



August 2026

A NOTE TO OUR TEAM

Hello Grace Helping Hands team! Welcome to this month's volunteer newsletter — a space built entirely around *you*. Whether you serve strictly remote, in person, or a mix of both, your work is irreplaceable. Summer in the DMV brought record energy: kits assembled, partners engaged, and lives touched. Inside you'll find volunteer spotlights, upcoming ways to help, partner news, and a few celebrations. Thank you for everything you do to move our mission forward!

Volunteering from Anywhere 🖥️

Can't make it to a kit-making event in person? Our remote volunteers keep GHH running every single day. Here's how you can help from home:

- **Grant research & tracking** — help find and log funding opportunities.
- **Social media & CTA support** — follow, share, and amplify our posts across platforms.
- **Newsletter & admin** — writing, editing, MailerLite, and behind-the-scenes coordination.
- **Notes of encouragement** — write cards from home to be tucked into kits.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This month we're shining a light on two Administration Team members whose behind-the-scenes work keeps our outreach humming: **Yingru Wang** and **Bo Dong**. We're grateful to have them on the team!



Yingru Wang — Admin & Grant Teams

"I've called Pittsburgh home for the last 20 years and work in the healthcare industry. I joined Grace Helping Hands at the end of last year and have really enjoyed being part of such a caring, dedicated community. I started by supporting the Admin Team with volunteer opportunities, and a few months ago I also joined the Grant Team to help track and update grant opportunities. Outside of volunteering, I enjoy working out, spending quality time with my family, and have volunteered at a local Chinese school for the past eight years. And... I occasionally find myself losing track of time watching short videos."

Bo Dong — Admin Team

"I've lived in Maryland for most of my life after moving to the USA and am currently studying in dental school. Growing up in a low-income community, I joined Grace Helping Hands last year to give back, and I've been honored to be part of such a supportive, caring community. I'm currently part of the Admin Team, helping post and advertise volunteering opportunities. I have a wonderful time working with everyone here. Outside of volunteering, I enjoy exploring different coffee shops with friends, going on hiking trips, and Pilates after work. I'm truly grateful to be part of a community that creates a lasting impact on families while inspiring me each and every day."



Celebrations & Milestones

Volunteer of the Month 🌟 Congratulations to **Justine Rapoport** for outstanding dedication to the team!

August Birthdays 🎂 A very happy birthday to all our August babies — especially **Donna Petronella**! We hope your day was wonderful.

1 Year with GHH 🎉 Celebrating one year of service from **Alyse Cooper, Violetta Baszcott, and Janice O'Connor**. Thank you!





KIT MAKING RECAP: AUGUST 8

What a turnout! On **Friday, August 8** from **11 AM–2 PM**, over **20 volunteers** came together and assembled **757 self-care kits** in a single session. From opening supplies to writing notes of encouragement to bagging finished kits, every pair of hands made a direct difference. Thank you to everyone who showed up — this is what our mission looks like in action!



Next Kit Making Day: Friday, September 12 — join us to assemble kits hands-on. Bring a friend!

Calling all local volunteers! Our friends at Kendra Scott (Mall in Columbia) hosted a Kendra Gives Back benefit for GHH — see the flyer at right. Watch your inbox for the next in-person retail giveback.

CTA Days: Look for our next Call-to-Action posts mid- and late-month — an easy way for remote volunteers to boost our reach in minutes.



PARTNER EVENT RECAP: KAPPA PHI LAMBDA SORORITY

The giving continued the very next day! On **Saturday, August 9**, the sisters of **Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority** — a nonprofit sorority built on Sisterhood, Service, and Cultural Diversity — dedicated the day-of-service portion of their **Annual Conference in Baltimore City** (Marriott Inner Harbor) to Grace Helping Hands.



Together they held a giveback event and assembled **200 self-care kits** for our neighbors in need. Service is one of the sorority's core pillars, and members brought their families — kids included — so the next generation could experience giving back in a hands-on, meaningful way. A heartfelt thank-you to KPL for choosing GHH as their conference service partner! Learn more at kplsorority.org.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Ever wonder what goes into a kit? Each one is hand-assembled with items like mouthwash, period products, a toothbrush and toothpaste, and lotion — then bagged with a **handwritten note of encouragement**. It's a small assembly line of care, and every step depends on volunteers like you.



GOOD NEWS: A KIT IN ACTION

Sometimes the best proof of our work comes straight from the people we serve. At a recent distribution with our partner City of Refuge Baltimore (CORB), a recipient named Rachel shared what the kits mean to her day to day:

"What I like most about these kits is they've got a little bit of everything — shampoo, conditioner, hygiene pads, razors. But what I like most are the wet wipes and sweat wipes. I do a lot of walking and it's really hot outside, so they always come in handy. It always feels better to use a wet wipe than a napkin. A lot of times I just leave the bag around the house, so when I have guests and someone needs something, I just hand them the bag. They're excellent."

Rachel's words say it all: these kits don't just supply basics — they restore comfort, dignity, and the ability to care for others. That's the difference **your** hands make. Thank you!

COMMUNITY CORNER

Scoop Up Some School Spirit! Park Potomac's 18th Annual Backpack Drive & Back-to-School Bash benefits our friends at Interfaith Works, with ice cream, live entertainment, and face painting. Over 15 years this neighbor-run event has collected thousands of backpacks for Montgomery County kids. Details: Park Potomac, 12435 Park Potomac Ave, Potomac, MD. Registration & ways to help

WELCOME & CELEBRATIONS

Welcome, New Volunteers!

We're so glad you're here and can't wait to reach our goals together. Never hesitate to ask questions about the newsletter, our events, or anything else — and please share your ideas for how we can improve. This is your community too.

THANK YOU CORNER

Our deepest thanks to the donors, partners, and groups who fueled our work this month:

- **Costco** — a \$500 gift card that covered pads and tampons for the month.
- **JHU Urban Health Institute** — a generous grant supporting our mission.
- **Go Mouthwash** — over 10,000 units of mouthwash that went straight into kits at our Kit Making event.
- **Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority** — 200 kits assembled at their day of service.

This Month's Supply Needs

Most needed right now: **deodorant** and **period products**. Shop our wishlists or give directly (links below).

Follow & Share

We're now on **Threads** — @gracehh_org! Follow and share us on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. A single repost extends our reach farther than you'd think.

Support Our Work

- Scan the QR code to donate via PayPal
 - Or support us on [Givebutter](#)
- Donate to us through the CFC using our charity code #2749



Registries

[Amazon Supplies List](#)
[Walmart.com Round UP Program](#)
[Walmart Registries](#)



Visit our website for more news . <https://www.gracehelpinghands.org>

Mission Moment

People in our community experiencing homelessness often lack access to basic hygiene necessities. GHH relieves part of that struggle by hand-assembling and delivering self-care kits to those in need. Every minute of a volunteer's time impacts real people. Whether you show up in person at a kit-making event or keep us running behind the scenes, your dedication restores hope, humanity, and dignity to individuals going through a difficult time.