

Volunteer Opportunities

in October

Mobile Food Pantry

*Friday October 2, 9, & 16

Shift 1: 11:30am-2:30pm – set up and assemble food boxes

Shift 2: 2:00pm-5:00pm – distribution and clean up

Baby Bucks – Donation in-take and sorting

*Tuesday October 13, 11am-2pm

*Tuesday October 20, 11am-2pm

*Tuesday October 27, 11am-2pm

Each day will have space for 4 volunteers

To join us, sign up in [VolunteerHub](#) – limited space available!

To learn more about our special COVID-19 procedures, please visit the Volunteer page on our website:

<https://flocritco.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

October is Mission Month!

This month, the focus is on Mission Month - an entire month of virtual community gatherings, remote and in-person volunteer opportunities, and conversations with FloCrit teen moms and staff. October 10, 2020 would have marked the 16th Annual Miles for Moms and even though we cannot gather to run and walk the streets of the Valverde neighborhood around the FloCrit campus, we will continue the tradition of celebrating our teen moms and their families with Mission Month.

We've built out lots of different opportunities to connect, volunteer, and give this month. Look out for our special fundraising week match, check out our volunteer opportunities (or reach out to Theresa if you're interested in working on a small interview project), and share the work you've done at FloCrit with your friends and family as you connect us all!

If you're interested in learning more about Mission Month, please visit our Mission Month page on our website (<https://flocritco.org/get-involved/events/mission-month/>). There, you'll see a calendar embedded in the page with links to register or sign up for events. We want to highlight our FloChat in the first full week, on Wednesday October 7 at 12pm. We'll have a virtual panel discussion with some of our moms to hear about their experiences during COVID, engaging in remote learning, being home with their child, and what it's like to be a teen right now. Join us if you can!

Pending the final announcement from DPS, this may be the month that moms come back to campus in cohorts for limited in-person learning. If so, that will start October 21, and we will be spending the next few weeks continuing to get ready for more changes on campus.

As always, we enjoy the opportunity this newsletter brings to reconnect with many of you. Please reach out to say hello, or let us know how you're doing. We miss you! ~Theresa & Maggie

Spotlight on: Remote Baby Bucks

If you have spent any time volunteering on campus in the last few months, chances are you've worked in Baby Bucks, our basic needs store. If you've seen it at any point, you know the store is full of gently used and new donated clothing, toys, baby items, and more. It's always lots of fun to sort through all our generous donations, getting them ready for moms to pick out during our bi-weekly shopping days. But obviously we haven't had shopping days since March, and even though we stopped in-kind donation drop offs for a few months, once we began accepting them again in July, we quickly refilled the store. We knew we wouldn't be able to do in-person shopping days for a while, so we created an online ordering process, complete with Baby Bucks' very own Instagram account to facilitate communication and the promotion of special items. With the help of three dedicated Regis University interns, we've been up and running for two weeks as of you reading this. Here's how it works:

- Moms can place an order through an online order form. The order form includes essentials like diapers, wipes, formula, and period essentials, as well as clothes, toys, or other baby accessories and items.
- Orders are processed by our interns on Tuesdays and Fridays. So far, they've been able to fulfill orders and staff our order pick-up on the same day, but as order volume increases, we may have volunteers support order fulfillment in the future.
- Moms can pick up their processed orders on Tuesday or Friday at ECE pick up. It was a Student and Family Support team decision to encourage moms to come to campus – as possible – to pick up orders to get them in the habit of coming to campus and practice time management, as that will be an opportunity to meet with their Family Advocates, or take care of any other business they may have on campus.



Our first pick up!



An example of an item promo in our Instagram story.

- The new Baby Bucks Instagram @flocrit_baby_bucks, is part-communication tool, part-item promotional tool. Moms can direct message if they have questions about their order, or inventory in the store. They can also see special items posted to our story and claim those items for pick up. This way, we can show moms how great the items in the store are without having them physically in the store. Interns check up on the Instagram page at least once every 24 hours, so moms can expect a prompt response to their questions.

We're only two weeks in, but so far, we've gotten good engagement and are excited about how this will transition once moms are back on campus. We still anticipate the need for remote shopping, but by the time we're back in-person, we know this system will be largely known to and comfortable for all FloCrit moms!

Volunteer Profile: Food Pantry Volunteers



Jennifer, inspecting boxes set aside for FloCrit moms.

This month we are highlighting some wonderful volunteers that have contributed time to our newly established mobile food pantry on Fridays. Over the past few weeks we have been able to serve on average 150 families collectively from our community and our student body. Volunteers have been vital to ensuring a smooth experience in organizing and distributing food. We've seen new faces getting involved with our food pantry as well as familiar faces re-engaging with this great opportunity.

We spoke to a variety of volunteers who have been involved over the past few weeks to understand what this experience means to them!

Marianne, a returning volunteer simply and powerfully explained “I can't think of a more worthy cause, pandemic times have been hard for so many.”



Heather, with a produce box ready for distribution.

Andrew, a new FloCrit volunteer who works for PCL construction stated that he came to help out at the food pantry because “I feel that volunteering is important, working in an industry that has not been affected by COVID is a blessing and I want to give back to others who need it.”

Lauren, a Junior League member, is a new volunteer at FloCrit. She stated that her grandmother volunteered with a Florence Crittenton in Pennsylvania and after hearing about us, wanted to get involved!

Heather, a returning volunteer explained that our organization is “near and dear to my heart, I was a young single mother and this community really needs and benefits from the help.”

We are so thankful for all of the hard work our volunteers have done in the past few weeks - the food pantry would not be possible without them!



Andrew moving boxes from the gym to the distribution area outside.



Volunteers loading food into cars during distribution.