

Ideas for Virtual & Distance Volunteering. Catholic Charities USA recently conducted a survey of on volunteer engagement in the aftermath of COVID-19. While many agencies shared that due to safety concerns and social distancing requirements, volunteers have paused their engagement. In contrast, some agencies have volunteers still serving in various programs areas, and others are being retrained or redirected to fulfill new roles. Here are highlights of what the survey revealed volunteers are currently doing throughout the Catholic Charities network:

- 1) Serving in call centers, receiving requests for food delivery
- 2) Coordinating food delivery for shut-ins
- 3) Making wellness check-in phone calls to seniors and vulnerable persons
- 4) Providing rides to seniors for urgent appointments
- 5) Donating and/or starting vegetable and flower seeds for community gardens
- 6) Helping prepare tax returns remotely
- 7) Creating and dropping off hygiene kits for seniors
- 8) Serving as “pen-pals” for incarcerated persons
- 9) Making masks for vulnerable populations
- 10) Assisting with grant writing
- 11) Online mentoring
- 12) Aiding parishes in reaching their communities virtually through technology and marketing assistance.