TEA & DESIGNER HANDBAG AUCTION

Saturday, May 2 from 2-4 pm
at the Volunteer Montgomery Office

**A donation of \$10 per ticket is
required prior to the event**

over 10 designer bags to bid on

**\$10 credit will be offered
to all bid winners**

**Tickets will be available
starting on March 6**

call 540-382-5775 to rsvp



**VOLUNTEER
MONTGOMERY**

montva.com/volunteermontgomery



How to Sign Up for the Big Event at Virginia Tech

The Big Event will be held on **Saturday, April 11** and is a student-run day of service that has grown into the second largest event of its kind in the nation. Every spring, thousands of students, faculty, and staff come together to complete nearly 1,200 community service projects throughout Blacksburg, Christiansburg and the New River Valley with the purpose of saying Thank You. If you need help with general yard work, painting, cleaning, washing windows or minor repairs you must complete a form and mail it in or register online at [The Big Event Project Registration 2026](#). Email directorbe@vt.edu for more information. **The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 21st.**

February Collection for MCPS

Thank you to everyone that donated during our February collection. Your donations are the most requested items from the clients that are served.



Thank you for your support by donating **105 items** from our list of needs to support local families affected by recent fires.

Our gratitude goes to Sharon Brown, Bonnie Hawks, Mary Rose Adams, Rosemary Jones, Brenda Arnold, Jolene Rawlings, Shirley Thurston, Shirley Mullins, Whitney Beckett, Mandy Hayes, Carol Walters, Regina Howard, members of DEM at VT, and any others we may have missed during drop off for your generous donations!

Inclement Weather Policy

If Montgomery County Schools are closed, all scheduled activities will be cancelled. If schools are on a delayed schedule, regularly scheduled morning activities will be cancelled. For afternoon activities, a decision will be made by 12:00 noon, so volunteers should call the office to check on those activities. If you are signed up to help with a seasonal activity and schools are on a delayed schedule, please call 382-5775.

Montgomery County Government Closing Information

If Montgomery County Government offices close due to inclement weather, the Human Services Division/Volunteer Montgomery office is closed. Please call 540-394-2120 or visit www.montgomerycountyva.gov for updates.

Volunteer Opportunities:

VOLUNTEER MONTGOMERY EVENING EVENT

Join us on **March 10 from 6-8 PM** as we pack bags for the **NRVHBA Home Expo!**



Please **RSVP to attend**
by calling **540-382-5775**

210 S PEPPER ST, SUITE D
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA



Home Expo

The NRV Homebuilders Association Home Expo will be held during the weekend of March 21-22 at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. Volunteers are needed to stuff goody bags for the event this year, as well as **help at the entrance to hand out the bags during the weekend of the show.** The show times are the same (9-5 on Saturday and 12-5 on Sunday).



Montgomery County Broomin' & Bloomin'

Volunteers are needed to help during the materials pick-up dates at the Montgomery County Government Center, 755 Roanoke Street, Christiansburg.

Two volunteers are needed for each of the following time slots.

- Thursday, April 9, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, April 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Please call, text, or email the Volunteer Montgomery office to sign up!

Montgomery County Christmas Store

The Montgomery County Christmas Store is looking for a volunteer to serve as the Event Coordinator. The Event Coordinator is responsible for planning and participating in fundraising activities and events for the Christmas Store. They will work closely with the Fundraising Coordinator to plan the activities. Responsibilities also include the promotion

of activities and events through email and social media as well as serving on the Board of the Christmas Store which meets monthly.

If you are interested in learning more about this role or giving it a try, please reach out to hannahmcox@gmail.com



NAMI NRV Steering Committee Position

Membership Coordinator

- Serves as the point person for the affiliate's membership-related questions and needs
- Oversees enrollment of new members at events (such as at the annual NAMI NRV Walk)
- For memberships not completed online, collects the required info and fees and mails these to the NAMI VA office in Richmond
- Oversees membership list (360) for consistency/accuracy
- Sends welcome/thank you letters to new members (template)
- Sends yearly renewal notices (template)
- Sends a thank you to members who renew (template)
- Keeps the affiliate leader updated regarding membership information and any issues that may arise
- Attends quarterly steering committee meetings, providing a membership summary report
- Leads membership engagement efforts in collaboration with other volunteers as needed

In keeping with NAMI NRV's goal of mentorship, team building, and growth, we strive to have at least one volunteer who is not on the steering committee work with each committee member within their responsibility area.

A Message from Literacy Volunteers NRV

Literacy NRV announces drive to create GED testing space
Donations for new addition will create an accessible space for adult learners

Literacy NRV announced a new drive to create a more secure and accessible way for adult learners to take the GED test. The organization strives to offer customized GED testing at their learning center in Christiansburg, including flexibility with the date and time tests are taken. However, the space the testing currently takes place in is less than ideal.

"Right now, students coming to take the GED tests are put in an office that is right next to our main conference area, lobby, and workspaces," said Executive Director Lauren Ellis. "No matter how quiet we all try to be when students are testing, there is never a guarantee that a disruption will not occur. This can add to a student's nerves around the test, distract them, or otherwise cause them to feel uncomfortable with the process."

The plan, hatched Program Coordinator Linda Jilk and Ellis, is to close off a section of the existing large classroom to dedicate to testing. By bringing in reliable internet access, a cubicle wall, comfortable furnishings, and adjustable lighting to a farther corner of the building, an optimized testing environment can be created for adult learners to pass the test.

Right now, this particular area does not have reliable internet or furnishings. An Amazon wishlist has been created featuring items like a designated desktop computer, a flexible cubicle wall, flexible lighting, an ergonomic chair, and more. Monetary donations are also being accepted through LiteracyNRV.org [literacynrv.org] for hardwired internet access, covering testing fees, and supplying study guides and textbooks. The project is estimated to cost between \$1200-\$2000.

As a non-profit organization, LiteracyNRV's main funding sources are grants, foundations, and individual donors. "Right now, funding is particularly crucial. It's been a topsy-turvy couple of years and many of our tried and true revenue sources have minimized or completely vanished," according to Ellis. "We rely heavily on donations and are so grateful for every single gift, from the smallest to the largest. They all have an incredible impact on our ability to meet our students' needs and provide them access to education, and in turn provide them better access to participate in their communities."

"The creation of this space is a way to tell our students, 'Hey, we know life outside of here can be hectic, but when you're here, we've got you,'" said Ellis. "By making it comfortable, clean, and a little bit more removed, students can have privacy and security as they work hard on their dreams." ' "

For more information about how to donate, get involved as a volunteer, or any other inquiries, please reach out to info@lvnrv.org.

NRV Agency on Aging – Christiansburg Friendship Café

Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays from 10 am to 12:30 pm to help participants with activities, help with food preparation, etc. at the Café which is located inside the Christiansburg Recreation Center, 1600 N Franklin Street, Christiansburg. For more information, contact the Volunteer Montgomery office.

A Message from Project Linus

Project Linus Blanket Day

Help Make Blankets For Children in the New River Valley!

WHEN:

Saturday, March 21, 2026

9:00 am until 3:00 pm

WHERE:

Grove United Methodist Church

1020 Tyler Ave, Radford, VA 24141

ACTIVITIES:

Drop off completed blankets

Make new blankets

(some fabric provided and you are welcome to bring your own)

Sew tags on completed blankets

Work on your own blanket that you've already started for Project Linus

* Fleece blankets require 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 yards of fleece in child-friendly prints –

we appreciate donations of fleece at all times!

* Sewing machines available for use

A light lunch will be available.

NRV-Radford Project Linus accepts **new**:

handmade quilts, blankets, crochet and knit afghans. No wool yarn allowed.

Fleece blankets must be **single-layer** without knots.

Pattern available on our website:

www.nrvprojectlinus.org

Please contact coordinator Penny Sweet for additional information:

Cell: (540) 230-6209

E-mail: nrvprojectlinus@gmail.com

We accept the following donations:

- **Puzzle Books for Veterans.** The books will serve as bingo prizes during our bi-monthly visit to the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement.
- **Stamps for the Wounded** – please leave at least a quarter-inch margin of paper around used postage stamps you tear off envelopes or packages.
- Gently-Used Paperback Books and DVDs for **Operation Paperback.** We have a container for these items inside the volunteer office.
- Eyeglasses for the **Lions Club**
- Aluminum tabs for the **Ronald McDonald House**
- Bud vases for our annual **Flowers for Veterans** program
- **Birthday in a Box** – Needed items include birthday cake mix, cake icing, toys and books for children of all ages (\$10 and under), birthday bags, and tissue paper.
- Travel-Sized Hygiene Items for the New River Valley Community Services (NRVCS) **401 Peer Center**

Volunteer Montgomery - Cards, Stamps, & Butterfly Hugs (CSB)

This event will be held from 9 am to 12 pm at the Volunteer Montgomery office on the **2nd and 4th Monday in March.**

The following activities are scheduled in **March** and we will provide transportation for volunteers to Salem. Contact the office for more details.

- | | | |
|--|----------|---------|
| • English Meadows – Tea Party | March 16 | 2 pm |
| • Davis & McDaniel Veterans Care Center – Birthday Party | March 17 | 2:30 pm |
| • Kroontje – Birthday Party | March 18 | 3 pm |
| • English Meadows – Birthday Party | March 23 | 2 pm |
| • Commonwealth Senior Living – Party | March 26 | 3 pm |

Volunteer Information:

Volunteer Hour Sheets



You can submit volunteer hours by mail, email or by visiting <https://forms.montva.com/Forms/volunteer-hours> . If you use this link, your volunteer time will be emailed to staff.

Please let us know if you would like a paper copy or a fillable form to save to your tablet or PC.

Importance of Reporting Volunteer Hours

It has been brought to our attention that many of you don't report all of your volunteer hours because you don't want to boast or brag about the service you provide. **Here at Volunteer Montgomery, our program thrives and EXISTS because of your service hours to our community!** Please remember that we are generously funded by the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors because of all of the reports we send about projects and hours that our volunteers provide each year. If you have any questions about how to report your hours each month, please contact a member of our team at volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME 	9 CSB GROUP 9 AM - 12 PM	10 VOLUNTEER MONTGOMERY EVENING EVENT 6 - 8 PM	11	12 ADVISORY COUNCIL 11:30 AM	13	14
15 	16 FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE 10AM ENGLISH MEADOWS TEA PARTY 2PM	17  DAVIS & MCDANIEL VETERANS CARE CENTER 2:30PM (LEAVE AT 2:30PM)	18 KROONTJE HEALTH CARE CENTER 3 PM	19	20	21  HOME EXPO AT CBURG REC CENTER 9AM-5PM PROJECT LINUS GROVE UMC RADFORD 9AM-3PM
22 HOME EXPO AT CBURG REC CENTER 12PM-5PM	23 CSB GROUP 9AM-12PM ENGLISH MEADOWS BIRTHDAY PARTY 2PM	24	25	26 MARKETING COMMITTEE 11AM COMMONWEALTH SENIOR LIVING 3PM	27	28
29  <i>Palm Sunday</i>	30	31				

210 S. Pepper St Suite D
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Office: (540) 382-5775
Cell: (540) 239-1088
Email: volunteermontgomery@montgomerycountyva.gov


VolunteerMontgomeryVA

March Birthdays:

Sophie Sequeira 3/1
Jane Okeeffe 3/1
Curtis Cox 3/1
Jeannie Cloe 3/2
Garnet Mays 3/2
Deborah Hawke Spencer 3/3
Esther V. Brann 3/5
Sue A. Tysor 3/5
Sandra Wimmer 3/5

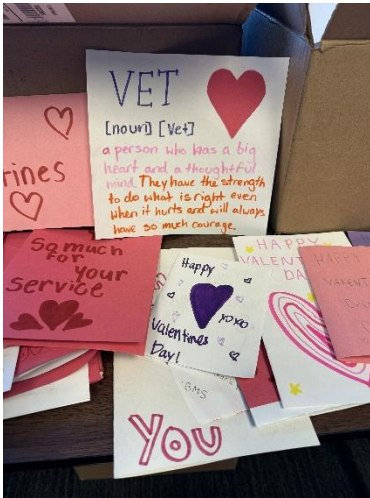


Happy Birthday!

from your friends at
Volunteer Montgomery

Miriam Rose McClure 3/8
Sharon Perdue 3/9
Joan Grayson 3/11
Rithik Avinash 3/11
James Marston 3/12
Karl Didier 3/14

Sydney Price	3/18	Laura Eanes	3/24	Mark 'Hiram' Curtis	3/28
Raleigh Brookshier	3/19	Claudia Pugh	3/25	Marilyn Rio	3/29
Asha Patel	3/19	Amy Webb	3/26	Thomas Patton	3/31
Regina Howard	3/20	McKenna Ramsey	3/27		
Jim Webster	3/22	Nicole Clements	3/28		
Claude Wimmer	3/22	Jason Pritchard	3/28		



Valentines for Veterans

Volunteers and groups from DEM from VT, COAST at Blacksburg Middle School, and Bible Study Group from Belmont Christian Church prepared and delivered 805 Valentine's Day cards to the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement and the Davis and McDaniel Veterans Care Center. Members of Roanoke Police Department assisted with delivery.



Thank you for all of the ways you serve our community!

In service,

Mandy Hayes

Senior Volunteer Coordinator

