

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The MIFA Handyman program is undergoing some changes,
and we need volunteers now more than ever.

- 1. Build a wheelchair ramp.** A perfect project for groups of 6-12 people. No experience or skills are necessary. Your group will be paired with an experienced project leader, and all tools and materials are provided. Projects typically last 5-8 hours, depending on the size of the ramp.

Minimum volunteer age: 16

Ramps are built for low-income area residents who either own their homes or are long-term tenants. Recipients must demonstrate significant mobility impairment. Materials are paid for by the Tennessee Housing Development Agency.

- 2. Paint a house.** A perfect project for groups of up to 20 people. Ladders, paint, and other materials are typically provided, but volunteers are asked to bring their own paint brushes or rollers. Projects can run from 3 hours to multiple days, depending on requested length. This is a great option for mission trips and alternative school break trips.

Minimum volunteer age: 12 (with sufficient help and supervision)

House painting is available to homeowners who are either on disability or aged 60 or older. Target area for 2012 is zip code 38109. Homeowners are asked to contribute to the costs of the materials if possible. The rest of materials are paid for through a grant from the City of Memphis, Division of Housing and Community Development.

- 3. Clean out a yard.** A perfect project for groups of up to 20 people. Some yard tools can be provided, but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own. Projects typically last 3-5 hours.

Minimum volunteer age: 12

Yard work is available to homeowners who are either on disability or aged 60 or older. Target area for 2012 is zip code 38109. Many referrals are made by Code Enforcement and MLGW.

- 4. Do an Artistic Board Up.** A perfect project for groups of up to 20 people. Ladders, paint, and other materials are typically provided, but volunteers are asked to bring their own paint brushes or rollers. Projects typically last 3-5 hours.

Minimum volunteer age: 12 (with sufficient help and supervision)

The Artistic Board Up project seeks to secure abandoned buildings with plywood panels painted to look like windows and doors or painted with murals. The goal is to reduce crime, vandalism, the need for demolition, dropping valuation of surrounding homes, and neighborhood eyesores. Group projects are scheduled during daylight hours on weekdays or weekends. Not part of a group? Individual volunteers can be paired with an existing group. And several projects each year are specifically held for volunteers without a ready-made group.

- 5. Project Leaders:** Project leaders are volunteers who have been trained to lead other volunteers in ramp building, house painting, or other types of projects. On-going training and technical support are provided.

Minimum volunteer age: 16

- 6. Project Scouts:** Scouts are dispatched to look at possible volunteer project sites. Scouts typically take pictures of the site, but may also take measurements. On-going training and technical support are provided.

Minimum volunteer age: 16

- 7. Office Assistants:** Help is always needed in the office with phone calls, filing, data entry, and mass mailings. In addition, there are often special research projects and reports which can be formatted to meet requirements for student credits.

Minimum volunteer age: 16

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