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## **Buffalo City Mission Launches New Volunteer Program in Response to COVID-19**

*Initiative includes social distancing guidelines and online technology that prioritize safety for all participants*

**BUFFALO, NEW YORK, (April 17, 2020)** – Today, the Buffalo City Mission announced a new volunteer program in response to ongoing developments with the coronavirus (COVID-19). The initiative is open to individuals under the age of 60 who are not experiencing respiratory and related health issues, and features new measures and online access that prioritize safety for all.

Launched this week, the program represents the latest effort in the City Mission's longstanding work with community volunteers – tailored to address today's heightened focus on health and safety in a pandemic era.

“As we monitor the developments of COVID-19 together, our work with volunteers continues to be a vitally important avenue for serving this special community,” said Aubrey Calhoun, Associate Executive Director of the Buffalo City Mission. “Our new program puts safety first, at every step. It also advances the spirit of our staff and volunteers in an unprecedented way. By working together and remaining vigilant for each other, our work continues and our community holds strong for every neighbor in need.”

The City Mission has established an online agreement form for interested volunteers to review and register. Individuals will follow a screening process to evaluate their health, hygiene and recent travel history, and then fill out details on their desired focus and time of service. The process moves all applications to the City Mission's website, and moves all sign-in and sign-out logistics to a mobile-only format.

More information and registration options are available at [buffalocitymission.org/covid-19-volunteer-agreement](https://buffalocitymission.org/covid-19-volunteer-agreement).

For individuals looking for alternate ways to get involved, on Tuesday, April 21, the City Mission will be participating in Give From Home Day – a national, online-driven effort that will engage thousands of neighbors across Western New York and around the country to support those hit hardest by COVID-19. To get involved, visit [buffalocitymission.org/donate](https://buffalocitymission.org/donate) on April 21, learn how you can donate, and share your story on social media using #GiveFromHomeDay.



The City Mission also continues to provide updates related to its work and COVID-19, as they are available. To learn more, visit [buffalocitymission.org/covid-19](https://buffalocitymission.org/covid-19).

### **About the Buffalo City Mission**

The Buffalo City Mission, founded in 1917, is a nonprofit organization providing preventative, emergency, and transitional housing programs to thousands of people who are homeless and impoverished every year. The Mission includes a Women and Children's Shelter (Cornerstone Manor), the Men's Community Center, and the Dick Road thrift store to serve the Western New York community. For more information, please visit [buffalocitymission.org](https://buffalocitymission.org) or call (716) 854-8181.

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