



Thank You Volunteers!



This month, we wanted to take some time to focus on our Volunteers, Interns, and everyone who helps our staff make our center run as smoothly as possible. There are lots of people who help us do intake, answer phones, mentor Main Frame students, run the front desk, and give of their time and means in many different ways.

It's always the right time to

VOLUNTEER

Ways to help:

01

DO INTAKE WITH
OUR GUESTS

02

WORK IN THE MAIN
FRAME

03

HELP OUT WITH
OFFICE DUTIES

04

DONATE SNACKS
AND TOILETRIES



Visit centraloac.org for more info!

Hear from our Volunteers:

We have many volunteers who have been giving their time at the OAC for years now. Many of our volunteers are members of Central but some are not. Our volunteers have come to us all sorts of ways. We have volunteers who assist with intake, work the front desk, facilitate art, answer phones, file paperwork, mentor and help teach Main Frame students, bring food for Main Frame classes, and many other things. We are powered by volunteers and we could not do the work we do without them.



Linda Lehfeltdt

Volunteer Linda Lehfeltdt says she has been volunteering at the OAC for about five

years. She became a volunteer because she has been very involved in Central's activities and decided she wanted to learn about the OAC and be of help. According to Linda, the most meaningful part of volunteering is when she answers the phones and guests are appreciative of whatever help she could provide. She especially appreciates it when a guest says "you've made my day" or "you've been so helpful." The OAC is special to Linda because of how she can see the difference we make in even a small way in our guest's lives and in solving their problems.



Ann Hunter

Ann Hunter has been giving her time and talents at the OAC for seven years now. She began to volunteer because "as a long time member of CPC I have always supported the OAC and its mission." When she retired she knew volunteering at the OAC was another way to support the work of the OAC as well as use her social work skills for helping others. The most meaningful part for Ann is the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of persons in need, and the gratitude of the guests is very special. Ann enjoys when she meets with a guest and realizes she has met with them before, it brings a smile to her face. Central OAC is special to Ann because of the, "Caring, committed staff who model the importance of love for all God's children."

Charles Cantrell

Charles Cantrell has been volunteering at the OAC for about six years now. He wanted to help support the mission of the OAC. He appreciates that by working the front desk he is able to interact with, "virtually every guest that comes into the OAC." The OAC is special to Charles because of the team of people who are focused and dedicated to the mission of the OAC.

Cade Lawson

Volunteer Cade Lawson has been at the OAC for just over a year now. According to Cade; "Having grown up in Atlanta, I was always perturbed and disappointed by the number of people who were made to sleep outside and encounter dangerous living situations because of unfortunate family circumstances, mental illness, or other obstacles beyond their own control. It was initially hard for me to find an outlet to try making a lasting impact, but the OAC provided me with a fantastic opportunity to meet outstanding people while working to solve an issue that I feel is important and often overlooked.

I still volunteer at the OAC because it is important for those experiencing homeless to have as many resources as possible to get their lives on the best track for their futures. Everyone faces obstacles in life, but not everyone is automatically equipped with the tools they need to overcome them.

For me, the most meaningful part of volunteering at the OAC is being able to have conversations with guests who often feel ignored in their day-to-day



Marcia Hunter

Marcia Hunter started volunteering with Main Frame, and then started working

lives. Everyone deserves the opportunity to share their story, but finding a willing listener outside of the OAC proves to be challenging for many people.

My favorite memory of working with a guest at the OAC comes from Main Frame: I was fortunate to be in the room when a guest I know well got a call from an employer offering him a job. This guest had worked harder than anyone I've ever seen for the better part of three weeks, applying to well over 50 jobs online without ever taking a day off, and was hired by his top choice. He celebrated by dancing around the Mainframe, teary-eyed, because it meant he could get out of the shelter he'd been staying in and finally move he and his wife into a home of their own. I get to see meaningful moments all the time at the OAC, but that was the only time I've ever been fortunate enough to see a guest's hard work truly pay off right in front of my eyes with the realization that they'd finally found the light at the end of the tunnel that everyone always talks about.

Central OAC is special to me because it works to address such a unique aspect of homelessness: lack of identification and job skills. It is an incredibly welcoming environment which makes a very real, lasting change in peoples' lives. The staff is what makes that all possible, and you won't find better or harder-working people on earth than Kimberly, April, Ahren, Brenna, and Cat."



with intake about 2 1/2 years ago. Marcia says she volunteers out of a "profound sense of gratitude: I am retired, healthy and energetic, and I appreciate that I possess what I call 'the gift of time.'"

For Marcia, the most meaningful part of volunteering at the OAC is the one-on-one conversations with guests, where common ground on which to have a positive experience can be established. "Sometimes these conversations affect me deeply, as when a guest arrives anxious or skeptical about what we can offer and then leaves smiling, expressing gratitude or maybe just relief that something that seemed monumental has turned out to be manageable." Her favorite part is being able to exceed guests expectations, such as being able to provide them something "extra." She shared that, "This week we had a donated pair of red high tops for a young man who arrived wearing only socks on his feet. He was thrilled that the shoes fit him perfectly."

Marcia says she has trouble narrowing down one favorite memory, because she has so many, but one that sticks out to her is this past winter, when she was able to give a woman experiencing homelessness a beautiful warm scarf, hat, and gloves.

For Marcia, Central OAC is special to her because, "Central OAC radiates an atmosphere of radical hospitality, love, empathy, and a kind of committed joy in serving our guests. Despite the difficulties inherent in a program of this type, the OAC has a kind of stability that springs from exemplary leadership, compassionate staff, and faithful volunteers. It is a constant reminder of the power of the Spirit at work in our lives and the lives of those we serve. It is a great privilege to be a part of it."

How To Volunteer At The OAC:

Name: Central Outreach and Advocacy Center

Date: Monday-Friday

Available Times: 9:00-12:30 a.m.



volunteer

We open doors to overcome and prevent homelessness.

With a small staff, Central OAC is able to provide effective services through the help of volunteers and interns who give over 6,400 hours of their time each year in service to homeless and near-homeless individuals and families.

Weekly:

*Intake: work one-on-one with guests to provide direct services

(Mondays – Fridays, 8:45 am – 12:30 pm)

*Main Frame volunteer: work with students to complete resumes, apply for jobs online, & enhance their computer skills

(Mondays and Tuesdays, 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm)

(Wednesdays – Fridays, 8:45 am – noon)

*Front Desk: answer phones, greet guests, & check mail

(Mondays – Fridays, 8:45 am – 12:30 pm)

*Administrative: answer phones, file paperwork, other admin. tasks

(Mondays – Fridays, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm)

Monthly or Occasional:

*Provide lunch for Main Frame students

(Mondays and Tuesdays)

*Interview Main Frame students for mock job interviews - can be done from home or work

(Once per month, usually on Wednesday mornings)

*Help plan special events

*Provide healthy snacks or sandwiches for our guests.

For more information, contact: April Campbell (404) 601-3173, acampbell@centraloac.org

[Sign up to volunteer](#)

Thank you for all you do to make our community a better place!

Sincerely,
Central Outreach and Advocacy Center

MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN



CENTRALOAC.ORG

Guest Story Spotlight

A Positive Attitude Can Brighten Someone's Day



"Mr. Grady is a veteran and he came into the OAC looking happy and ready to get his documents in order. He was pleasant to talk with, and he began by asking me a few questions. He would look at me with a knowing expression as we filled out his paperwork and say "Now let me ask you a question, I'll finish in a minute, but can I ask you something?" I enjoyed talking with him, and I was also excited that he was the third person in a row I had worked with that had all of his documents he needed to get an ID. However, as I continued to work with him, he mentioned that the DDS had told him that he needed a birth certificate. DDS had graciously printed him a paper copy of his ID to give him some extra time to get what he needed. When I realized that we would need to order his birth certificate, I was anxious that he would be upset and our good conversation would take a turn because he would have to wait to get his ID. But, he continued to smile and be pleasant, and he was even more excited that we were still able to help him get everything he needed. He told me that once he finally got his ID, he was going to be able to pick up his disability check and finally get an apartment. He seemed to be on his way to stability, and he was so thankful and grateful for our help. He is definitely a guest that brightened my day."

By: Cat Perkins

