2019 Rollins-teer Day Site Descriptions

1. American Cancer Society – Hope Lodge

*Background:* The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge program provides a free home away from home for cancer patients and their caregivers. More than just a roof over their heads, it’s a nurturing community that helps patients access the care they need. Each Hope Lodge community offers a supportive, homelike environment where guests can share a meal, join in the evening’s activities, or unwind in their own private room. Patients staying at a Hope Lodge must be in active cancer treatment, and permanently reside more than 40 miles or one hour away from their cancer treatment center. Each patient must be accompanied by a caregiver. The American Cancer Society Winn-Dixie Hope Lodge in Atlanta, which opened in 1998, offers 52 guest rooms located near treatment centers in the area.

*Service Activity:* Volunteers will be folding t-shirts, cleaning throughout the lodge, window washing, organizing the library, and helping with other miscellaneous chores.

*Notes:* Please note that this group will be walking to and from the service site. It is a 1.5 mile walk each way and involves going through a nature trail, which may be muddy depending on recent weather.


2. Atlanta Community Food Bank

*Background:* The Southwest Ecumenical Emergency Assistance Center (SWEEAC) provides emergency assistance to Southwest Atlanta citizens facing crisis. Driven by the goal to empower every family with the tools to once again be self-sufficient, productive, and contributing members of society, impact continues to increase as SWEEAC serves more than 13,000 residents, with approximately 250,000 pounds of food being distributed.

*Service Activity:* Volunteers will be distributing food boxes and products to local residents at the SWEEAC pantry location. They will also be organizing food, household supplies, and clothing donations for the distribution pantry.

*Notes:* All volunteers must register at [http://vhub.at/rollinsschool](http://vhub.at/rollinsschool). This event is scheduled from 8:30am-12:00pm. Closed-toe and closed-heel shoes are required, with sneakers or work boots recommended. Flips flops, sandals or heeled shoes are not allowed. Please wear comfortable clothing you do not mind getting a bit rumpled.

https://acfb.org/

3. Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House

*Background:* The house was built in 1926 and became a hospitality house in 1981. We serve anyone who does not live in Atlanta but is here for medical purposes. The Atlanta Hospital Hospitality House is “a home away from home” to patients and caregivers from outside of the
city who have found themselves in need of lodging and support while seeking treatment inside the perimeter. Our caring staff and volunteers provide affordable lodging, home-cooked meals, and supportive companionship in an effort to improve the health and welfare of families in the midst of medical crisis.

_Service Activity:_ Volunteers will be doing a deep cleaning/organizing of the home to disinfect and prepare for those staying here with compromised immune systems.

https://www.atlhhh.org/

4. **Books for Africa**

_**Background:**_ A simple name for an organization with a simple mission: to end the book famine in Africa. We collect, sort, ship, and distribute books to African students of all ages. With your help, we will help create a culture of literacy and provide the tools of empowerment to the next generation of parents, teachers, and leaders in Africa. Since 1988, we’ve been sending books to all countries in Africa. We depend on volunteers to help us sort and pack over 3 million books per year.

_Service Activity:_ Volunteers will sort and pack books for shipment to Africa.

_Notes:_ Closed-toe shoes are required in the warehouse.

https://www.booksforafrica.org/

5. **Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve**

_**Background:**_ Clyde Shepherd Nature Preserve is an all-volunteer, private nature preserve in the floodplain of South Peachtree Creek. The Preserve is open to the public, free of charge, every day of the year from dawn to dusk. The Preserve is home to over 100 species of birds, as well as native mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and plants.

_Service Activity:_ Volunteers will work on maintaining trails and removing invasive plant species.

_Notes:_ Volunteers should wear long pants and closed-toe shoes.

http://www.cshepherdpreserve.org/

6. **Community Farmers Market of Atlanta: East Atlanta Village**

_**Background:**_ The mission of Community Farmers Markets is to develop a local food infrastructure for long term sustainability and meaningful community impact. Our purpose is to preserve, root, and grow a diverse local food culture by maintaining an authentic space for all people to share community, fair food, and healthy lifestyles while providing a sustainable living for producers who steward the earth. The East Atlanta Village Farmers Market is one of Atlanta’s oldest farmers markets. Providing local and seasonal produce since 2006, the EAV Farmers Market has been a long-time champion of the food movement in Atlanta.
**Service Activity:** Volunteers will perform various tasks around the space such as: cleaning up the blackberry vines, priming and painting for a mural project, planting, mulching, and hanging a light.

**Notes:** Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and long pants, and it is suggested that they bring sunscreen and bug spray; volunteers will be outside the entire time.

7. **Concrete Jungle**

**Background:** Concrete Jungle harvests almost all of its food from the thousands of fruit and nut trees growing in the Atlanta area – in yards, on the side of the road, next to buildings. Most of these trees are untended and ignored, with their bounty being wasted to wildlife while only miles away many poor and homeless struggle to include any fresh produce in their diet. With your generosity, we pick these fruits, nuts, and vegetables throughout metro Atlanta and the surrounding areas and donate as much of the harvest as possible to organizations serving Atlanta’s poor and hungry. We also grow vegetables to donate on our small urban farm in Southwest Atlanta, Doghead Farm. Our farm allows us to host volunteer events and make donations year round.

**Service Activity:** Volunteers will participate in weeding, harvesting, planting, and mulching.

**Notes:** Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and clothes they don’t mind getting dirty. Bringing sunscreen and bug spray is encouraged.

www.concrete-jungle.org

8. **Emory Educational Garden Project**

**Background:** The Emory Educational Garden Project is an initiative of the Office of Sustainability Initiatives. The primary purpose of the program is to educate students and faculty about growing food and the health-related and aesthetic benefits of gardens in community spaces. There are eight gardens on Emory’s Atlanta Campus and one at the Oxford Campus. A team of volunteers maintains each garden, and the majority of what is grown in enjoyed by the volunteers as well.

**Service Activity:** Volunteers will receive a tour of all the gardens on main campus. Along the tour, volunteers will stop and help ready some of the gardens for the fall. Tasks may include spreading mulching, creating signage, weeding, watering, and general garden clean up. Volunteers will also get to sample some of what’s growing in the gardens!

**Notes:** Volunteers should bring a hat or sunglasses, comfortable shoes, and sunscreen and bug spray (though some will be available). Volunteers should only bring what they don’t mind carrying around campus as there will not be a secure place to leave belongings.

https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/litswellness/2018/11/30/the-emory-educational-gardens-project/
9. Emory Urban Health Initiative – Community Garden

Background: Emory’s Urban Health Initiative is a program of the School of Medicine that addresses health disparities in low-resourced urban communities. This particular project is conducted in an area that is designated as a “food desert” due to the lack of access to healthy, nutritious food on a regular basis for the residents of this community. Working with community members and organizations, we have built a community garden, and we operate several projects out of this garden, including nutrition education, an agricultural entrepreneur program for youth, and a literacy program for children based on reading books about gardening, insects, flowers, and other garden-related topics.

Service Activity: Volunteers will be focusing on general garden maintenance such as planting, weeding, and watering.

Notes: Volunteers will not have to pre-register for this site. Volunteers should dress for the weather, and are encouraged to bring sunscreen, a hat, and/or sunglasses. Gardening gloves and tools will be available, but you are welcome to bring your own gloves. Light snacks will be provided.

http://www.urbanhealthinitiative.emory.edu/projects/index.html

10. Friends of Disabled Adults and Children

Background: FODAC’s mission is to provide durable medical equipment (DME) such as wheelchairs and hospital beds at little or no cost to individuals with disabilities and their families. We seek to enhance the quality of life for people of all ages who have any type of illness or physical disability. FODAC provides over $9 million each year in equipment and services to the community at little or no cost to the recipients. We provide home health (mobility and daily living) equipment to people of any age or with any disability, temporary or permanent, for medically necessary and medically helpful reasons. We strive to further assist individuals who have specific social or community interests that require mobility for traveling long distances. Examples include recreation, school, church, shopping, or doctor’s appointments.

Service Activity: Volunteers will work on organizing, sorting, and boxing medical equipment.

www.fodac.org

11. Friends of Tucker Nature Preserve (Merit Scholars Only)

Background: Tucker Nature Preserve was purchased by DeKalb County in 2002 but sat undeveloped until 2011, when the “Friends of Tucker Nature Preserve” was formed through collaboration between Park Pride and DeKalb County. Since then, with the help of many volunteers and community groups, the Preserve has transformed from a closed, undeveloped lot into a beautiful, popular family-friendly Tucker destination. It is a ten-acre green space located in downtown Tucker, Georgia, across the street from the Tucker Walmart. The park contains a group picnic area, a half-mile walking loop, and a large grassy area for recreation.
Service Activity: Volunteers will be pulling invasive plants, weeding flower beds, performing trail maintenance, and mulching.

Notes: Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. Gloves, tools, and water will all be provided.

www.tuckernaturepreserve.org

12. Furniture Bank of Metro Atlanta

Background: The Furniture Bank, a 501(c)3, was founded in 1988 in response to the lack of furniture for families moving out of homeless shelters. Today, the Furniture Bank recycles gently-used furniture by collecting it from the community and giving it to individuals and families moving out of homelessness and fleeing domestic violence, as well as countless others struggling to make ends meet. Furniture is essential to a person’s physical and emotional well-being. The Furniture Bank provides beds for sleeping, tables for sharing meals, and couches for relaxing. We turn houses into homes.

Service Activity: Volunteers will help sort through our donations and make kitchen and bedding kits for our families. Kitchen kits provide our families with the essentials to prepare and eat a meal while bedding kits are sheet sets that will accompany the mattresses our families receive. Volunteers will also help to assemble new-in-box furniture decorations.

Notes: All volunteers must register online at https://furniturebank.formstack.com/forms/volunteer_release. Volunteers should dress for the weather, wear close-toed shoes, and clothes they don’t mind getting a little dirty.

http://furniturebankatlanta.org/

13. Gateway Center

Background: Gateway Center works to end homelessness in Metro Atlanta through therapeutic program and community collaboration. Located at 275 Pryor Street in Atlanta, Georgia, the Gateway Center is a keystone project of the Regional Commission on Homelessness’ effort to impact chronic homelessness. The Gateway Center is designed to serve as the “gateway” to the community continuum of care that helps individuals move out of homelessness, GWC provides 369 beds for men who enter into programs geared to address the underlying reasons for their homelessness, such as unemployment, addictions, mental illness or domestic abuse. We strive to provide a supportive and IAMCHANGED setting where individuals can receive the tools they need to end their homelessness and achieve self-sufficiency.

Service Activity: Volunteers will organize donations, assist with a clothing closet, and perform other organizing.

Notes: This site is not recommended for those with a dust allergy.

https://www.gatewayctr.org/
14. Greening Youth Foundation (Gates Millennium Scholars Only)

Background: The Greening Youth Foundation’s (GYF) mission is to engage under-represented youth and young adults, while connecting them to the outdoors and careers in conservation. GYF’s cultural based environmental education programing engages children from local communities and exposes them to healthy lifestyle choices in order to create an overall healthy community. GYF believes that youth and young adults from diverse backgrounds can greatly benefit from the career opportunities presented within the state and federal land management sectors. The Greening Youth Foundation’s Urban Conservation Training Institute is a 4 acre greenspace in the West End neighborhood of the City of Atlanta. It has a micro-farm and orchard, raised-bed community garden, and high tunnel hoop house, where we train young adults in urban agriculture, ornamental, and edible landscaping.

Service Activity: Volunteers will spreading wood chip mulch, removing kudzu, preparing garden beds, and planting ornamental flowers.

Notes: Volunteers should wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, and bring sunscreen.

https://www.gyfoundation.org/

15. International Rescue Committee

Background: The International Rescue Committee provides opportunities for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and other immigrants to thrive in America. Each year, thousands of people, forced to flee violence and persecution, are welcomed by the people of the United States into the safety and freedom of America. These individuals have survived against incredible odds. The IRC works with government bodies, civil society actors, and local volunteers to help them translate their past experiences into assets that are valuable to their new communities. In Atlanta and other offices across the country, the IRC helps them to rebuild their lives.

Service Activity: Volunteers will support our adult education program in a variety of new arrival refugee ESL courses. These are led by instructors, and volunteers will support the class by working on activities with small groups of students. Classes run from 9:00am-11:30am and will be followed by Q&A with staff about the organization’s work.

http://www.rescue.org/us-program/us-atlanta-ga

16. International Women’s House

Background: International Women’s House is a domestic violence shelter with a mission to provide a safe haven and supportive services to women and children who are the victims of family violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking, with a focus on immigrant and refugee women and children, cultural sensitivity and self-sufficiency. We have served Metro-Atlanta survivors since 1997. IWH is a state-certified domestic violence/sexual assault center. We are available to assist first responders, such as police, fire and rescue, and healthcare professionals, as part of a multi-disciplinary team to ensure the safety and well-being of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
Service Activity: Volunteers will help clean up and organize the warehouse/storage, which will include furniture. Volunteers will also help clean up the grounds, such as raking or pulling weeds for example.

Notes: Volunteers will not be working directly with shelter residents and a confidentiality agreement must be signed by all participants.

https://internationalwomenshouse.org/

17. Jerusalem House

Background: Jerusalem House is the largest provider in metro Atlanta of permanent supportive housing for low-income and homeless individuals and families who are affected by HIV/AIDS. In addition to housing we provide wraparound supportive services to help our residents get back on their feet (education, job training, drug counseling, etc.).

Service Activity: Volunteers will aid in grounds clean up including raking/bagging leaves, weeding, painting, planting, etc.

Notes: Please note that this group will be walking to and from the service site; it is over a mile each way.

www.jerusalemhouse.org

18. Kirkwood Neighbors Organization – Clay Cemetery

Background: Atlanta’s historic Kirkwood neighborhood offers the perfect in-town living experience with friendly and diverse neighbors, a strong sense of community, beautiful homes, mature trees, many parks, and central location. The Kirkwood Neighbors Organization’s (KNO) mission is to promote the spirit of an intown neighborhood and a high quality of life for all residents, regardless of race, age, religion, sexual orientation, or economic status. The KNO hopes to preserve their historic integrity along with their neighborhood for future generations through volunteerism, education, and environmental stewardship.

Service Activity: Volunteers will perform hand weeding around the cemetery to decrease the need for potentially damaging mowing.

Notes: Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes with socks, long pants, and long sleeves are recommended (perhaps under your Rollins-teacher shirt).

https://www.historic-kirkwood.org/

19. Kirkwood Neighbors Organization – Coan Forest

Background: Atlanta’s historic Kirkwood neighborhood offers the perfect in-town living experience with friendly and diverse neighbors, a strong sense of community, beautiful homes, mature trees, many parks, and central location. The Kirkwood Neighbors Organization’s (KNO) mission is to promote the spirit of an intown neighborhood and a high quality of life for all residents, regardless of race, age, religion, sexual orientation, or economic status. The KNO
hopes to preserve their historic integrity along with their neighborhood for future generations through volunteerism, education, and environmental stewardship.

Service Activity: Volunteers will be spreading a thick layer of woodchips to suppress invasive plants and support understory trees.

Notes: Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes with socks, long pants, and long sleeves are recommended (perhaps under your Rollins-teen shirt).

https://www.historic-kirkwood.org/


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Service Activity: Volunteers will be mulching and cleaning up the community garden along with mulching understory trees.

Notes: Volunteers should wear closed-toe shoes with socks, long pants, and long sleeves are recommended (perhaps under your Rollins-teen shirt).

https://www.historic-kirkwood.org/

21. Lost-n-Found Youth (Lettie Pate Whitehead Scholars Only)

Background: Lost-N-Found Youth is an Atlanta, Georgia based nonprofit (501c3) that exists to end homelessness for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) and all sexual minority youth.

Service Activity: Volunteers will sort donations for the thrift store, pull old items from the thrift store floor, organize shelves/books, or clean the thrift store.

Notes: Please wear comfortable clothing and close-toed shoes.

https://lnfy.org/

22. Love is Love Farm at Gaia Gardens

Background: We are a 4 acre certified organic vegetable farm that works to grow healthy food and sustain the success of farmers through collaboration. We work to achieve this mission through employment and mentorship of young farmers, our farmer collaborative CSA model, and servant leadership to good food and farm organizations. Located in the East Lake neighborhood, Gaia Gardens is owned by the East Lake Common community and has been operating for 22 years.
Service Activity: Volunteers will weed, harvest, plant, and/or do maintenance on the farm.

Notes: Volunteers should bring hats and sunscreen, wear close-toed shoes, and have on clothes that can get dirty.

http://www.loveislovefarm.com/

23. Open Hand

Background: Open Hand prepares, packs and delivers over 5,000 healthy meals each day throughout metro-Atlanta for those who might otherwise go without. Open Hand seeks to eliminate disability and untimely death due to nutrition-sensitive chronic disease and serves the community by empowering people to live healthier, more productive lives.

Service Activity: Volunteers will assist in meal packing.

Notes: All participants must register at http://rollinsteer.openhandatlanta.volunteerhub.com/. Tennis shoes or nonslip/slip resistant shoes and long pants are required. Absolutely no jewelry of any kind can be worn, which includes but is not limited to: rings, bracelets, watches, step-trackers, necklaces, earrings, gauges, cartilage, nose, and permanent piercings. No headphones, ear buds, or Bluetooth earpieces may be worn.

https://openhandatlanta.org/

24. re:loom

Background: re:loom is an employment/job training program for homeless and low income women/men. Donated fabric is handwoven into beautiful product that is sold. Workers receive a full-time salary/health benefits as they learn hard and soft skills to prepare them for entering the marketplace.

Service Activity: Volunteers will be helping cut and prepare donated fabric for weavers.

https://www.reloom.org/

25. Trees Atlanta

Background: When Trees Atlanta was founded in 1985, its stated purpose was to protect and improve Atlanta's urban forest by planting, conserving, and educating. 30 years and over 113,000 trees later, that mission remains the same. Trees Atlanta works tirelessly to address Atlanta’s tree loss, protect its forests, and create new green space. Through a combination of full-time staff, our dedicated and ever-growing community of volunteers, and partnerships with contractors and corporate partners, Trees Atlanta is committed to maintaining and expanding the natural tree canopy of our great city. Empowered by its wonderful community of volunteers, Trees Atlanta serves the metro Atlanta area, and has grown to become one of Atlanta’s most widely known and supported non-profit organizations.

Service Activity: Volunteers will help care for plants in the Atlanta BeltLine Arboretum. They will help weed around plantings, refresh mulch, or water new plantings to keep everything healthy and looking good.
Notes: All volunteers must sign up using this link. Volunteers must wear long pants and closed-toe shoes, and clothes that can get dirty. Long sleeve shirts (perhaps under your Rollins-teen t-shirt) are recommended, along with sunscreen and bug spray as needed. Sturdy pants are recommended so weed seeds can easily be removed: denim, cotton duck, or khaki are recommended, athletic wear/leggings made of polyester or spandex is not recommended.

https://treesatlanta.org/

26. West Atlanta Watershed Alliance

Background: The West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) is a community-based non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life within the West Atlanta Watershed by protecting, preserving and restoring our community’s natural resources. WAWA represents African American neighborhoods in Northwest and Southwest Atlanta that are most inundated with environmental stressors, but are least represented at environmental decision-making tables.

Service Activity: Volunteers will remove invasive plants, perform trail maintenance, and tend to the community garden.

Notes: It is recommended that volunteers wear light long sleeve shirts (perhaps under the Rollins-teen shirt), pants, and closed-toe shoes. Volunteers should also bring sunscreen and bug spray.

http://wawa-online.org/

27. Wylde Center: Hawk Hollow Garden

Background: Wylde Center’s mission is to educate, cultivate greenspaces, and build community in the areas we serve. The Wylde Center actively engages youth, families, and individuals in their environment, health, and community through organized programs, classes, and events that develop creative skills in sustainable urban living, organic gardening, health and nutrition.

Service Activity: Volunteers will help weed the garden, prune the forest, and assist with general site clean-up.

Notes: Participants should wear closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothing that can get dirty. Long hair should be tied up, and loose jewelry and heavy perfume should not be worn. Sunscreen and bug spray should be applied before arriving to the garden. Gardening gloves and tools will be provided.

www.wyldecenter.org

28. Wylde Center: Oakhurst Garden

Background: Wylde Center’s mission is to educate, cultivate greenspaces, and build community in the areas we serve. The Wylde Center actively engages youth, families, and individuals in their environment, health, and community through organized programs, classes, and events that develop creative skills in sustainable urban living, organic gardening, health, and nutrition.
Service Activity: Volunteers will help weed the garden, clean-up the site, and prepare the farm for fall planting.

Notes: Participants should wear closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothing that can get dirty. Long hair should be tied up, and loose jewelry and heavy perfume should not be worn. Sunscreen and bug spray should be applied before arriving to the garden. Gardening gloves and tools will be provided.

www.wyldecenter.org