

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Care Choir

The Care Choir provides a soothing presence and comfort to Hospice patients and families with short, peaceful serenades of a cappella songs. Care Choir is dispatched to care facilities in the Charleston-Mattoon area at the request of patients or family members. Lincolnland Hospice of Sarah Bush Lincoln coordinates the visits. If you would like to participate in Care Choir, please contact the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Eastern Illinois University, 217-581-5114 or academy@eiu.edu.

The Douglas-Hart Nature Center

2204 Dewitt Avenue East, Mattoon - The Nature Center is home to over 70 acres of restored Illinois habitats, about 2 miles of hiking trails, and a visitor center housing live animals, toys, books, and displays. Our vital team of Weekend Host Volunteers staff the visitor center for three hours at-a-time on Saturdays and Sundays. Volunteers enjoy greeting visitors, answering the phone, and watching the birds & wildlife during their shift. If you are interested in becoming a Weekend Host, or would like to do a one-time trial shift to see what it is like, please contact the Nature Center at 217-235-4644.

Whiteside Garden

In 1963, Dr. Wesley (Wes) Whiteside of the EIU Botany Department, began transforming 5 acres of former farmland into a diverse botanical garden. Wes nurtured and developed this garden, drawing many visitors to view his collections, which are unmatched in the region. His property has become a true treasure for east-central Illinois. Upon his passing, Dr. Whiteside's will was to make a gift of his garden as an educational resource and place of beauty for the community. With the garden currently in a transitional period, it relies on the support of volunteers to care for the amazing plant collections. Come and lend a hand to help with mulching, weeding, trimming, and more. Please wear closed toed shoes and long pants. Contact: Dakota Radford, 815-266-1472 or email: whiteside.garden@gmail.com

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore

520 W. Lincoln Avenue, Charleston - The ReStore sells donated items to support the mission of providing decent, affordable housing to qualified residents of Coles County. Volunteer help is needed for sorting, organizing, and cleaning. Academy members and friends are encouraged to help any time that suits your schedule. Contact the store at 217-348-7066 for additional information.

Standing Stone Community Center

375 N. 14th Street, Charleston - This non-profit resale ministry features food, clothing, books, toys, and furniture to fulfill unmet needs through their multi-faceted, Christ-centered outreach. Help is needed to sort donations, distribute food pantry items, organize inventory, and serve customers. The School of Extended Learning collects new hotel size soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, etc., throughout the year to offer Standing Stone beneficiaries because these items are not available through SNAP. Call 217-549-3378 for details.

Table Arts Center Docents

Join our docent core as we explore techniques for facilitating art-based conversations. This workshop will meet once a month as a group to explore ways to talk about art through an inquiry-based format where questions lead the conversation and create room for authentic discoveries. We will also have monthly opportunities to facilitate conversations in the galleries throughout the semester. No experience with art is needed; background or experience talking in groups is helpful. We will practice and learn ways to foster welcoming spaces for conversations. Once-a-month meetings & ONE gallery experience (minimum), per semester commitment. **First meeting: 1/14/2019 2:30 - 3:30 pm.** Contact Tim Abel: table@eiu.edu or 217-581-2787.