ILLINOIS
Human Resources

How to help

The negative aspects of COVID-19 are obvious. But some people are talking about good things that could possibly come out of this crisis. One of them is a stronger sense of community. This is ironic, given the order to socially distance ourselves, but there are ways to connect and create community from afar. Specifically, in the present moment there are ways that you can help others in your community.

Here are a few ideas:

Donate blood: Keeping the donated blood supply high is critical right now. You can donate blood safely. To ensure everyone's safety you must make an appointment.

Donate money: Many organizations need funds right now. Here are some examples:
- Campus: To help fellow employees having difficulty, donate to the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund
- Local: The Eastern Illinois Food Bank is urgently asking for donations Other local organizations such as Meals on Wheels can also use help.
- National: CNN has provided an extensive list of organizations who need donations. You can narrow your search. For instance, you can click on "restaurant and food workers" or "mental health".

Call an older adult who isolated. Volunteers for the Friendly Callers program make phone calls to isolated older adults. This program is organized by Family Services of Champaign and OSF St Mary's hospital. Go here or contact Family Services at 217-352-5100.

Make masks: Carle Foundation Hospital is asking for non-surgical masks. Carle provides specific information on how to make the masks. Carle asks that volunteers do not leave their homes to buy supplies. Carle will pick up the finished masks.

Buy a nurse a cookie. Organized by Hopscotch Bakery, you can order a cookie to be delivered to a local nurse. Go here to order.

Adopt or foster an animal: If you are able to support a pet, adopting or fostering provides a safe and loving future for a needy animal, and reduces strain on local Humane Societies. Go here to learn more.