Social Distance Volunteering Guide
1. Kit Packing

Assembling kits – like snack packs, pencil packs or hygiene kits – is a volunteer activity that provides needed materials for nonprofit agencies and can be accomplished individually or as a group.

For a group, you’ll need to set up the activity in a space that allows for social distancing, while ensuring that all surfaces, items and volunteers’ hands are disinfected.

For individuals who will be packing kits remotely, arrange to deliver the kit materials to your volunteers or set a time when they can pick them up. Similarly, when the volunteers have finished packing, you will need to arrange to have them return their finished kits and any unused supplies.

For tips on organizing great kit packing projects, and links to purchase kit materials, visit uwcentralcarolinas.org/corporate-volunteer.
2. Flash Cards

Classroom Central, a Charlotte-based nonprofit that provides free school supplies to students and teachers in Mecklenburg and surrounding counties, encourages volunteers to create and package educational flash cards that are distributed to students in need. There are a variety of cards to choose from, all of which help support basic skills-building in mathematics and language arts.

This is a very simple activity to organize for remote volunteers, since the necessary supplies – colored markers, unlined index cards and Ziploc sandwich bags – are readily available at drugstores or office supply stores.

For complete instructions and flashcard templates, visit classroomcentral.org/flashcards.

3. Off-Site Volunteer Opportunities

There are a few nonprofit agencies in the region who need volunteers to assist with operations at their facilities, although at lower-than-usual capacity. Volunteers must wear masks and maintain social distance, but groups of up to 10 individuals can often be accommodated to help with sorting and packing materials. These agencies include:

- Second Harvest Food Bank (secondharvestmetrolina.org)
- Loaves and Fishes (loavesandfishes.org)
- NC MedAssist (medassist.org)
- Classroom Central (classroomcentral.org)
- Cooperative Christian Ministry (cooperativeministry.com)

4. Skills-Based Volunteering

Through skills-based volunteering (SBV), individuals or small groups of employees who have specialized skills or experience leverage that knowledge to help nonprofit agencies improve their internal operations or expand their programming. SBV engagements are “high-touch/high-impact” and very customized to the needs of the nonprofit beneficiary, but they can take place virtually via video conference. SBV assignments typically take place over several weeks or months, with regular check-ins between the volunteers and agency.

If you are interested in learning more about SBV opportunities, email volunteer@uwcentralcarolinas.org.