

Off-Campus Life Quick Newsletter — volunteer opportunities

As July begins, whether you're heading off for a well-deserved break or diving into summer classes, we hope you find time to relax, recharge, and enjoy the sunny days. Have a wonderful summer!

At OCL, our regular newsletter pauses for the summer, but when we find an opportunity to share with students, we don't hesitate to do so through quick newsletters like this one.

Volunteer Opportunity: Love Your Block Projects

The City of Evanston's Love Your Block (LYB) initiative focuses on strengthening communities through small-scale projects that beautify and revitalize local areas. This summer, LYB has provided funding to support neighborhood improvement projects over the next two years.



LYB is currently looking for Northwestern students who are in town over the summer and interested in lending a hand with these projects. There are more details below about each project, and their locations. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact lybevanston@cityofevanston.org (as well as the email of the project sponsor if one is shared).

Feel free to get involved—it's a great way to give back, learn something new, and show some love to your Evanston neighbors.

Want to Discuss Your Off-Campus Life Experience?

Whether you have a leasing, sub-leasing, landlord, roommate, or community question, we are happy to connect.

Contact:

Jason McKean, Assistant Dean of Students
Phone: 847.491.8430
Email: jason.mckean@northwestern.edu

Biting Zhao, Graduate Assistant
Phone: 847.491.8430
Email: offcampuslife@northwestern.edu

Website: <http://northwestern.edu/offcampus>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Nuoffcampuslife/>
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/northwestern_loc/
Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/northwestern-off-campus-life-office>

2nd Ward				
Name of Applicant	Project Location	Project Description	Volunteers	Team Lead
Nicole English	1800 block of Lake Street, north side; 1803 Lake Street	The project would be to remove weed trees that are leaning out over the parkway and the street. After removing the weed trees, a perennial bed will be created that would include another tree.		Krissie
Leonard English	1803 Lake Street Evanston, IL 60201: Alley behind the north side of the 1800 block of lake Street, Evanston, IL	The project is to clean the trash, overgrown vegetation, and other debris in the alley on the north side of the 1800 block of Lake St.		
Elizabeth MacKenzie	Greenwood Street, between the 1800 and 1700s block	To support an annual Greenwood Street Party—a cherished neighborhood tradition where residents come together for a potluck celebration and kids enjoy games and activities before the new school year begins."	NO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Krissie
Candace San Roman (ETHS) (Invoice Entered)	1600 Dodge Ave. Evanston , IL 60201	The project focuses on enhancing the front yard landscaping of a home built by the Geometry in Construction program at Evanston Township High School (ETHS), with low-maintenance landscaping options that are aesthetically pleasing and easy for the future homeowners to maintain.		Matt K GIC
Willie Lois Andrus Ebenezer Church	1515 Fowler Avenue Evanston, IL 60201	Exterior home improvement - This project involves leveling my backyard and improving access to my garage		Tina Penick penickt@gmail.com
Elena Aristide	1540 Fowler Ave Evanston, IL 60201	This project is to make pollinators habitat on the corner of our property and add a free public library for a free neighborhood book exchange.	2	
Bryan Payton	1507 Darrow Ave. Unit B Evanston, IL 60201	Exterior home improvement - This project is regravelling the walkway in the alley, installing a swing set in the front yard for children to enjoy, and adding a pergola in the backyard to provide shade and comfort.	NO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Kimberly Fair
Petina Dixon-Jenkins	1418 Darrow Avenue	Exterior home improvement - This project is to repair a crumbling parking pad, potentially replacing an aging storage shed, and upgrading exterior lighting.	5-10	
5th Ward				
Name of Applicant	Project Location	Project Description	Volunteers	Team Lead
Christa Shavers	Project Site: Twiggs Park / Simpson 1 1607 Simpson Evanston, IL 60201	The Toddler Adventure Camp is a three-month community-based program designed to provide a safe, inclusive, and nurturing space for families of color. This initiative focuses on early childhood development by fostering foundational, functional, and independent life skills in toddlers. Through engaging activities that emphasize collaboration, teamwork, and community building, the camp aims to create a lasting positive impact on participants and the broader community.		Robin Rue Simmons
Adam Blough	Project Site: Twiggs Park 2037 BROWN AVE Evanston, IL 60201	This project would aim to improve public space by recreating a native habitat that is sustainable without extensive maintenance and providing natural beautification in Twiggs Park.	YMCA	KimZ@mcgawymca.org,
Joyce Hill Payne Street Players Club	Project Site: Twiggs Basketball court 1716 Payne Street Evanston, IL 60201	This initiative promotes youth leadership by pairing older teens with younger children (ages 7–13) in a mentorship-focused basketball program. Through coaching and guidance, older youth will develop leadership skills while supporting the growth and confidence of their younger peers."	6	Joyce Hill
Joseph Roberts The Source Multicultural Center	Project site: Adam Perry Park 1712 Hovland Court Evanston, IL 60201	A vibrant community block party held in the park, bringing neighbors together to celebrate, connect, and support one another. The event includes tending to our community garden, sharing meals, playing games, uplifting our youth, honoring our seniors, and distributing essential items such as groceries, cleaning supplies, and gift cards to those in need.	5	Vanessa Johnson-McCoy
Tiffany Gregory Faith Temple Church of God in Christ Youth Department	Project Site: 1932 Dewey Ave 435 Dewey Evanston, IL 60202	Annual Youth Explosion Conference, the last weekend of June, to empowerment workshops, feeding the youth at the conference, transportation to the outing and funds for a potential outing.	NO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	Tiffany
Mellone Adams	Project Site: 1700 and 1800 of Hartrey Ave 1737 Hartrey Avenue Evanston, IL 60201	Make a raised Garden Beds (Flowers and Produce); decorate around trees with Foliage, Stones, Flowers, and Seating and Sidewalk Games (Painted).	YMCA	Deloris Burts
Earl Arthurs	Project site: 1800 brown ave Evanston 1811 brown ave Evanston , IL 60201	A block party and community club designed to foster unity, strengthen neighborhood bonds, and celebrate our shared love for the community		No
Nehanda Julot	1716 Dodge Ave. Unit 2 Evanston, IL 60201	Exterior home improvement - The project is to remove the fence in the front of the house and replace it with more greenery, such as large shrubs. Install a "Little Free Library" with a flower garden around it.	YMCA	Elise Levin
Karena Nelson Open Door Literacy	Project Site: Fleetwood-Jourdain Center 2038 Hawthorne Lane Evanston, IL 60201	The project is Ready to Read, a free recurring playdate for 4—and 5-year-olds and their parents that focuses on early literacy and kindergarten readiness.		

Sharon Riley Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago	1935 Grey	Exterior home improvement - Replace the roof and gutters at the home of an Evanston senior and do a variety of tasks which may include washing windows, and power-washing the home's siding and awnings, stripping and painting her railing and doing a small amount of yard work		Robin Rue Simmonsloilk
		8th Ward		
Name of Applicant	Project Location	Project Description	Volunteers	Team Lead
Liam Kipnis Partnering with Evanston Community Fridges	Project Site: The west side of the 8th Ward, possibly at the intersection of Dodge and Mulford or Howard 1024 Seward Street Evanston, IL 60202	To build a community refrigerator and food pantry in the western part of the 8th Ward, likely at the intersection of Dodge and Mulford or Dodge and Howard.		Community Refridgerator Bridget Johnson
Lisa Stewart	Project Site: 600 Mulford Street 315 Custer Ave Evanston, IL 60202	A block party to promote unity and getting to know each other better with a live band, a bounce house, food and fun!	3-5	Shawn Boothe
Abigail Johnson	1924 Dobson Street Evanston, IL 60202	Exterior home improvement - front steps revival.		Bridget Johnson
Maudette Watley	Project Site: Evanston 8th Ward and beyond 215 Dodge Avenue Unit E Evanston, IL 60202	This project aims to engage two high school students (or older) in an entrepreneurial experience focused on landscaping and yard work, providing valuable services to members of our senior community.	yes	Shawn boothe
MARY ELLEN GOMEZ	230 DODGE AVE	To repair a community driveway.		Elise Levin
Cynthia Jones	220 C Dodge Ave Unit C Evanston, IL 60202 Common Community Driveway (the thoroughfare from Brown to Dodge)	To repair a community driveway.		Elise Levin
Frederick Flores	231 Brown Ave Unit B Evanston , IL 60202	To repair a community driveway.		Elise Levin
Nicholas Goodman	340 Florence Ave Evanston, IL 60202	Revitalize the roundabouts on Florence Avenue with fresh landscaping, including new flowers and possibly adding a decorative structure.	<i>NO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</i>	no
		9th Ward		
Name of Applicant	Project Location	Project Description	Volunteers	Team Lead
Trina Ntamere House of Peace (HOP)	Project Site: The project will be located on the HOP property at the corner of Monroe & Custer (700-702 Monroe St. & 700-702 Custer Ave.) in Evanston, IL. 700 Custer Ave Apt 1C Evanston, IL 60202-4131	This project will transform an underutilized area of the yard at HOP into a Community Peace Garden and Urban Farm. The initiative involves constructing raised beds using reclaimed lumber to cultivate a diverse array of vegetables, herbs, and pollinator-friendly plants.	4-5 to help on multiple occasions with preparing the garden and planting, as well as building out some of the structures.	