



SGFMC Action for Justice News

This is a limited compilation of **CURRENT** opportunities for action. **Additional suggestions are welcomed at:** marynpaul@comcast.net We will make every effort to share them as quickly as possible.

"Thus says the Lord GOD: Cry out full-throated and unsparingly, lift up your voice like a trumpet blast." -Isaiah 58: 1

Week of January 11, 2026

PEACEMAKERS:

**** Monthly Prayer Vigil to End Gun Violence – Saturday, January 31st, following the 5PM Mass – in the North transept of ST. EDMUND CHURCH, 188 S. Oak Park ****

**** Monthly TAIZE Prayers for Peace – Friday, Feb. 6th -7:30PM at Ascension Church, 808 S. East Ave****

TAKE ACTION:



- 296 DAYS UNTIL THE MID-TERM ELECTIONS

INDIVISIBLE



A core principle behind all ICE Out For Good events is a commitment to nonviolent action and no civil disobedience. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values, and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events. All events should be held in public spaces or on public property.

FOREST PARK: Saturday, 1/10 – 11AM-12:30PM – 7500 W. Roosevelt Rd. (in front of Taco Bell)

LA GRANGE: Sunday, 1/11 – Noon-1:30PM – LaGrange Rd & Cossitt ("Solemn Vigil, Silent March")

the Neighborhood



Wanted: VOLUNTEER ADVOCATES - "Work in partnership with Participants in addressing their immediate needs. This includes helping find existing high-quality human service organizations for needs like housing assistance, primary healthcare, or food assistance. Advocates are required to attend a 1½ hour Bridge Breakfast and two 2½ hour training sessions."

To learn more, we invite you to attend our next Bridge Breakfast **on Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 8:30 AM** in the Tutoring Center at Maguire Hall. <https://theneighborhoodbridge.org/volunteer>

FOOD. CLOTHING. SHELTER:



FOREST PARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Teen Resumé Clothing Donation Drive – Jan. 2nd – 30th

"Help our local teens put their best foot forward as they start applying for summer jobs. We are accepting like-new and gently used, clean donations of business casual and office-appropriate wear for teens, including shirts, pants, jackets, dresses, skirts and shoes. The donations will be used at a free clothing "pop-up shop" at the Maywood Public Library on Saturday, January 31 open at 12 pm." More Info: <https://forestpark.librarycalendar.com/event/teen-resume-clothing-donation-driv>



COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT - LOCATIONS:

Boulevard Presbyterian Church 607 Harvard; Oak Park

Edwin Gale House, 124 N. Kenilworth, Oak Park

Grace Episcopal (located in the back of the Grace parking lot on the West side of the building.)

A House in Austin; 533 N Pine Avenue, Chicago

Food donations are always welcome – NO open packages, NO fresh meat (no lettuce, salad greens, or tender vegs when temps are below freezing – THANKS!)

OR - monetary gifts can be sent to [this link](https://www.communityofcongregations.org/give/). Please denote Community Fridge Project on the memo line! <https://www.communityofcongregations.org/give/>



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY! First MONDAY of Every Month

Join the women of Saint Catherine of Siena-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles to help provide a ***continental breakfast*** for our clients on the **first Monday of each month**. (This is a great service opportunity for teens and families and can be shared between households.)

*** Choice of muffins, doughnuts, instant oatmeal, or cereal for 40 people, plus fruit (no apples, please)**

*** 2 Gallons of milk, and juice or bottled water for 40 people**

Next opportunity to volunteer is available on **February 2, 2026** - Sign up for the monthly dates online SignUpGenius Form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0944AAAE2EA2FA7-58142351-stgiles#/>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **Dinner Providers** - Prepare hot dinner meal for 40 to be dropped off by 7:00 PM. Dinner providers can also volunteer for evening hosting if they want to stay and serve.
- **Breakfast Providers** - Donate breakfast supplies for 40 (cereal, fruit, juice, yogurt, etc.).
- **Lunch Providers** - Donate bagged lunches for 40 (sandwiches, chips, fruit, cookies, etc.) for guests to take with them when leaving the shelter the next day.
- **Evening Hosting** - 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM (shift can be split) - Interact with guests, set up, and clean up.
- **Morning Hosting** - 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM - Assist with breakfast and clean-up.

Both **INDIVIDUAL and GROUP** volunteers are welcome and much needed.

Volunteers can sign up for one day, a few days, or ideally for an ongoing monthly commitment.

Interested in volunteering or learning more? Contact **Cherrell Jackson** at cjackson@housingforwar or via phone at (708) 338-1724 ext. 201



Coming soon: NEW HOME @ St. Bernadine's School (801 Elgin Ave., Forest Park)

The plan is to start receiving donations and organizing the rooms ("free stores") on Monday, January 12 and Monday, January 19. We will open once again to migrants and immigrants on Tuesday, January 20. *Watch this space!*

To donate online through GiveCentral use the link below OR send donations to Saint Catherine-Saint Lucy and Saint Giles Parish, 1025 Columbian, Oak Park, IL 60302. Include a note that the donation is for the "Migrant Ministry".



“Volunteers are critical to every aspect of our operation, providing over 2,000 hours of collective time every month...We offer volunteer shifts that run the gamut, including data entry, repacking, serving Pantry guests, and unloading delivery trucks. We hope to provide a volunteer opportunity for everyone, at every ability level.”

COMPLETE THE NEW VOLUNTEER FORM HERE: <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/volunteer>

Drop-Off hours at the Food Pantry: 848 Lake St., Oak Park, IL) 9am-4pm Monday-Tuesday &

Thursday-Friday. <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/donatefood>

DONATE HERE: <https://www.gobeyondhunger.org/donate>

CREATION CARE:



Recycle holiday lights...

...by dropping them off in a bin located in the lobby of the Public Works Center, 201 South Blvd.

The bin is available during regular business hours Monday through Friday through the end of January.



“We enable grassroots volunteers to play a leading role in testing and scaling innovative, high-impact tactics **that encourage fellow Americans to vote.**”

[Volunteer-powered, evidence driven, collaborative, innovative – 501c(3) – non-partisan]

<https://vote4wd.org/about-us>

VOTE!! General **Primary** Election: March 17, 2026

December 17, 2025: First day to apply for a vote by mail ballot.

February 5, 2026: First day to vote early or by mail.

February 17, 2026: Last day for regular (paper) voter registration.

February 18, 2026: First day of grace period for in-person voter registration and voting at election authority and early voting sites; continues through Election Day.

March 1, 2026: Last day for online voter registration. Grace period registration is still available at election authority and early voting sites.

March 12, 2026: Last day for election authority to receive vote by mail applications.

March 17, 2026: Primary Election Day! Polls are open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm.

>>TEENS: If you will turn 18 on or before the date of the General Election (Nov. 3, 2026) **REGISTER NOW!** << **Illinois Online Voter Application:** <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>



Walk the Talk “*Lights in the Darkness*”



In these difficult times, the world around us often looks cold and bleak. Now more than ever, we need to search for, and lift up, those people, businesses, groups, and organizations whose work is a light of **hope** in the darkness.

Here’s just one – **send yours** to marynpaul@comcast.net



High schoolers train to be election judges in March primary

The Cook County Clerk’s Office and Chicago Bears this week launched Defenders of DA’Mocracy, a program to train 150 high school juniors and seniors to serve as election judges during their schools’ early voting day on Feb. 26.

By [Somer Van Benton](#) | [WBEZ](#) Jan 7, 2026, 6:36pm CST
