

Volunteer Opportunities

in May

We are still exercising caution and reserve when it comes to in-person volunteer opportunities. We always have ongoing projects and we can set up a time for you to help that accommodates your schedule and allows for social distancing. Email Theresa or Maggie to set that up.

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

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

Graduation, FloCrit Advocacy Activators

May at FloCrit means Mother's Day and Graduation, and we are happy to have these celebrations to look forward to. Our Family Engagement Team has put together an at-home Mother's Day Celebration for moms, and we'll be passing those out all week. We're also in the midst of planning our two graduation ceremonies, for our Early Childhood Education Center kiddos, and their moms. We will be able to hold those in-person this year, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication of FloCrit moms after this unprecedented and challenging year.

I'd also like to introduce the **FloCrit Advocacy Activators**. This is a new group of individuals who are interested in public policy, and in supporting the policy goals of FloCrit and organizations like ours. Florence Crittenton Services is one of the leading advocates for teen families in Colorado. We have worked for years strengthening public awareness around the issues affecting teen families, and advocating for programs and policies that help them succeed, particularly on legislative and regulatory policies that address the social determinates that affect the health and wellbeing of pregnant and parenting teens, their children, and their extended family. We have seen the powerful outcomes for Colorado's families when FloCrit students, alums, and staff testify in support of key bills, policies, and funding.

As more of our community becomes interested in advocacy efforts to support pregnant and parenting teenagers and their children, we have created the FloCrit Advocacy Activators, a special group committed to supporting this policy work. Activators will receive the insights and tools needed to get in contact with elected officials when there is an issue important to our community of pregnant and parenting teenagers, their children, and extended families. They can expect to hear from us with action items, email + voicemail templates, and any exciting updates around the issues we are most focused on. If you are interested in becoming a FloCrit Advocacy Activator, please reach out to Theresa at tgarcia@flocritco.org and we'll send you more information.

Have a great month!

-Theresa & Maggie

Phlebotomy Class



Emi Pavia, our Transitions Advocate, getting her blood drawn by mom Zanee.

A special part of campus that many of you may not be aware of is our Phlebotomy program. In conjunction with Florence Crittenton High School and Denver Public Schools, we are able to provide a course in Phlebotomy to our students. This course is taught by our wonderful MedConnect teacher and certified Medical Assistant, Linda Almanza. Linda previously worked in our school based health clinic and transitioned to teaching this past school year. Students complete a full semester of classes in phlebotomy certification, equivalent to a 6 week course.

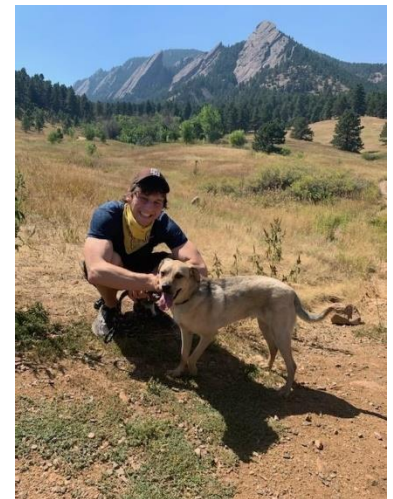
After they complete the course at FloCrit, they are required to pass a Colorado state test to become a certified phlebotomist and can then begin their career in the health care field. Linda is also working towards getting FloCrit certified as site for state phlebotomy testing. This will eliminate a transportation barrier for our students to receive licensure by bringing testing to our campus. This program gives our students direct experience and the skills to cultivate a career upon graduation. The most important clinical aspect of the course is practice in finger pricks and drawing blood. Our staff graciously volunteers for their blood draw practice (as seen in photo). Currently we have 8 students working towards their certification.

Volunteer Spotlight: Charlie Schwartz

Charlie Schwartz first learned of Florence Crittenton Services eight years ago when he was a sophomore at Vanderbilt University. While participating in an alternative spring break trip, he came to Florence Crittenton with some classmates to complete a variety of projects. One of his tasks was helping to organize donations for our basic needs store (truly just a shed in the back of the building at that time!). Charlie was immediately impressed by the way our organization was run and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Fast forward to 2019 and Charlie found himself moving to Denver and wanted to get involved with a non-profit organization. He thought FloCrit could be a great place to support and soon after moving joined our Junior Board. The Junior Board is made up of young professionals who coordinate fundraisers and provide support for the FloCrit community. This year Charlie spearheaded a project to provide Valentine's Day gift bags for all staff at Florence Crittenton Services, a kind gesture that was appreciated by all staff!

When Charlie isn't busy working in his role at a cyber security company you can find him hiking with his pandemic adopted pup named Butters or finishing up his Master's degree in data science! He has also just become a new home owner with the help of realtor and current board member Nicole Lovato. We are so thankful for all the work Charlie continues to do for FloCrit!



Charlie and his dog Butters on a recent hike!