

Fern Street Backpack Program Summary (12/25)

In the new year we'll have the following openings for volunteers:

- 1) **Backpack Program bag packers:** We are looking for two teams of 2-3 people each to help pack bags every week during the school year (excluding school holidays). The team can come on their own schedule, as long as the packing room is not reserved (available times are generally 11-4 Mon/Wed, 1-4 Tues/Thurs, 10-4 Fridays, and 10-4 pm Sat/Sun. Standing for up to an hour may be required, as well as some bending and lifting of bags and rolling large utility carts. Bags can weigh up to 10 lbs, and packing teams pack 15-30 bags in a session.
- 2) **Backpack Program backup drivers:** We deliver to 17 different West Hartford Public School and Library sites, so would love to have backup drivers in case our regularly-scheduled drivers aren't available. A vehicle is necessary, and drivers would need to be able to transport bags between UCWH and schools during school office hours (typically until 4 pm M-F).
- 3) **Bread/Pastry pickup drivers:** This can be a shared role as long as volunteers can coordinate schedules with each other. Dates/Times: 2-3 Friday mornings a month, anytime between 8-10 am. We pick up donated bread and pastries from Big Y in Bishops Corner. A vehicle with a sizable trunk or cargo capacity would be needed, as well as the ability to lift up to 25 lbs. This role entails picking up "banana boxes" (the heavy-duty boxes that bananas are shipped in) from Big Y's loading area, rolling them down a ramp, and loading the boxes in their car. Drivers would then transport the boxes to the UCWH kitchen. The donations will be distributed at monthly Food Pantry days and bimonthly Community Breakfasts.
- 4) **Bread/Pastry pickup backup drivers:** Same as #3, but on an as-needed, backup basis only.
- 5) **Donation pick-up drivers:** This would be on an as-needed basis. We occasionally get food donations from individuals and businesses around town, and it would be very helpful to have a roster of pick-up drivers we can contact to see if they're available. A car would be required, as well as sizable cargo capacity (preferably small SUV or larger). Drivers should be able to lift up to 50 lbs.