

Red Hook Farms Food Access Project: Food insecurity is a critical issue in Red Hook. Since the COVID-19 crisis began, RHI staff have been conducting phone surveys to identify Red Hook's most vulnerable residents and to assess food, medical, and mental health needs. Each week, the Food Access Project's emergency distribution effort through <https://rhicenter.org/red-hook-farms/the-farms/> provides 10 pounds of fresh produce food boxes to over 400 households in Red Hook. RHI anticipates continuing this emergency distribution effort through December 2020.

Grace Church seeks to recruit a team of volunteers to work at the Red Hook Farms by helping with onsite packing, food distribution, composting, weeding and/or other maintenance tasks at the Farm to help with RHI's emergency food distribution effort to the Red Hook community. Shifts are available on Saturdays from 10AM-1PM and also on Tuesdays from 12PM-3PM through September and October. All tasks will be conducted in a socially distanced manner. Volunteers are needed both on a drop-in or more long term basis. Volunteers must be 18+.

Red Hook Initiative Freedom Schools Virtual Read-a-Loud Project: RHI has partnered with the Children's Defense Fund to run the <https://www.childrensdefense.org/programs/cdf-freedom-schools/> summer academic enrichment program with 60 Red Hook youth in the 6th to 10th grades. This 6-week program seeks to promote critical thinking and literacy skills, prevent summer learning loss, and support students' successful transition between academic grades. The program is especially important this summer to help combat an anticipated academic slide due to COVID-19 school closures. Grace Church seeks to recruit volunteers to participate in an online "Read-A-Loud" to students as their day begins. Volunteers will read live to students over Zoom their favorite works of writing or poetry that speak to the importance of activism, freedom, and civic engagement – we can provide some recommended readings if desired. Volunteers can join at 9AM and start their reading at approximately 9:15AM with some time for discussion with students afterwards. Volunteers can also pre-record their readings. Volunteers are needed from now through mid-August, and can sign up for one or multiple shifts depending on availability. Volunteers must be 18+.

** Please reach out to Amy Rowland at amyrowland@gmail.com if you are interested in or have questions about these initiatives.