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# YOUTH PULSE volunteer!

**Youth Pulse is here to show you how to get plugged into where your community needs you most. Get involved and show how important youth involvement is to the Bay Area! Each month we focus on a different community need and highlight volunteer opportunities that will allow you to apply your talents and skills to that need and give back to your community!**

It's December, and as they say, the holidays are upon us! It's a busy time of the year, and with that in mind, we've hand-selected some of the very best holiday volunteer opportunities that are available this holiday season!

While you're getting ready to gorge yourselves on the holiday staples of food and family, why don't you take a look at this month's holiday volunteer opportunities in Youth Pulse? Our Bay Area nonprofit community can always use your help, and there's a ton of weekend, afternoon and evening volunteer opportunities available that will fit right into your busy schedule, so take a look!

## Youth Pulse Highlight

Imagine a holiday without the gifts many of us have come to expect.

Compass Community Services makes sure that hundreds of homeless and extremely low-income children receive gifts during the holiday season ... and they do this every year.



To make sure the holidays are as festive as can be, Compass Community Services wants to make sure that every gift is wrapped and individually labeled. This will make sure that each and every child that receives a gift feels special. Lisa Dyas, the Volunteer Coordinator for Compass Community Services said, "We had a three high school groups help us out last year, and they had a great time!" Lisa said that Compass Community Services utilizes youth volunteers all year, but their biggest need for youth volunteers comes during the holidays! "The Gift Wrapping Party is great for high-school youth," she said, "It's a great way to have a hands-on opportunity to see what gifts are going to the families. It gives youth an opportunity to volunteer where they don't have to be super-serious, and it's loads of fun watching all the gifts pile up!"

During last year's Gift Wrapping Party, Compass Community Services and their volunteers wrapped thousands of presents. That's a pile of gifts that would make anyone believe in the spirit of the holidays!

[For information on how to help wrap holiday gifts, click here!](#)

## Help Youth Have a Happy Holiday!

City Youth Now has been working behind the scenes to provide for San Francisco's dependent and delinquent youth when no one else can. They provide services that promote dignity, self-worth and responsible growth to youth who are tied up in San Francisco's juvenile court system.



Every year, City Youth Now throws its Annual Green Room Party, their kick-off to the Holiday Season! This event raises money which provides gifts for thousands of forgotten children in San Francisco ... and they need your help!

This celebration cannot be a success without the help of volunteers, and youth volunteers are welcome to help make this night happen! Set-up runs from Noon - 5:00 pm on Saturday, December 13, so mark your calendar, get in touch with City Youth Now, and make a difference!

[To find out how, click here!](#)

**Save San Francisquito Creek**

Save The Bay needs your help to empty their native plant nursery this holiday season! Youth volunteers will learn about habitat restoration as you plant species like blue-eyed grass, white yarrow, and sea lavender.



This unique wetland habitat provides a home to many native species, including shorebirds, waterfowl, and anadromous fish such as Steelhead trout. With the help of volunteers Save The Bay grows native seedlings in an on-site Native Plant Nursery, remove invasive plants and will plant 8,000 native seedlings along the shoreline this year. Save The Bay partners with the City of Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve to restore wetlands at the mouth of San Francisquito Creek where it meets the Bay.

[To make the holidays special for native species, click here!](#)

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**Distribute Food to the Hungry this Holiday!**

Second Harvest Food Bank serves rallies community resources to assist people who are hungry in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties, and they need your help!

The holidays are an especially busy time at Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, which collects and distributes more than 30 million pounds of food each year to low-income children, adults and seniors. The Food Bank currently serves an average of 163,000 individuals each month; nearly 60% are families with dependent children. This is enough people to fill AT&T Park more than three times.

[To help Second Harvest help the hungry, click here!](#)

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There are so many ways to get involved during the holidays!

The Volunteer Center website has plenty ways for you to get involved. If you didn't find what you're looking for in this month's Youth Pulse, why don't you check out [www.thevolunteercenter.net](http://www.thevolunteercenter.net), and see what you can find? I'll be back next month for a very special New Year's Youth Pulse. In the meantime, keep volunteering!

Peace,  
Damien

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The Volunteer Center Serving San Francisco and San Mateo Counties

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