

volunteer  
opportunities  
*for*  
**teens**  
you make a

difference  
in the community

**The Volunteer Center** 

Serving Howard County

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*Compiled May 2009*



May 2009

Dear Youth Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in making a difference in our community! By choosing to volunteer you will not only benefit those you serve – your community will benefit and so will you. Now is the time to join the national youth service movement. We know that you are busy; we remember what it was like in middle and high school. Between sports, clubs, band, homework, friends, family and religious obligations, life can be pretty hectic. We're not asking you to drop everything in your life, we're asking you to take a little time to make a big difference!

Volunteering can be fun. This guide was designed to help you find an opportunity that is right for you. The guide is presented alphabetically by agency name, with a list in the back that presents the agencies by social issue. We suggest that you read all of the entries, though – you never know what new interests you might discover!

Volunteering is something anyone can do. Every person has skills and abilities that they can share with non-profit organizations. When you find an opportunity that looks interesting, contact the agency directly. If you have trouble finding something that interests you, please feel free to call us at the Volunteer Center for additional suggestions or for updates.

We challenge you to try something new, do something unfamiliar, discover a new skill or a career that you might want to pursue, meet new people, learn about yourself and others, have fun and change lives!

Sincerely,

*The Volunteer Center Serving Howard County Staff*



Show your support of the Volunteer Center by visiting our page on Facebook and clicking on "Become a Fan".

**Volunteer Opportunity Updates:**

**Don't miss out** on great youth volunteer opportunities that we receive **after** our deadline!

Visit our website at [www.volunteerhoward.org](http://www.volunteerhoward.org) and click on the calendar to learn about additional one-time or ongoing volunteer opportunities, check the key word search, or visit the Youth page for updated information. Thank you for your interest in making a difference

# Youth Volunteers

## Why Volunteer?

Meet new people • Learn new skills and gain experience • Develop and share skills that you already have  
• Learn about local social issues • Help make a difference in your community • Enhance job and college applications • Include experiences on academic or professional resumes

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## Getting started

Pick an issue – what interests you? What changes would you like to see in your community? What are your skills? What would you like to learn? What makes you think, “That’s not fair!”?

### Participate in a volunteer opportunity offered through a local agency

- Locate an agency or project using resources available through the volunteer center, such as the **calendar or search box on the website**, the *Volunteer Opportunities for Youth* Guide, or special projects and resources spotlighted on the Home Page or Youth Page of the website (ex: National Youth Service Day).
- Contact the agency directly.
- Request an orientation to the issue when you go to volunteer.
- Request training as needed.
- Reflect on your experience (What? So what? Now what?).
- Evaluate the experience. (What worked? What didn’t?).

### Create a project

- Listen to Listen to the community – what is the need?
- Learn about what is already available in the community – work in partnership with existing programs so that you don’t duplicate efforts.
- Locate an agency with which to partner using resources available through the volunteer center such as the *Volunteer Opportunities for Youth* Guide or online listings of local agencies.
- Plan your project using resources available through your school, group and/or the volunteer center.
- Implement the project.
- Reflect on the experience (What? So what? Now what?).
- Evaluate the experience (What worked? What didn’t?).

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**I can’t find any volunteer opportunities for young people in Howard County!** The Volunteer Center Serving Howard County provides resources to help young people find volunteer opportunities in our community. The *Volunteer Opportunities for Teens* guide is updated 3 times a year and includes close to 40 local non-profit and governmental agencies seeking young volunteers. The guide includes minimum age requirements, contact information, and descriptions of available opportunities. It is available online at [www.volunteerhoward.org](http://www.volunteerhoward.org) or you can contact the center for a free copy. There is also an online calendar and a search box on the website where young people can search for one-time or ongoing opportunities, as well as a youth page that spotlights recognition opportunities and opportunities related specifically to young volunteers.

**I’ve found an opportunity/agency - what do I do next?** Contact the agency directly to determine what volunteer opportunities are available, to ask questions, and to find out when and how you can get started as a volunteer. We’ve included a sample script on the other side of this sheet. You and your parent/guardian should feel comfortable with the agency that you select, so do not be afraid to ask questions or for your parents/guardians to ask questions. For younger volunteers, there may be opportunities for you to volunteer at a local agency with your parent/guardian.

**I’ve found some opportunities but none of them appeal to me.** You may need to come up with a project idea on your own to “pitch” to local agencies. For example, are you an artist? Do you like music? Are you great with computers? Do you enjoy building? Create a project idea and contact local agencies that appeal to you, or learn a little about local agencies and try to work with them to develop a project that you like.

**Can I volunteer with a friend?** Yes - many agencies offer one-time opportunities that would be perfect for volunteering with a friend or a group of friends! You can learn about one-time opportunities by searching our online calendar at [www.volunteerhoward.org](http://www.volunteerhoward.org).

**I've contacted the agency and never heard back from them.** Some agencies have part-time volunteers or even Volunteer Managers, and it can sometimes take time for them to respond to your request. You may need to contact them more than once, and you may find that phone calls work better than e-mail communication for some agencies. You may also decide to try to contact several agencies to find the one that is right for you.

**Is it important for me to show up when I say that I will be there? After all, I'm the one helping the agency.** YES. It is very important for you to show up when you say that you are going to be there. Many agencies depend on volunteers to get things done, and some make special arrangements including staff and materials in order to offer you a great volunteer opportunity. If you say that you will be there, do everything that you can to honor your commitment or to let the agency know in a timely manner if you are not able to make it.

If you are volunteering in part because you would like to include your experiences on an application or resume, keep in mind that (just like a job) it is often more impressive to show an ongoing commitment to an agency. Being a responsible and reliable volunteer may gain you a positive referral - even more importantly, it may open up exciting opportunities not available to a casual volunteer.

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### **Sample Phone Script for contacting a local non-profit or governmental agency**

#### **1. Who should I ask to speak with?**

Ask to speak with the person identified as the contact person. If that person is no longer with the agency, ask to speak with the Volunteer Coordinator.

#### **2. When is the best time to call?**

Call the contact person during the days and times indicated in the agency directory. If you have to leave a message, leave your full name, why you are calling, your phone number and the best time to reach you (remember to speak slowly). Be persistent. If your call has not been answered within a day or two, call back. You may need to leave several messages.

#### **3. What should I say?**

Hi. My name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I am interested in volunteering. I would like to know if you have any volunteer opportunities that would allow me to learn more about your agency and its services. (Be sure to highlight skills and experiences that might be relevant to the agency. Also, let the agency know if you have any requirements, such as completing a specific number of hours by a certain deadline for school or a group or club.)

#### **4. What questions should I ask?**

What will I be doing? Where will I be volunteering? (Ask for specific directions.) How should I dress? Is there anything else I need to know before I start?

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*Materials modified from the Howard Community College's Service Learning Student Handbook 2008.*

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### ALS Association-DC/MD/VA

**Address:** 7507 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855  
**Location:** Administrative Office in Rockville, MD  
**Contact:** Colette Pond at (301) 978-9855 ext. 201 or [cpond@ALSinfo.org](mailto:cpond@ALSinfo.org)  
**Website:** [www.ALSinfo.org](http://www.ALSinfo.org)

**Mission of Agency:** The ALS Association provides free resources to people living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig's disease) and their families, increases public awareness of the disease's impact on people's lives, and raises critical funding for ALS research.

**Minimum Age:** 16

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Data entry, patient mailings, office assistant and help throughout the year with special events

### American Red Cross Greater Chesapeake & Potomac Blood Services Region

**Address:** 4700 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215  
**Location of Work:** Various locations in Howard County  
**Contact:** Terry Karloff at (800)-272-0094 ext 1 or [karloff@usa.redcross.org](mailto:karloff@usa.redcross.org)  
**Website:** [www.my.redcross.org](http://www.my.redcross.org)

**Mission of Agency:** To provide safe, reliable, and economical blood components and services to the people of our region with organizational excellence, steadfast commitment to customers, and respect for every individual.

**Minimum Age:** 14

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Blood Drive Assistant

### Athelas Institute, Inc.

**Address:** 9104 Red Branch Road, Columbia, MD 21045  
**Location of Work:** Various locations in Columbia and Woodlawn  
**Contact:** Pat Owens at (410) 964-1241 ext. 128 or [plovens@athelasinst.org](mailto:plovens@athelasinst.org)  
**Website:** [www.athelasinst.org](http://www.athelasinst.org)

**Mission of Agency:** To provide a variety of quality educational rehabilitative, residential and employment options for adults with developmental disabilities in a supportive environment to maximize opportunities for individual growth.

**Minimum Age:** 16

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Grooming & Beauty Counselor, Recreation Assistant, Computer Mentor, Dance Chaperones, Dance/Movement Instructor, and Yoga Instructor

### Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland

**Address:** 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 250 Baltimore, MD 21211  
**Location of Work:** Central Maryland  
**Contact:** Leon J. Henry at (410) 243-4000 or [lhenry@biglittle.org](mailto:lhenry@biglittle.org)  
**Website:** [www.biglittle.org](http://www.biglittle.org)

**Mission of Agency:** The mission of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland is to make a positive difference in the lives of children by assisting them in achieving their highest potential as they grow to become confident, competent and caring individuals. To do this, we enroll volunteers to become Big Brothers and Big Sisters to children who will benefit having the influence of an adult friend and role model.

**Minimum Age:** 18

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Mentors to youth

### Brooke Grove Retirement Village

**Address:** 18131 Slade School Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860  
**Location of Work:** Same  
**Contact:** Nancy Ochsenreiter at (310) 570-7081 or [volunteer@bgf.org](mailto:volunteer@bgf.org)  
**Website:** [www.bgf.org](http://www.bgf.org)

**Mission of Agency:** This agency provides excellence in service, showing respect, and radiating kindness. They offer practical and sensitive response to people's need for physical, emotional, and spiritual support. They continue the compassionate, healing ministry of Jesus Christ. They share comfort and embrace the human family.

**Minimum Age:** 14

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Activity Assistants

### Cancer Support Foundation

**Address:** 8268 Academy Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042  
**Location of Work:** above address or at your own home  
**Contact:** Cindy Carter at (410) 964-9563 or [cpcarter@aol.com](mailto:cpcarter@aol.com)  
**Website:** [www.cancersupportfoundation.org](http://www.cancersupportfoundation.org)

**Mission of Agency:** Cancer Support Foundation, Inc. serves the needs of survivors and caregivers with any type of cancer currently undergoing treatment or in a hospice situation. They are a resource center as well as an agency that can help with financial needs. They take care of needs ranging from medicine to utility bills Geographic area of this agency is the state of Maryland.

**Minimum Age:** 12

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Ability to place stickers on Cancer Gift Bags

### Center for Social Change

**Address:** 6600 Amberton Drive, Elkridge, MD 21075

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Daphni McRann at (410) 579-6789 or

[daphni@centerforsocialchange.org](mailto:daphni@centerforsocialchange.org)

**Website:** [www.centerforsocialchange.org](http://www.centerforsocialchange.org)

**Mission of Agency:** Serving individuals with developmental disabilities for choice, rights, growth, and independence.

**Minimum Age:** 16

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Event Volunteer

### Columbia Festival of the Arts

**Address:** 5575 Sterrett Place, Suite 280, Columbia, MD 21044

**Location of Work:** Columbia Lakefront area

**Contact:** Darlene Maxfield at (410) 715-3044 or

[Darlene@ColumbiaFestival.com](mailto:Darlene@ColumbiaFestival.com)

**Website:** [www.columbiafestival.com](http://www.columbiafestival.com)

**Mission of Agency:** To present an annual celebration of the arts that builds community through shared participation and celebration, engages participants in a broad spectrum of art forms and cultures, and encourages interaction among artists and audiences.

**Minimum Age:** 14

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Survey volunteers, parade marshal volunteers, environmental care volunteers, parking and shuttle director volunteers, transportation materials volunteers. These opportunities will take place from June 12<sup>th</sup> thru June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

### Days End Farm Horse Rescue

**Address:** 1372 Woodbine Road, Woodbine, MD 21797

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** DeEtte Gorrie at (301) 854-5037 or (410) 442-1564 or [deette@defhr.org](mailto:deette@defhr.org)

**Website:** [www.defhr.org](http://www.defhr.org)

**Mission of Agency:** To ensure the quality care and treatment of horses through rehabilitation, humane education and community outreach.

**Minimum Age:** 12 (under 12 with a parent or adult)

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Barn chores, office help, fundraising, PR, photography, farm maintenance/construction

### FIRN, Inc.

**Address:** 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Columbia, MD 21044

**Location of Work:** Various Howard County Elementary and Middle Schools

**Contact:** Paula Blackwell at (410) 992-1923 ext. 14 or [volunteer@firnonline.org](mailto:volunteer@firnonline.org)

**Website:** [www.firnonline.org](http://www.firnonline.org)

**Mission of Agency:** FIRN exists to provide a bridge and resource between all foreign-born and the community to remove barriers and enhance effectiveness.

**Minimum Age:** 15

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Assist ESOL teachers and adult tutors conduct language enrichment activities

### Friends of the Patapsco Valley & Heritage Greenway

**Address:** P.O. Box 96, Ellicott City, MD 21041

**Location of Work:** The Patapsco Valley area (Howard & Baltimore Counties)

**Contact:** Betsy McMillion at (410) 480-0824 or

[patapscofriend@gmail.com](mailto:patapscofriend@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org](http://www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org)

**Mission of Agency:** To connect people with the natural environmental, historic, cultural, and recreational assets of the Patapsco Valley in ways that interpret, preserve, and enhance those assets and people's awareness, understanding, and appreciation of them.

**Minimum Age:** 17 or 16 and under with an adult

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Stream cleanup helpers and tree planters

### Harmony Hall

**Address:** 6336 Cedar Lane, Columbia, MD 21044

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Marilyn Donovan at (410) 997-9450 or

[mdonovan@lorienhealth.com](mailto:mdonovan@lorienhealth.com)

**Website:** [www.lorienhealth.com](http://www.lorienhealth.com)

**Mission of Agency:** The mission of this agency is to improve residents' quality of life by providing a network of medical, social, and physical services to meet the individual needs. They continue to strive to promote wellness, independence and the nurturing of spirit that is essential to one's quality of life. Through individualized and proactive care plans, they allow residents to age in place with respect and dignity.

**Minimum Age:** 12

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Many opportunities such as visiting with residents, reading to residents, assisting with activities such as Bingo and Arts and Crafts, working in the beauty shop, helping in the dining hall

### The Howard County Conservancy

**Address:** 10520 Old Frederick Road, Woodstock, MD 21163

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Shannon Davis at (410) 465-8877 or

[shannon.davis@hcconservancy.org](mailto:shannon.davis@hcconservancy.org)

**Website:** [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org)

**Mission of Agency:** To protect the open spaces, rural environment and agricultural resources of Howard County. To promote the preservation and improvement of the natural environment and to engage in and promote the scientific study of and education relating to agricultural resources and the natural environment.

**Minimum Age:** None

**Volunteer Opportunity:** Gardening, trail maintenance, office work, animal care, special events, invasive plant removal, tree planting

### **Howard County Arts Council**

**Address:** 8510 High Ridge Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Wendy Meetze at (410) 313-2787 or [deputydirector@hocoarts.org](mailto:deputydirector@hocoarts.org)

**Website:** [www.hocoarts.org](http://www.hocoarts.org)

**Mission of Agency:** To serve the citizens of Howard County by fostering the arts, artists and arts organizations.

**Minimum Age:** 15 by September 1, 2009

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteer Camp Assistant

### **Howard County Cats Club**

**Address:** 5667 – F Harpers Farm Road, Columbia, MD 21044

**Location of Work:** Columbia PetCo store on Dobbin Road

**Contact:** Missy Zane at (410) 730-3679 or

[howardcountycats@earthlink.net](mailto:howardcountycats@earthlink.net)

**Website:** [www.howardcountycatclub.org](http://www.howardcountycatclub.org)

**Mission of Agency:** The Howard County Cat Club is dedicated to keeping cats out of shelters because they believe that no cat deserves to live in a cage, or to be put to death because it is no longer wanted or in the way.

**Minimum Age:** 14

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Set up crates, prepare food and litter boxes for cat adoption shows

### **Howard County Library**

**Address:** 10375 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD 21044

**Location of Work:** All 6 library branches

**Contact:** Kathy Plitt at (410) 313-7792 or

[Kathleen.plitt@hclibrary.org](mailto:Kathleen.plitt@hclibrary.org)

**Website:** [www.hclibrary.org](http://www.hclibrary.org)

**Mission of Agency:** To promote lifelong learning and enrichment through access to information, a knowledgeable staff, and service in a free and open organization that brings people together to stimulate the free exchange of ideas and a sense of community.

**Minimum Age:** 15

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Circulation Aide

**Minimum Age:** 13-15

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Summer Reading Game Volunteer

### **Howard County Pets on Wheels**

**Address:** 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, MD 21044

**Location of Work:** Various sites in Howard County

**Contact:** Tricia Summers at (410) 313-7461 or

[tsummers@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:tsummers@howardcountymd.gov)

**Mission of Agency:** To provide friendly visits to residents in nursing homes, assisted living homes, senior centers, and others who are socially isolated. Volunteers bring their own pets.

**Minimum Age:** 10-18 years old who must be accompanied by a parent

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Visits to nursing and assisted living homes

### **Newseum**

**Address:** 555 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20001

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Donna Baker at (202) 292-6513 or

[dbaker@newseum.org](mailto:dbaker@newseum.org)

**Website:** [www.Newseum.org](http://www.Newseum.org)

**Mission of Agency:** The mission of this agency is to provide a forum where the media and the public can gain better understanding of each other.

**Minimum Age:** 16

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteer as a Host with Visitor Services and Assist with facilitating programs

### **Project Linus**

**Address:** 4967 Moonfall Way, Columbia, MD 21044

**Location of Work:** Volunteer's home

**Contact:** Arlene Kutz at (410) 730-8865 or

[kastle4@verizon.net](mailto:kastle4@verizon.net)

**Website:** [www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org)

**Mission of Agency:** It is the mission of Project Linus to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers".

**Minimum Age:** None

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Blanketeers

### **Ride Across Maryland**

**Address:** 9123 Route 108, Columbia, MD 21045

**Location of Project:** Columbia Mall

**Contact:** Lori Young or Nicole Gunther at (410) 992-9999 or

[lori@rideacrossmaryland.org](mailto:lori@rideacrossmaryland.org)

[Nicole@rideacrossmaryland.org](mailto:Nicole@rideacrossmaryland.org)

**Website:** [www.rideacrossmaryland.org](http://www.rideacrossmaryland.org)

**Mission:** Ride Across Maryland sponsors an annual motorcycle ride to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Maryland affiliate.

**Minimum Age:** 19

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Help handing out information before the Ride Across Maryland Day on Saturday, May 30, 2009

### **Running Brook Elementary School**

**Address:** 5215 W. Running Brook Road, Columbia, MD 21044

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Eric Soskil at (410) 313-6893 or

[esoskil@hcpss.org](mailto:esoskil@hcpss.org)

**Website:** [www.rbess.hcpss.org](http://www.rbess.hcpss.org)

**Mission of Agency:** Our mission at Running Brook elementary is to share the responsibility for fostering optimum achievement for all students.

**Minimum Age:** 14

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Classroom assistants, teacher assistants, student tutors

### **The Salvation Army**

**Address:** 9017 Red Branch Road, Columbia, MD 21045

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Windy Kidd at (443) 656-3376 or

[Windy\\_Kidd@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Windy_Kidd@uss.salvationarmy.org)

**Mission:** The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in his name without discrimination.

**Minimum Age:** 14 with parents permission

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Various opportunities throughout the year.

### **SERRV**

**Address:** 500 Main Street, New Windsor, MD 21776

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Mary Ann Grossnickle at (410) 635-8769 or

[volunteer@serrv.org](mailto:volunteer@serrv.org)

**Website:** [www.serrv.org](http://www.serrv.org)

**Mission of Agency:** The mission of this agency is to promote the social and economic progress of people in developing regions of the world by marketing their products in a just and direct manor.

**Minimum Age:** 14-15

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Help in the SERRV store or Processing Warehouse

### **Success In Style**

**Address:** 9090 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Jeannette Kendall at (410) 750-6475 or

[successinstyle@verizon.net](mailto:successinstyle@verizon.net)

**Website:** [www.successinstyle.org](http://www.successinstyle.org)

**Mission of Agency:** Success In Style promotes dignity and self sufficiency by providing disadvantaged women with business attire and practical fashion advice.

**Minimum Age:** Middle and High School Age

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Sort and process donated clothing, marketing, and customer service

### **Teen Moms' Friends Club**

**Address:** Laurel, MD

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Lisa Wagner at (301) 648-7942 or

[Volunteers@TeenMomsFriendsClub.org](mailto:Volunteers@TeenMomsFriendsClub.org)

**Website:** [www.TeenMomsFriendsClub.org](http://www.TeenMomsFriendsClub.org)

**Mission of Agency:** Teen moms' Friends Club seeks to educate, support and encourage Teen Moms and young adults that began as Teen Moms.

**Minimum Age:** High School

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Provide childcare, play and read with kids, while young moms attend educational workshops

### **Winter Growth**

**Address:** 5460 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, MD 21044

**Location of Work:** Same

**Contact:** Bonnie Grabelle at (410) 964-9616 or

[Howard\\_Center@Wintergrowth.com](mailto:Howard_Center@Wintergrowth.com)

**Website:** [www.wintergrowth.com](http://www.wintergrowth.com)

**Mission of Agency:** To assist health impaired older and disabled adults to remain in the community. The centers provide and support independence, enhance self-esteem and promote the dignity of each individual.

**Minimum Age:** 16 Tee will need PPD or chest x-ray to volunteer. Agency will provide the PPD if teen volunteers 20 hours or more.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Activities Assistant and Office Assistant

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