

## Greetings, Tri-Cities Area Leader

We wanted to let you know about a local resource created in response to COVID-19. In order to assist the community, we hope to support the services of existing non-profit organizations (NPO) and service groups.

Several local community members created the Facebook group Flatten the Curve - Tri-Cities at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/flattenthecurvetc/> to share resources, educational ideas, scientific information, and other materials that focus on Social Distancing.

It occurred to us that self-isolation may leave many individuals and families without necessary supplies and supports. So we created a “sister” Facebook group called Pandemic Needs and Volunteers as a place for folks to share immediate requests and offer to help one another(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/593363414585045/>).

In addition, we've set up a website with a volunteer signup form and service directory at <https://www.flattenthecurvetc.com/>. To be honest, we may have put the cart before the horse! About 130 people have indicated a willingness to volunteer, and we have no place to point them.

Our Flatten the Curve - Tri-Cities Facebook site has gone from 0 to 8,000-plus members since Saturday! We wish to serve as a clearinghouse for information. If your organization is ramping up existing services, providing additional services, or can serve as a catalyst for volunteers, consider linking our Facebook sites , and let us list you in our resources directory.

We do not intend to formally incorporate or raise funds; this is simply meant as “one-stop shopping” to help our community cope in this difficult time. In addition, we have people with communications and risk experience that smaller NPOs may not have, so reach out to us if you need assistance.

As time passes and we see the impact on the community, hopefully we can connect cadres of healthy volunteers who can support programs that may be overwhelmed. *(For example, if many of your volunteers are over 60, you may need some people who are able to fill their job while they shelter-in-place and protect their health.)*

As of now, we are saying all help transactions are arranged directly by the people involved, under their control. We are discouraging any physical contact (e.g., grocery drop-off on the front porch, or entering homes).

Your mission, should you choose to accept, is to follow our Facebook groups:

Flatten the Curve - Tri-Cities: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/flattenthecurvetc/>

Pandemic Needs and Volunteers: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/593363414585045/>

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM on our Flatten the Curve Tri-Cities website if you would like us to list your organization: <https://www.flattenthecurvetc.com/volunteer-or-join-us>.

NOTE: You may have enough volunteers right now but consider their age and health and whether they should be replaced for their own safety. We plan to redesign the form in a few days to have a pull-down menu of organizations in need so we can easily sort and forward to you.

Lastly, if your organization has volunteers who have already passed background checks, we hope that you may encourage them to be ready to serve other local groups in supporting vulnerable individuals.

Thanks in advance!  
FTC Rapid Response Volunteers

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