

Volunteer Opportunities

in August

Backpack Acceptance

*Thursday August 6, 2020

10am-1pm

Diaper Shuttling

Friday August 7, 2020

12pm-1:30pm

Baby Bucks – Donation in-take and sorting

*Tuesday August 4, 11am-2pm

*Tuesday August 11, 11am-2pm

*Tuesday August 18, 11am-2pm

*Tuesday August 25, 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/](https://flocritco.org/get-involved/volunteer/)

BACK TO SCHOOL ALREADY?!

It seems ludicrous that we're already talking about going back to school, but that seems to be how time works these days. We've had a good summer at FloCrit, with our partial reopening of the office three days a week, complete with an adjustment period for staff to learn our new COVID office procedures (and remember what it's like to wake up and pack a lunch and commute even one time/week!), our first in-person volunteer events since March, a fun Summer Programming schedule, and resuming accepting in-kind donations. And now, the conversation has shifted once again, and we are in full-preparation mode for the school year.

Denver Public Schools has announced that school will begin remotely, on August 17, and continue that way at least through Labor Day. Our team is busy preparing for a return – both virtually and in-person – through our annual School Supply Drive and the physical realities of equipping moms with the tools and resources they continue to need, including school supplies, basic needs, and gently used clothes and toys. Their kids are a full six months older than the last time we saw them, which means they'll have all new needs when they return to their school routine, regardless of it being in-person or virtual. Our ECE is preparing to accept students back, but we're still not quite able to welcome volunteers back to the classrooms. Maggie and I are working on ways for ECE volunteers to participate remotely, and we'll keep you updated on that!

Meanwhile, we have a couple special and additional opportunities this week to our standing Baby Bucks volunteer event:

Good for a family or small group (limit 5) – Backpack Acceptance on Thursday from 10am-1pm. As a complement to our School Supply Drive, we work with A Precious Child, who provides backpacks for all of our teen moms, with limited school supplies included. They are dropping off the backpacks on Thursday morning, and we're looking for a small team to help us accept the backpacks and bring them downstairs in prep for sorting and packing of our school supplies.

Good for people with bigger vehicles (looking for 2-3) – Diaper Shuttling on Friday from 12pm-1:30pm. We've received a diaper grant from WeeCycle, a partner out in Aurora, and we're looking for people to help me transport the diapers from the WeeCycle warehouse to FloCrit. Reach out to Theresa at tgarcia@flocritco.org for more information.

As always, we're here for you, and love staying in touch – drop us a line to say hey and let us know how you're doing! ~Theresa and Maggie

Spotlight on: Virtual School Supply Drive

Florence Crittenton Services has been running a School Supply Drive for years, and, like all things, has evolved with the times. We have always run the drive to collect supplies to pack backpacks with everything FloCrit moms are going to



Florence Crittenton Services 2020 School Supply Drive

Our 2020 School Supply Drive is hosted on the platform RightGift, and allows us to capture more donor information than past School Supply Drives, which means we can better thank and appreciate all who contribute.

need to have a successful school year. Ensuring each mom begins the year equally prepared, and with ongoing access throughout the year to an ongoing supply of school supplies is a part of educating, preparing and empowering FloCrit teen moms and their kids.

For many years, we collected items for our wish list through physical bins in various partner offices, and locations such as Denver Public Library branches, and various bank branches. In a world in which people work in the office and regularly and repeatedly visit the bank and the library, that was a successful model. However, in an increasingly online world, traffic around our bins has decreased in the last few years, and last year, we tested a hybrid model. We gave bins to our partners with an office – many of whom organized inter-office competitions to fill the bins – and a select few heavily trafficked DPL branches, while also hanging posters in all libraries and offices with pull-tabs linking to our Amazon wish list. This allowed us to engage deeply with our community partners, while allowing for the reality that many people prefer the convenience of online shopping, and may not make multiple trips to the library or bank in a month. And last year was a very successful School Supply Drive, so we weren't too intimidated when we knew that this year, if we were to host a school supply drive, it would need to be wholly virtual. Fortunately, the tools available to nonprofits continue to grow, and we chose a platform on which to host the drive this year that allows for back-end inventory monitoring, and better donor information reports, which means we will be able to better thank and appreciate all who contribute to the School Supply Drive, something physical boxes inherently do not support.

Our School Supply Drive this year will equip up to 200 FloCrit moms with backpacks (provided through our partnership with [A Precious Child](#)), and school supplies, collected through the online platform. This year, we focused our wish list a bit more on specific items that would help FloCrit moms organize their school work and notes, while also thinking about the resources they may need while doing online schooling. We will distribute backpacks to all FloCrit moms during the first week of school, and all leftover supplies will be sorted and housed in Baby Bucks, to be available to moms throughout the year.

Thank you to all who have participated in the School Supply Drive over the years, and to all who have contributed this year! If you're interested in being involved this year, you can join us **this Thursday August 6 from 10am-1pm** to accept the backpacks from A Precious Child and bring them downstairs for sorting, or check out our wish list to see what we still need this year!

Wish list: <https://bit.ly/FloCritSSD20>

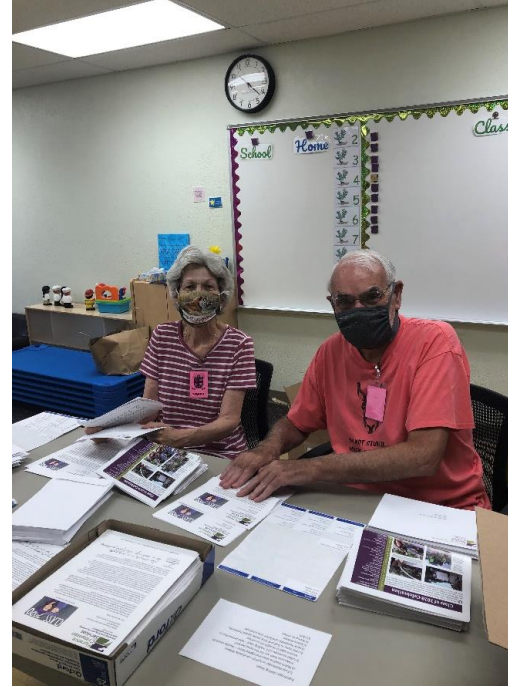
Volunteer: <https://flocritco.volunteerhub.com/>

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: CATHY BUHLER

Cathy's volunteer experience with FloCrit began over 8 years ago. After meeting Suzanne Banning (our President and CEO) working alongside each other at Rocky Mountain Public Radio, Cathy heard of Suzanne's involvement with Florence Crittenton Services and wanted to begin volunteering. Cathy has spent much of her volunteer time over the years stuffing envelopes with our biannual newsletter, the Pathfinder. At the beginning of July, Cathy and her husband, Bil, were even our first volunteers since campus closed in March and helped us once again with the Pathfinder!

Another highlight of volunteering for Cathy has been our holiday giving project. During the holiday season our organization receives donations of gifts for our moms and their children. She has spent time organizing and wrapping gifts for our students and describes that she feels grateful to be able to help. "If it weren't for FloCrit some of these moms may not have gifts or a meal for their children during the holidays. Everything they are able to provide is amazing." Cathy has also been involved with our annual run/walk-Miles for Moms, attended a graduation which she calls an "incredible emotional culmination of hard work", and even packed boxes when our organization moved offices as our high school finished construction. She truly embodies a great volunteer, always helping wherever she can.

Cathy contributes much of her involvement to Suzanne Banning. She states "Suzanne was my inspiration to be involved, I saw what she did and how she embraces her work 1000 percent." And for anyone looking to volunteer? Cathy describes FloCrit as "the total package with lots of support in so many different areas and allows moms to go on and achieve great things – how can you not want to help?" In her free time Cathy enjoys traveling, spending time with friends, reading, and staying active. She regularly volunteers at her local food bank and enjoys being able to help others. We are so appreciative of Cathy and all of her hard work in our volunteer program!



Cathy and her husband, Bil, were our first volunteers back on campus, and helped us get our Pathfinder mailing out at the beginning of last month.