

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT OUR DOWNTOWN UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS

The Portland Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) is seeking volunteers to support the DNA's Good Neighbor Project.

History: The Good Neighbor Project was launched by DNA in November 2020. The project helps approximately 200 unhoused downtown neighbors by distributing essential goods for survival (water, cold weather gear, etc), providing information and referral, and building "good neighbor" relationships.

Teams: Volunteers work in teams of 2 or 3 people, with each team assigned to a segment of the downtown (bounded by Burnside, I-405 and the Willamette River.) Each team will visit unhoused individuals within their section on an ongoing basis. We recommend a weekly visit, but teams may visit their unsheltered neighbors more frequently if they wish.

Pick up and donation of items for distribution: Teams will pickup items for distribution at Meals on Wheels (1032 SW Main) twice a week. TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY 1-3pm. Distribution days/times are at the discretion of volunteers.

Donated items: The Good Neighbor Project will provide survival items to volunteer teams. These items are acquired through cash and in kind gifts and city/county support. Volunteers may contribute additional items.

Orientation/Training: Volunteers will receive ongoing training including information and referrals, safety considerations, and ways to address issues of mental health and addiction.

Longer term goal: The long-term goal is to develop trust and relationships with our unhoused neighbors. We want to build community and offer support to help our unhoused neighbors find a way to a better life. Since its inception volunteers have assisted their unhoused neighbors in many ways including vaccine access, trash collection, job search, move to a safe shelter, avoidance of "sweeps", and even a memorial service for a beloved unsheltered friend.

To sign up or ask questions: Contact Good Neighbor Project

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