

These organizations aim to enhance the Greater Denver region and beyond by offering a variety of volunteer opportunities for school-aged children and their families.

Animal Welfare

Denver Animal Shelter - Denver, CO: Providing animal care and protection services for all of Denver county. The Junior Volunteer Program allows children ages **8 to 15** to give back to the community, learn new skills and explore a passion for animals. *Contact: Laure.Rolfe@denvergov.org | 720-913-1311*

Dumb Friends League - Denver, CO: Working to end pet homelessness and animal suffering. The Tales for Tails program allows students in **first grade through high school** to practice their reading skills in a judgment-free zone while also helping the cats and dogs in the shelter get the socialization they need. *Contact: 303-751-5772*

Hearts & Horses Therapeutic Riding Center - Loveland, CO: Enhancing physical, cognitive and emotional wellbeing through equine partnerships. Youth ages **8 to 15** can join the Barn Team and work to keep the horses happy, healthy and safe. Youth **16** years and older can participate in horse leading, side walking and handling. *Contact: Volunteer@heartsandhorses.org | 970-663-4200*

LuvIn Arms Animal Sanctuary - Erie, CO: Providing exceptional lifelong social, emotional, and cognitive care to rescued farm animals, and advocating for those who have not yet been rescued by sharing residents' stories to inspire, educate, and empower others to embrace a more compassionate and sustainable lifestyle. On dedicated Family Volunteer Days, **all ages** are welcome to provide services for the animals who call LuvIn Arms home. *Contact: Bailey@luvinarms.org | 720-515-8577*

MaxFund - Denver, CO: Providing medical care for injured pets with no known owners, and seeking out new homes for these animals once they have recovered. Volunteer opportunities include helping in the dog shelter for children **14** years and older and helping in the cat shelter for children **9** years and older. *Contact: Volunteer@maxfund.org | 720-726-4552*

Rocky Mountain House Rabbit Rescue - Erie, CO: Rescuing abandoned house rabbits and finding permanent homes for them. Children **8** and older can volunteer as Pen Cleaners to provide clean and healthy habitats for sheltered rabbits. *Contact: volcoor@rmhrr.org | 303-469-3240*

Arts & Culture

BookGive - Denver, CO: Sparking a lifelong love of reading by fueling metro Denver with free books. On dedicated Family Volunteer Days, children over the age of **5**, accompanied by an adult, can help process book donations and fill book orders. *Contact: hello@bookgivedenver.org | 720-638-7836*

Basic Needs & Human Services

A Precious Child - Broomfield, CO: Providing children in need with opportunities and resources to empower them to achieve their full potential. Volunteers **5** years and older can volunteer in the Donation Center where they will help sort through incoming donations, categorize items by type, place clothing items onto hangers, and bundle items. *Contact: volunteer@apreciouschild.org | 303-466-4272*

Jewish Family Service of Colorado - Boulder: Improving the lives of individuals and families in need throughout Colorado by taking an integrated approach to delivering comprehensive support services. The following programs and opportunities are open to those **10** years and older when volunteering with a parent: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) delivery, Holiday Package and Meal Delivery, and One-Time Volunteer Opportunities. *Contact: Tkantor@jewishfamilyservice.org | 720-248-4686*

Jewish Family Service of Colorado - Denver: Improving the lives of individuals and families in need throughout Colorado by taking an integrated approach to delivering comprehensive support services. Volunteers can participate in Family Service Days - these dedicated days offer families and children increased opportunities to volunteer and make a difference. Additionally, the following programs and opportunities are open to those **5** years and older when volunteering with a parent: The Friendly Visitor program, the Refugee Resettlement program, and the Weinberg Food Pantry. *Contact: mgreene@jewishfamilyservice.org | rnewhouse@jewishfamilyservice.org | 720-459-3878 (Marissa Greene) 720-897-6803 (Renee Newhouse)*

WeeCycle - Aurora, CO: Recycling essential baby gear and matching it to Colorado families in need. Dedicated Family-Friendly Volunteer Days and dedicated Teen Volunteer Days are available for volunteers to prepare essential baby gear and supplies for distribution to Colorado infants and toddlers. *Contact: info@weecycle.org | 720-319-7792*

Environment

Friends of Red Rocks - Morrison, CO: Involving citizens in preserving the magic of Red Rocks. Monthly trail clean-ups and special projects on the last Saturday of each month are available for volunteers of **all ages**. *Contact: friendsofredrocks@hotmail.com | friendsofredrocksinfo@gmail.com*

High Line Canal Conservancy - Multiple locations: Preserving, protecting and enhancing the 71-mile-long Canal in partnership with the public. The Conservancy Stewardship Program includes opportunities such as tree planting, brush removal, and trash cleanup. Children under the age of **14** must be accompanied by an adult at all times. *Contact: volunteer@highlinecanal.org | 720-767-2452*

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado - Multiple locations: Motivating and enabling people to become active stewards of Colorado's natural resources. Annual Family Camping projects are open to individuals as well as families with children ages **6** years and older. Volunteers between **6 and 11** years old participate in fun and educational outdoor activities while those **12** and older work on the trail. Other volunteer opportunities include seed collection, garden assistance, weed removal, trail maintenance, and more. *Contact: Elise@voc.org | 303-715-1010 ext. 120*

Food, Agriculture & Nutrition

Colorado Feeding Kids - Englewood, CO: Providing nutritious food to impoverished people in Colorado and around the world. Volunteers **5** years and older can attend the Volunteer Meal Packing Event. Any volunteers under **16** years old must be accompanied by an adult. *Contact: Info@cofeedingkids.org | 720-346-8607*

Food Bank of the Rockies - Denver, CO: Igniting the power of community to nourish people facing hunger. Volunteers **10** years and older can inspect, clean, sort, and repack perishable and non-perishable food items for distribution. Volunteers **14** years and older can distribute food to members of the community on the Mobile Pantry. Volunteers under **16** years must be accompanied by an adult. *Contact: Volunteer@foodbankrockies.org | 303-371-9250*

Ekar Farm - Denver, CO: Working to build community, providing education, and growing sustainably produced fruits and vegetables, expanding access to those in need. Volunteers **8** years and older can attend dedicated Days in the Dirt Open Volunteer Days. Work projects will depend on the needs of the farm at that time and can include harvesting, weeding, composting, cleanup, processing, etc. *Contact:* Ekar@ekarfarm.org

The Farmette at Denver Jewish Day School - Denver, CO: Providing enriching outdoor classes for K-12 students combining food production, environmental stewardship, farm animal care, and nature appreciation. Volunteers of **all ages** can assist in maintenance, harvesting, animal care, and various farm projects. *Contact:* Akivlin@denverjds.org

Housing

Extreme Community Makeover - Denver, CO: Coordinating volunteer teams to partner with Denver residents to improve their own homes and neighborhoods. Volunteers **6** years and older accompanied by an adult can complete exterior home and neighborhood improvement projects. Projects include alley clean-ups, graffiti removal, landscaping, painting, trimming bushes, yard work, and other exterior projects. *Contact:* volunteer@extremecommunitymakeover.org | 720-235-8847

Remote Volunteer Opportunities

Box of Balloons - Denver Metro: Bringing joy, hope, and celebration to every child on their birthday, regardless of their family's circumstances. Volunteers receive sign ups via email and can choose to donate or make a birthday box. *Contact:* boxofballoons.denvermetro@gmail.com

Lasagna Love: Helping address the rise in food insecurity among families while also providing a simple act of love and kindness during a time full of uncertainty, stress, and loneliness. Volunteers spread kindness by making and delivering homemade lasagnas to neighbors in need. *Contact:* <https://lasagnalove.org/volunteer/>

Luvn Arms Animal Sanctuary: Providing exceptional lifelong social, emotional, and cognitive care to rescued farm animals. Volunteers can participate in Virtual Story Time, providing enrichment for some of the Sanctuary's special needs residents like chickens with mobility issues. *There must be 5 to 10 readers to schedule a story time. *Contact:* bailey@luvinarms.org | 720-515-8577

Project Angel Heart: Delivering comfort and support through high-quality nutrition services, including medically tailored meals and advocating for the principles of "Food is Medicine". Volunteers can bring cheer to Project Angel Heart clients by decorating paper meal bags. Draw cheerful designs, pictures, scenery, animals, or whatever comes to mind. *Contact:* volunteer@projectangelheart.org | 303-830-0202

Volunteer Search Websites

JustServe: A website where the volunteer needs of organizations are posted, and volunteers search for opportunities to enhance the quality of life in the community. www.JustServe.org

Spark the Change Colorado: Connects volunteers looking to give their time and talents to programs and organizations that fit their interests and needs. <https://www.sparkthechangecolorado.org/>

VolunteerMatch: Matches inspired people with inspiring causes. It's how volunteers and nonprofits connect to achieve remarkable outcomes. <https://www.volunteermatch.org/>

Please contact organizations directly to confirm their current and most up to date volunteer opportunities, minimum age requirements, required accompanied parent/guardian policies, etc.

These conversation starters and questions aim to help families explore their school-aged children's philanthropic interests.

- What makes you happy?
- Where are you the happiest? Why?
- What are you proud of?
- Who do you love? Why?
- Who do you admire? Why?
- What's the most fun you've ever had?
- What's your favorite memory?
- What activity is most important to you or brings you joy? Why?
- What makes your heart swell?
- What gets you up in the morning eager to take on the day?
- What is that thing in your life that gives you hope and purpose?
- What excites you most about being in the world right now?
- What are you curious about, in terms of how the world and society works?
- What interests you most about the communities or organizations that our family currently supports and donates to?
- Are there any other communities or organizations that you think our family should support and donate to in the future?
- What is the best thing about your life right now?
- Who or what do you value most?
- If you could make a single change in the world, what would it be?
- Name three things you like about your community and three things that could be better.
- If you had the power to change one thing for the better, what would it be and why?
- What needed change in the world do young people have a better perspective on than adults?
- How do you feel when your actions improve the community or make things better for someone else?

Resources: Learning to Give, Australian Philanthropic Services