

*Elevate your Experience*

# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Southern hospitality comes in many forms, and giving back to the community is just one of them. Create a memorable team bonding experience and make a positive impact with one of these group projects through local service organizations.

## GROUP SERVICE PROJECTS



**ASHEVILLE GREENWORKS** • [ashevillegreenworks.org](http://ashevillegreenworks.org)

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Operations Manager • 828.254.1776

**INFORMATION:** Up to 25 people • Year-round Outdoor Opportunities • Off-site

Asheville Greenworks is the perfect organization for a group seeking an outdoor service project and that isn't afraid to get their hands a little dirty. As the most active volunteer environmental organization in Western North Carolina, their mission is to inspire, equip and mobilize individuals and communities to take care of the places we love to live. With flexible scheduling available any day of the week, GreenWorks can work with groups of up to 25 people ranging from conference to corporate. Year-round volunteer opportunities include roadside and creek cleanups, tree nursery/orchard maintenance, and maintenance of the Trash Trout, their aquatic litter-capturing device. Depending on the time of year, your group could also participate in a river cleanup, live staking, or tree planting.



**MANNA FOODBANK** • [mannafoodbank.org](http://mannafoodbank.org)

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Volunteer Manager • 828.299.3663, ext. 1245

**INFORMATION:** Up to 30 people • Indoor Opportunities • Off-site

MANNA FoodBank supports the nearly 100,000 people experiencing food insecurity in the 16 counties of Western North Carolina, and volunteers are essential in their work to end hunger in WNC. MANNA hosts groups of volunteers during almost every two- to -three-hour shift at their Volunteer Center Warehouse located in Asheville. Groups of all ages (from pre-school to retirees) and as large as 30 can engage in a variety of projects at the FoodBank. Whether you are sorting donated product, repackaging bulk food, or culling produce, groups work together with wonderful energy to make a lasting positive impact on the people of WNC.



United Way of Asheville  
and Buncombe County

**UNITED WAY OF ASHEVILLE AND BUNCOMBE COUNTY** • [unitedwayabc.org](http://unitedwayabc.org)  
**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Volunteer Engagement Director • 828.239.1033  
**INFORMATION:** Any Size Group • Indoor and Outdoor Opportunities • On-site and Off-site

United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County is dedicated to fighting the root causes and consequences of poverty. Their service opportunities are designed to impact a local need and create a meaningful volunteer opportunity for large groups of people, with projects ranging from beautification to kit-making. Able to accommodate groups of nearly any size, United Way can integrate your group's team-building and networking goals with education about community issues and a volunteer activity. Their on-site opportunities – called "We Care Experiences" – feature guest speakers from the local benefiting nonprofit/school organization(s) who share their story and talk about the impact of the project while volunteers assemble kits and care packages. Each package is personally decorated and includes a handwritten note of encouragement.



**SEED PROGRAMS INTERNATIONAL** • [seedprograms.org](http://seedprograms.org)  
**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Programs and Partnerships Director • 828.337.8632  
**INFORMATION:** Up to 200 people • Indoor Opportunities • On-site and Virtual

Seed Programs International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing access to good quality vegetable seeds, expertise, and training to humanitarian organizations around the world to alleviate hunger and poverty. SPI's seed packing events are a mobile, fun, and easy way to fight hunger – the supplies are shipped to your meeting or event venue and set up on-site, where participants work together to package seeds for shipment around the world to communities in need. A seed packing event is suitable for a group of 25 people to over 200, with costs determined by the amount of seed packets ordered. Seed packing can even be done as part of a virtual meeting agenda, with an option to ship supplies directly to participant's homes. Seeds packed at home are donated directly to charities selected from a suggested list.



**EBLEN CHARITIES** • [eblencharities.org](http://eblencharities.org)  
**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Volunteer Coordinator • [mcminn120@gmail.com](mailto:mcminn120@gmail.com)  
**INFORMATION:** Any Size Group • On-site Donation Collection

The mission of Eblen Charities is to provide assistance to families and individuals in the Asheville community during times of crisis and hardship whether medical, financial or an emergency need. Through numerous innovative programs and partnerships, tens of thousands of families are assisted each year with heating, utilities, medication, housing, food, clothing, medical and other emergency assistance. Eblen Charities can help coordinate on-site donations at your conference host hotel. Examples of donation collections include food (easy to prepare food items), new or gently used coats, school supplies, hygiene products, and new books, toys, or stuffed animals for the Saint Nicholas Project. Eblen Charities also accepts volunteers to help with events, projects, and in their office.



**ASHEVILLE BUNCOMBE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN MINISTRY** • [abccm.org](http://abccm.org)

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Volunteer Administrator • 828.398.6836

**INFORMATION:** 15-50 people • Opportunities for Groups 200+ • Indoor and Outdoor Opportunities • Off-site

Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry (ABCCM) provides emergency assistance to those in need and develops strategic plans to address the root causes of poverty and restore lives in the community. ABCCM has several different ministries located across Asheville: the Crisis Ministry, serving the low-income citizens of Buncombe County who are facing financial emergencies and are struggling to meet life's basic needs; the Homeless Services program, which includes the Veterans Restoration Quarters and Steadfast House transitional housing facilities; the Medical Ministry, providing urgent care, medication assistance, and crisis dental care to those in need; and the Jail Ministry, serving Buncombe County prisoners who need hope and direction in order to re-enter the community responsibly. Volunteer opportunities are available at each ministry, from beautification projects to cooking and serving meals.



**RIVERLINK** • [riverlink.org](http://riverlink.org)

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Stewardship Coordinator • [volunteer@riverlink.org](mailto:volunteer@riverlink.org) • 828.252.8474

**INFORMATION:** Up to 25 people • Year-round Outdoor Opportunities • Off-site

RiverLink is an organization whose mission is to promote the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River and its watershed. The organization has deep roots in the River Arts District, and strives to serve under-resourced communities in Asheville, and beyond. By managing land and water resources, educating the community, and improving public areas, we work to create a stronger and more beautiful environment for the community to enjoy.



We have monthly public volunteer days working on various projects from March to December, and we also schedule private volunteer opportunities any day of the week, year round! We can accommodate groups of up to 35. Our volunteer opportunities include roadside and stream litter clean ups, invasive plant removal, habitat restoration projects, stormwater control maintenance, and native plantings.



**ASHEVILLE PLAYS** • [ashevilleplays.com](http://ashevilleplays.com)

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** [ashevilleplaystoday@gmail.com](mailto:ashevilleplaystoday@gmail.com) • 828.808.3341

**INFORMATION:** Any Size Group • Indoor and Outdoor Opportunities • On-site and Off-site

Our charitable programs intertwine games and activities to achieve necessary components for donations.

Programs include: Bike Building, Sensory Board Building, Build Your Own Mini Golf Course, The Dog House, Back Pack Buddies, STEM Play, and Support The Troops.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



**AISHA ADAMS** Keynote Speaker / Influencer / Program Developer for the Lenoir-Rhyne Equity & Diversity Institute • [lr.edu/lredi](http://lr.edu/lredi)

**CONTACT:** Lenoir-Rhyne Equity & Diversity Institute, Center for Graduate Studies of Asheville • 828.407.4271

Aisha Adams is an influencer with a heart for community economic development who champions social change advocates, thought leaders, and courageous disruptors. She is founder and CEO of the Aisha Adams Media Group and partner organization Equity Over Everything, which advances equity by closing gaps in entrepreneurship and homeownership in low-resource communities.

Adams is available for workshops, courses, keynotes, and panels on diversity, equity, and inclusivity topics. She is also available for webinars and can accommodate a virtual meeting agenda.

Adams is also the program developer for the Lenoir-Rhyne Equity & Diversity Institute (LREDI). LREDI's courses are available to visiting conference groups. Courses can be taught on-site or virtually, with topics tailored to fit your group's needs. Call to discuss your ideas for your conference.

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## GO LOCAL ASHEVILLE CARD

GIVE ATTENDEES LOCAL DISCOUNTS AND GIVE BACK TO ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS



**GO LOCAL ASHEVILLE** • [golocalasheville.com](http://golocalasheville.com)

**PURCHASE CONTACT:** Contact your Explore Asheville service contact to be connected to the organization.

Asheville's local business community is one of the things that makes the city such a unique place to explore. Go Local Asheville Cards allow meeting and event attendees to discover the best Asheville has to offer by providing generous discounts to over 550 locally owned, independent businesses.

Explore Asheville has teamed up with the Go Local Asheville to offer the Go Local Card to meeting attendees at a reduced rate of only \$10 per card (normally \$20). Half of the purchase price goes directly to Asheville City public schools and programs that bring in local artists, support teachers' continuing education, and make sure every child has ample opportunity to participate in field trips and projects.

**Details:**

- There is no minimum purchase requirement to receive the discounted price for meeting attendees if cards are purchased by a meeting planner.
- A fully responsive [online directory](#) with participating businesses, maps, and directions is available.
- Card holders can also use Go Local Asheville smartphone apps to view the participating businesses with a fully responsive online directory, maps and directions. Just go to the Apple Store (iPhones) or Google Play (Androids) to download the Go Local Asheville app.
- The card is valid until the end of the calendar year.