

## Volunteer Opportunities In June

**Saturday, June 5, 2021**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a morning of summer campus clean-up and landscaping activities, including sanding and staining our outdoor benches, weeding, Baby Bucks organization, and more!

Sign up here:

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

*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.*

## Summer at FloCrit!

We have officially made it through the school year and celebrations are certainly in order! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, shared a post, kept in touch, and read this newsletter over the last year. This was such a challenging year, and we are so grateful to everyone who helped us get through it.

In this newsletter, we're spotlighting the wonderful graduation festivities of the last couple weeks – we could not be more proud of our FloCrit Class of 2021! While it is difficult to look back at the last year, it illuminates just what an accomplishment it is for these graduates, and we can't wait to see what they are able to achieve moving forward, knowing they have the support of everyone at Florence Crittenton.

We're also looking forward this summer to having the time on campus to really work on our basic needs boutique, Baby Bucks. The accompanying volunteer profile introduces us to Angie, who has been a wonderful asset to the store since she started at FloCrit earlier this year. This summer, the goals of the store are to: create a website for the store to accommodate online ordering; implement an inventory system to help us efficiently and effectively meet the needs of our moms; institute a student advisory council, led by our summer student intern Delmy; and finally, keep achieve a manageable organizational system within the store so when more volunteers (and students!) return next fall, no one has to feel overwhelmed down there! I can't wait to work on this project, and hope you'll join us.

Finally, we are hosting a (rare) Saturday volunteer day this upcoming Saturday, and I invite you to join us! This will be kid-friendly, so if you are looking for a way to introduce your family to FloCrit, consider signing up for this shift.

Until next month, Theresa & Maggie.



## Program Spotlight: ECE and FCHS Graduations



*Ms. Sherry, our preschool teacher, handing off a diploma to one of our ECE graduates!*

Each spring our campus has two graduation celebrations, one for our littlest kiddos in the ECE and the other for our moms in culmination of their high school career. Both are incredibly special events and unique to our campus.

ECE graduation took place on our campus on May 20. ECE graduates fall into two categories: either mom is graduating from high school or due to the child's age they are graduating from the preschool classroom and headed off to kindergarten. During a short and sweet ceremony each of our classroom teachers hand off a diploma to our graduates (all dressed in purple gowns) and say a little bit about each

student. Family and staff attend to celebrate the successes of our youngest graduates.

FCHS Graduation is always a momentous occasion with so much to celebrate. Here at FloCrit we believe that raising a child and pursuing a high school degree is an amazing feat! On a beautiful sunny day we had 18 graduates walk across the stage at All City Stadium to receive their diplomas. A special aspect of a FloCrit graduation is the Rose Ceremony. During this time, each graduate receives a rose and dedicates it to an individual who has supported them in their journey to graduation. Some dedications are funny and others emotional - overall it is a wonderful way for our graduates to recognize their biggest supporters. This year, we held a reception at Washington Park immediately following the ceremony. Students received their senior gifts, took photos, and enjoyed the company of family and friends. Graduation day was a huge success!

The class of 2021 have endured and persevered immensely in their path to graduation. Most of the year was completed through distance learning online. Beginning in January students were allowed back on campus with numerous safety protocols and everyday challenges adding more layers and hurdles to reach graduation. Our campus came together to support our students and their children in many different ways during such a difficult year. We could not be more proud of our 2021 graduates!

## Volunteer Profile: Angie Tonelli

Angie first learned about Florence Crittenton Services after doing a simple Google search for organizations that support women and families. A teen parent herself, she was especially drawn to the work we do and wanted to get involved in an organization that empowers young mothers. An independent consultant in her professional life, Angie has been a rock star volunteer for us since February 2021.

Angie's volunteer specialty is our basic needs boutique: Baby Bucks. Over the past year, this space has become harder to maintain due to fewer students being on campus and overall fewer shopping days. Angie comes in 2-3 times per month, and is supporting the transformation of the Baby Bucks Boutique. She loves to organize and enjoys helping in what she describes as "the chaos that is Baby Bucks." The largest project she has tackled thus far is going through all of our used children's clothing and organizing each item by gender and size. Our used clothing racks are now more accessible than ever for our moms on shopping days. She has also completed the organization of our new clothing and separated many baby shoes by size. Angie's work helps to calm the chaos of donations and brings order to the store.

Even though Angie began volunteering with us during a global pandemic, she immediately felt comfortable and safe due to our on campus COVID procedures. She has been working alone and looks forward to the opportunity to work with other volunteers in Baby Bucks in the near future. When Angie is not volunteering with us she loves to spend time with family and grandchildren. After the craziness of the past year, she is excited to be able to travel to Lake Tahoe this summer for a week with her family. We are so grateful for the amazing support Angie provides for the FloCrit community!

