



Volunteer Program FAQs

Can you describe the volunteer program at CRC?

CRC uses approximately 900-1,000 volunteers each year. A large number of them participate in our Holiday Baskets program in December, our USPS Postal Food Drive in May, and our various fundraising events. Volunteers also provide consistent support in our Food Pantry, at our Resale Stores, and with other administrative work as needed. Our Board of Directors is comprised of volunteers as are our various planning committees.

Do you need many new volunteers at CRC?

CRC has a very committed and large volunteer base of nearly 2,000 people. Because of that, we do not often have opportunities that we need to share with the general public. However, we value new partnerships and the energy, creativity and compassion a new volunteer can bring! We try to give as many new applicants as possible the opportunity to join our team. Usually, opportunities for new volunteers are with one of our three Resale (Thrift) Stores located in Encinitas, Carlsbad and San Marcos.

What happens after I submit an application?

It takes 1-2 weeks to process an application. At that time, you will receive an email from the Volunteer Manager outlining the current opportunities and next steps. This may include an informational interview with them, or with a program manager (such as the Resale Store managers) depending on the opportunity you are applying for. Some opportunities also will require a background check (such as Interns and those working with cash registers or with client information). Once you have met with staff, and it is determined that you will come on as a volunteer, you will be provided with a volunteer handbook and your supervising staff person will ensure you receive the training you need to succeed. We ask that volunteers keep track of ALL volunteer hours, as they are used for reporting and grant compliance purposes.

Do you use volunteers in your Domestic Violence Programs or Counseling Department?

Due to confidentiality and the nature of our work with clients, we do not use volunteers in those areas at this time. We do have an Intern program but that is run through partner universities such as UC San Marcos.

How can I volunteer in the Food Pantry?

Unfortunately, we have very few new openings in our Food and Nutrition Center. We ask for a commitment from those volunteers of at least 6 months, as extensive food safety training is required. They also work with our clients and consistency helps to promote the dignity of service that we strive to provide. We are looking at ways to expand service in the Food Pantry

over the course of the next several years, which may open up more opportunities to volunteer both on a regular basis and a rotating/one-time basis.

Do you provide Community Service hours for Court-Mandated and School-Mandated Volunteer Work?

We do! Our Resale Stores are a great way to complete community service. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and can provide signed letters to school and court as needed. Court-ordered volunteers must provide ID and their court paperwork with their application. We cannot provide hours for infractions of theft or violence.