



Chemung County Volunteer Opportunity Guide

Last updated on 11/18/2025

Cornell Cooperative Extension | **Chemung County**

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Help us keep this guide up to date!

**Submit suggested edits to jds77@cornell.edu or call
607-734-4453 ext. 216.**

Volunteerism Matters!

Volunteers serve essential roles in the community landscape. Their service helps to meet needs that would be unattainable without them. Independent Sector estimates the economic value of a volunteer hour to be \$34.79. This figure is calculated using a national formula that estimates the cost of replacing that volunteer labor with paid staff. Volunteers contribute time and labor to organizations while helping to shape the missions, values, and quality of services provided. This guide is designed to help adults of any age or ability learn about the many opportunities to be of service in Chemung County. Information does change quickly, so we will be updating this guide continuously as we receive new information. Youth looking for service opportunities can connect with their schools and youth service organizations as well as the organizations listed in this guide.

Volunteers themselves also benefit from their service. Research has shown that volunteers can experience reduced stress, increased happiness, greater confidence and a sense of purpose. (nami.org) Volunteers often share with us that they value the social connections that they've made in the course of their service whether it be connecting with like-minded individuals or interactions with people they never would have met otherwise. Volunteering can also be a way to learn new skills and explore new ideas through doing.

Whatever your reason for embarking on this journey, we hope that this guide helps you find your way to a fulfilling, meaningful volunteer experience.

Organizations A to Z

Alzheimer's Association

Millions of Americans are impacted by Alzheimer's disease, many in our own community, and you can do something to help by becoming an Alzheimer's Association volunteer. Our ability to reach and support those affected depends on people like you who are dedicated to the fight against this disease.

Volunteer Roles: helping community members find programs and services, teaching caregivers about Alzheimer's, or creating a safe environment where people can share feelings and experiences.

Contact: Sue McMaster smcmaster@alz.org

Website: <https://www.alz.org/rochesterny/volunteers>

Care First NY

Provides specialized interdisciplinary support and care for those coping with serious illness, end of life, caregiving, mental health, and grief concerns. All services focus on quality of life through treating the whole person, including their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual symptoms.

Volunteer Roles: In-Home Companionship, Respite, Phone Calls, Project Legacy, Delivery Assistance, Vigil Volunteers, Wellness Services, Pet Care

Contact: 607-962-3100, info@CareFirstNY.org

Website: <https://carefirstny.org/volunteer>

CASA of the Southern Tier, Inc.

Trains volunteers to advocate for abused and neglected children in family court. A CASA volunteer follows a child's case as it moves through the family court system, researching the case and learning everything they can about the child's special situation, and adds a voice for the child.

Volunteer Roles: Youth Advocate

Contact: (607) 936-2272

Website: <https://www.casasoutherntier.org/>

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler is committed to supporting and affirming the dignity of every person, fighting poverty, promoting wellness and self-sufficiency, and advocating for social justice.

Volunteers Roles: Pantry volunteer, Shelter dinner volunteer, Special events volunteer

Contact: Samantha Parsons, Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator, 607-317-5625, Samantha.Parsons@dor.org

Website: www.catholiccharitiescs.org,
www.catholiccharitiescs.volunteerhub.com

Social Media: www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesChemungandSchuyler

Catholic Charities Elmira Community Kitchen**Volunteer Roles:** Dining Room**Contact:** Kathy Dubel, Kathy.dubel@dor.org, (607) 317-5671**Catholic Charities Samaritan Center Food Pantry****Volunteer Roles:** Food Pantry Helpers**Contact:** Sadie Stewart, 607-317-5549, Sadie.stewart@dor.org**Website:** cs-cc.org**CDRC**

Fostering constructive responses to conflict.

Volunteer Roles: Mediator, Conflict Coach, Board Member**Contact:** Jeremy Cranmer, CDRC Program Director, 607-734-9087,
cranmer@cdrc.org**Website:** www.cdrc.org**Social Media:** <https://www.facebook.com/CDRCtalkworks/>**Chemung County Habitat for Humanity**

Bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Volunteer Roles: Habitat build site volunteers assist construction crew with various construction tasks, such as carpentry, painting, landscaping, etc. We build year-round and welcome volunteers of all skills and backgrounds.**Contact:** (607) 734-1361, ext 2info@chemungcountyhabitat.org**Website:** <https://www.chemungcountyhabitat.org/volunteer.html>**Social Media:**<https://www.facebook.com/ChemungCountyHabitatforHumanity>**Chemung County Historical Society**

415 East Water Street

Elmira, NY 14901

Volunteer Roles: Front Desk Attendant, curatorial, archival and educational assistants.**Contact:** 607-734-4167 cchs@chemungvalleymuseum.org**Chemung Valley Audubon Society**

Our mission is to conserve and restore the natural ecosystem within New York and the Southern Finger Lakes Region through education, conservation, policy, advocacy, and scientific investigation, with the goal of furthering the study, enjoyment, awareness, and protection of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

Volunteer Roles: Education, Conservation and Advocacy opportunities.**Contact:** cvaudubon@gmail.com**Website:** <https://cvaudubon.org/index.html>

Compeer

A community-based mentoring program offered at Family Services of Chemung County that uses the power of friendship to help adults and children with mental health challenges live happier and more productive lives through the support of caring community volunteers.

Volunteer Roles: Circle of Friends Mentors, PAL Mentors, Adult 1:1 volunteers

Contact: Shawn Stowe, Compeer Coordinator, 607-258-5879, sstowe@familyservices.cc

Website: <https://www.familyservicesofchemung.com/compeer>

Community Arts of Elmira

Community Center for creative expression through education classes, workshops, exhibitions, installations, events and public art with creative community partners.

Contact: 607-846-2418, info@communityartsofelmira.com

Website: <https://www.communityartsofelmira.com/index.php>

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chemung County

Cornell Cooperative Extension puts knowledge to work in pursuit of economic vitality, ecological sustainability and social well-being. We bring local experience and research-based solutions together, helping New York State families and communities thrive in our rapidly changing world.

Volunteer Roles: Master Gardener, Master Food Preserver, Bone Builders Instructor, CVAC Sewers & Knitters, 4-H Club Leader, Household Hazardous Waste Phone Operator, Ag. Literacy Reader, 4-H Public Presentation Evaluator

Contact: Jackie Spencer, 607-734-4453 ext. 216, jds77@cornell.edu

Website: <https://chemung.cce.cornell.edu/>

Social Media:

facebook.com/CornellCooperativeExtensionofChemungCounty

Eldridge Park Carousel Preservation Society

Works in partnership with the City of Elmira to maintain the midway and amusement attractions within the park.

Volunteer Roles: seasonal ride operation, gift shop, café, and landscaping.

Contact: director@eldridgepark.org

Webiste: <https://eldridgepark.org/new/>

Elmira Salvation Army Food Pantry

Volunteer Roles: Pantry Helpers

Contact: Amber, (607) 732-0314 ext. 4

Elmirans

A community band that plays for seniors. New members who play a musical instrument of any kind are always welcome.

Contact: Dan, (607) 795-0102, daneskesensr@hotmail.com or Mary, (607) 562-8749, mbchy@yahoo.com.

Elmira Garden Club

The aim of the club is to teach the art of gardening and its allied activities and to aid in conserving the natural flora and to cooperate in beautifying the public grounds.

Volunteer Roles: Club members engage in many community projects maintaining local gardens.

Contact: 607-796-2428, elmiragardenclub@aol.com

Faith in Action STNY

Faith in Action STNY is a coalition of civic groups and individuals formed to serve older adults (60+) in need, assisting them to continue living independently. Services are offered by compassionate volunteers.

Volunteer Roles: Transportation, Shopping, Respite Care, Friendly Visits, Telephone Reassurance, Minor Home Repairs, Light Housekeeping and Yard Work

Contact: Richard Russell, Executive Director, 607-324-1138 or 607-936-0941 Angela Jenkins, Office Manager, ajenkins@fiasteuben.org

Website: www.fiasteuben.org

Social Media: facebook.com/fiasteuben

Family Reading Partnership of the Chemung Valley

Provides books and literacy outreach programs to children and their families. Committed to fostering a community in which all people experience the joy of reading as part of everyday life.

Contact: 607-329-5675, familyreadingpartnership@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.familyreadingpartnership.org/>

Food Bank of the Southern Tier

Committed to creating a future without hunger where access to healthy food by all is recognized as fundamental to the well-being and success of individuals and the foundation of a strong, vibrant society.

Volunteer Roles: Sort & repack, Mobile food pantry, Kids' Farmers Market

Contact: 607-796-6061 ext. 4043

Website: <https://www.foodbankst.org/>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/foodbanksoutherntier/timeline/>
<https://x.com/FoodBankSTier>

Friends of the Chemung River Watershed

The community's connection for everything related to the beautiful Chemung River, its tributaries, and the trails and grounds surrounding the river. Works to educate the public on safe and fun recreation around the river, improving the quality of life in the Southern Tier, and helping the community to embrace its role in protecting our precious natural resources.

Volunteer Roles: communications, fundraising, help with educational events, hikes and clean ups, trail improvement, outreach

Contact: 607-846-2242, director@chemungriverfriends.org

Website: <https://www.chemungriverfriends.org/>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/ChemungRiver/>

Horseheads Cultural Center & Historical Society

Working together to preserve and promote the history of the Town of Horseheads.

Volunteer Roles: assist with research, tours, and other activities.

Contact: (607) 739-3938, horseheadshistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Website: <https://www.horseheadshistoricalsociety.com/>

John W. Jones Museum

The original home of Mr. John W. Jones, who escaped slavery and settled in Elmira, NY. The museum commemorates his life and work as an Underground Railroad Station Master who safely assisted approximately 800 fugitives' flight to Canada and was responsible for the dignified burial of nearly 3000 Confederate soldiers.

Contact: johnwjonesmuseum@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.johnwjonesmuseum.org/>

Katie Leary Community Gardens

Volunteer Roles: seasonal garden tending

Contact: James Letson, (607) 329-7875

Literacy Volunteers

Provide opportunities through literacy, but we do not just help individuals learn to read and write. We help them improve their lives and become better citizens.

Volunteer Roles: Tutors

Contact: Wendy Jackson, wjackson@cseop.org, (607) 734-6174

Meals on Wheels of Chemung County

Volunteer Roles: kitchen help, drivers, meal delivery

Contact: Katie Boland, (607) 734-9535

Neighborhood Transformation Center

An Elmira-based community center designed to provide programs and services to members of the community at large. NTC is a home for transformation, where individuals of all backgrounds find support for their physical, emotional, and social well-being, leading to the cultivation of stronger, more connected neighborhoods.

Volunteer Roles: cleaning, sorting or arranging, working with children in the after-school program or while their parents attend classes.

Contact: 607-846-3176, transformationcenterelmira@gmail.com

Website: <https://ntcelmira.org/>

Social Media: <https://www.instagram.com/transformationcenterelmira/>
<https://www.facebook.com/NeighborhoodTransformationCenter>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/neighborhoodtransformationcenter/posts/?feedView=all>

Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea Program

This program provides knitted goods for merchant marines who are away from home at Christmas. Vests, scarves, caps and ditty bags are just some of the items provided by volunteers.

Volunteer Roles: Knitter, Sewer

Contact: Susan Draht, 607-738-6511, sdraht@stny.rr.com

Website: <https://seamenschurch.org/programs-services/christmas-at-sea/>

Senior Notebook

A weekly television program broadcast on WENY-TV.

Volunteer Roles: camera tech, interviewers, creative planners and support staff.

Contact: (607) 737-5520, seniornotebook55@gmail.com.

Southport Historical Society

SHS dedicated to preserving the history of the Town of Southport, and educating residents, schools, businesses and community organizations concerning the Town of Southport, NY

Volunteer Roles: Event Planner, Tour Planner, Computer Input Assistant, Newsletter Assistant, File Organizing Assistant, Communications Assistant

Contact: Bonnie Balok, President Southport Historical Society, 607-742-2064, southportnyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Social Media: [facebook.com/SouthportNYHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/SouthportNYHistoricalSociety)

Southside Community Center of Elmira, NY

Provides year-round out of school-time childcare and programming including structured recreation, education, enrichment for school age youth Monday-Friday, including a nutritious snack and a warm dinner, completely free of charge.

Volunteer Roles: assist with K-6 afterschool and teen programs.

Contact: (607) 734-9245, Director@sccelmira.org

Website: <https://sccelmira.org/>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/ElmiraSCC/>
https://www.instagram.com/southside_community_center/

St. Joseph's Hospital

The mission is to partner with each person they serve in order to maximize their physical, emotional, social and spiritual health.

Volunteer Roles: staffing reception and information desks, visiting and advocating for patients, supporting terminally ill patients and their families, working in the gift shop and more.

Contact: 607-737-4100, alina.cuuino@arnothealth.org

Website: <https://www.arnothealth.org/st-josephs-hospital>

Social Media: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/arnot-health/>
<https://www.facebook.com/arnothealth/>

Tanglewood Nature Center

Two trail systems and an indoor museum are located in Elmira, NY. The mission is to lead and support educational and preservation efforts in the region to achieve a heightened awareness, understanding, and caring for our natural environment.

Volunteer Roles: education, cleaning, animal care, committee work

Contact: 607-732-6060, volunteer.tanglewood@gmail.com

Website: <https://tanglewoodnaturecenter.com/>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/tanglewoodnaturecenter/>
https://www.instagram.com/tanglewood_nature_center/

The Clemens Center

Performing arts center offering live productions for all ages.

Volunteer Roles: ticket validators, coat check attendants, concessions cashiers, bartenders, and theater ushers.

Contact: (607) 735-2776, volunteer@clemenscenter.org

Website: www.clemenscenter.org

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/ClemensCenter>
<https://www.instagram.com/clemenscenter/>

The Potter's Hands Foundation

A faith-based, non-profit 501c3 organization committed to serving survivors of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking as they work through the process of restoration and healing.

Volunteer Opportunities: direct care, teaching, assisting with the confection business.

Contact: stephanie@tphf.info

The Seth House

A local 501c3 working to restore the historic home of author Jane Roberts to become an open center for spiritual contemplation, healing and wellbeing.

Volunteer Roles: assist with restoration and programming

Contact:

Website: Visit www.TheSethHouse.org to learn more. Call 607) 735-2750 (or email info@thesethhouse.org).

Wings of Eagles Discovery Center

Volunteer Roles: Reception

Contact: David, (607) 481-0867

Public Libraries

Big Flats Library

78 Canal Street
Big Flats, NY 14814
607-562-3300

<https://www.chemunglibraries.org/hours-locations/big-flats>

Horseheads Free Library

405 S. Main Street
Horseheads, NY 14845
607-739-4581

<https://www.chemunglibraries.org/hours-locations/horseheads>

Steele Memorial Library

101 E. Church Street
Elmira, NY 14901
607-733-9173

<https://www.chemunglibraries.org/hours-locations/steele>

Supreme Court Law Library

203 Lake Street
#205
Elmira, NY 14901

<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/LIBRARY/6JD/chemung/index.shtml7-873-9443>

Van Etten Library

6 Gee Street
Van Etten, NY 14889
607-589-4453 ext. 3

<https://www.chemunglibraries.org/hours-locations/van-etten>

West Elmira Library

1231 W. Water Street
Elmira, NY 14905
607-733-0541

<https://www.chemunglibraries.org/hours-locations/west-elmira>

Fire Departments

Airport ARFF

276 Sing Sing Road
Suite 1
Horseheads, NY 14845
607-739-5621 ext. 231

Baldwin Fire Department

460 Breesport N. Chemung Road
Lowman, NY 14861
607-734-3068
<https://www.facebook.com/baldwinfd/>

Big Flats Fire Department

505 Maple Street
PO Box 28
Big Flats, NY 14814
607-562-3063
<http://www.bigflatsfd.org/>

Breesport Fire Department

3 Jackson Avenue
PO Box A
Breesport, NY 14816
607-739-5411

Chemung Fire Department

679 Main Street
PO Box 138
Chemung, NY 14825
607-529-3233
<https://www.chemungfire.com/>

City of Elmira Fire Department

101 W. 2nd Street
Elmira, NY 14901
607-737-5714
https://www.cityofelmira.net/?page_id=995

Elmira Heights Fire Department

215 Elmwood Avenue
Elmira Heights, NY 14903
607-733-6580
<https://www.facebook.com/elmiraheightsfire>

Erin Fire Department

1462 Breesport Road

PO Box 29

Erin, NY 14838

607-739-3419

<https://www.facebook.com/Erinvolunteerfiredeptartment/>

Golden Glow Fire Department

214 Hendy Creek Road

Pine City, NY 14871

607-734-4474

<https://www.facebook.com/GoldenGlowVolunteerFireCompany/>

Horseheads Fire Department

134 N. Main Street

Horseheads, NY 14845

607-739-3814

<https://www.horseheadsfid.org/>

Millport Fire Department

2016 Crescent Street

Millport, NY 14864

607-739-1030

<https://www.facebook.com/Millportfire?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Pine City Fire Department

1463 Pennsylvania Avenue

PO Box 72

Pine City, NY 14871

607-733-6941

<https://www.facebook.com/pinecityfiredept>

Southport Fire Department

1001 Carl Street

Elmira, NY 14904

607-733-7599

<https://southportfiredepartment.com/>

Thompkins Corners Fire Department

407 Sawdey Road

Horseheads, NY 14845

607-739-7415

<https://www.facebook.com/TompkinsCornersVolunteerFireCompany/>

Town & Country Fire Department

130 Gardner Road
Horseheads, NY 14845
607-739-7134

<https://www.townandcountryfd.com/>

Webbs Mills Fire Department

18 Firehouse Lane
Pine City, NY 14871
607-732-1028

<https://www.facebook.com/webbsmillsfire?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

Wellsburg Fire Department

147 Main Street
PO Box 23
Wellsburg, NY 14894
607-734-7628

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Wellsburg-Fire-Dept-100057122033898/>

East Hill Fire Department

266 Jerusalem Hill Road
Elmira, NY 14901
607-734-5535

<https://www.facebook.com/EastHillVolunteerFireDepartment>

West Elmira Fire Department

1299 W. Water Street
Elmira, NY 14905
607-734-2204

<https://www.facebook.com/westelmirafire/?rf=142180982494982>

Community Fire & Rescue Inc.

321 State Route 224
Van Etten, NY 14889
607-589-2040

<https://communityfireandrescue.com/>

Local Government Service

Chemung County Board of Elections

Volunteer Roles: Election Inspectors

Contact: (607) 734-0543

Website: chemungcountyny.gov

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

The Ombudsman Program is an effective advocate and resource for older adults and people with disabilities who live in nursing homes, assisted living, and other licensed adult care homes. Ombudsmen help residents understand and exercise their rights to good care in an environment that promotes and protects their dignity and quality of life.

Volunteer Roles: Volunteer Ombudsman

Contact: Kate Lyon, Program Coordinator, 607-274-5498,

klyon@tompkins-co.org

Website: <https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/cofa/volunteers>

Local government service can also take the form of an elected or appointed position within a municipality or county. Serving on a Board, Advisory Committee, or Coalition with a government or non-profit entity can also be a great way to contribute to the community in a meaningful way.

Civic Organizations

Rotary Club of Elmira

607-444-1769

President@elmirarotary.org

<https://www.elmirarotary.org/>

Chemung County Sunrise Rotary

PO Box 334, Horseheads, NY, United States, New York

ccsunriserotary85@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/chemungsunriserotary/>

<https://rotary7120.org/clubinfo/horseheads-1>

Kiwanis Club of Elmira

<https://www.elmirakiwanis.org/>

607-731-6150

Kiwanis Club of Horseheads

(607) 731-7506

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1262032067663561/>

Kiwanis Club of Pine City

(607) 738-0687

Lions Club Horseheads

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en>

Lions Club Big Flats

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en>

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Elmira

<https://www.dar.org/>

Scouting America Great Falls Council

Volunteer Roles: volunteers engage with local scout troops.

Contact: 607-732-9047

Website: <https://gfcscouting.org/>

Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways

<https://www.gsnypenn.org/>

Civic organizations may have specific eligibility requirements for new members depending on their structure. Most Civic organizations have an emphasis on community service among the membership.

Faith Entities

His Haven

Transforming communities through faith and action. Many people struggle with poverty and hopelessness. His Haven offers solutions that develop individual growth, builds strong families and creates thriving communities.

Volunteer Roles: Retail Assistants at Repurposed Treasures, lawn care, food stocking, community dinners and more.

Contact: 607-442-6442, todd@hishaven.org

Website: <https://hishaven.org/>

Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/hishaven.org>

https://x.com/his_haven <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hishaven/>

There are many congregations and places of worship throughout Chemung County that engage in service to the community. Individuals can find meaningful ways to contribute through their chosen entity. Some faith organizations may engage volunteers without a membership requirement.

Court-ordered Community Service

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler

Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler is committed to supporting and affirming the dignity of every person, fighting poverty, promoting wellness and self-sufficiency, and advocating for social justice.

Volunteers Roles: Pantry volunteer, Shelter dinner volunteer, Special events volunteer

Contact: Samantha Parsons, Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator, 607-317-5625, Samantha.Parsons@dor.org

Website: www.catholiccharitiescs.org,
www.catholiccharitiescs.volunteerhub.com

Social Media: www.facebook.com/CatholicCharitiesChemungandSchuyler

Chemung County Habitat for Humanity

Bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Volunteer Roles: Habitat build site volunteers assist construction crew with various construction tasks, such as carpentry, painting, landscaping, etc. We build year-round and welcome volunteers of all skills and backgrounds.

Contact: info@chemungcountyhabitat.org, (607) 734-1361, ext 4

Website: <https://www.chemungcountyhabitat.org/volunteer.html>

Social Media:

<https://www.facebook.com/ChemungCountyHabitatforHumanity>

Meals on Wheels of Chemung County

Volunteer Roles: kitchen help, drivers, meal delivery

Contact: Katie Boland, (607) 734-9535

Selecting the Opportunity that is Right for YOU!

Volunteer service can be a fulfilling experience that enriches your life when you find the role that is right for you. Here are a few questions to ask yourself as you consider the many opportunities available.

1. Is there a specific organization or cause that you are passionate about? This might be an effort that you or someone you know has or could have benefitted from or something that is close to your heart.
2. What skills or talents would you like to share with others? What would you like to spend time doing?
3. What do you have availability for at this time? Are you looking for something you would commit to on a regular basis or more occasional opportunities?
4. How far and how often can you commute to volunteer? What transportation options are available to you?

Volunteer positions often involve application processes and training before engaging in the work. Make a list of questions to ask the volunteer coordinator before agreeing to a position. It's OK to say no to an opportunity that is not right for you or to change roles as your interests change. Many volunteers serve in multiple roles over the course of their service.

Thank you for considering volunteer service in Chemung County, NY!