



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEER NEW YORK! PARTNERS WITH THE CITY OF NEW ROCHELLE, MONROE UNIVERSITY, AND IONA UNIVERSITY TO COMMEMORATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH DAYS OF SERVICE

Volunteer New York!, The City of New Rochelle, Monroe University, and Iona University will come together to transform remembrance into action through community-wide days of service.

NEW ROCHELLE, NY – September 4, 2026 – The City of New Rochelle, Volunteer New York!, Iona University, and Monroe University proudly announce that they will commemorate the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001, with two large-scale, youth-driven volunteer events during Volunteer New York!'s "9/11 Days of Service". Together, the partners will host two service projects that engage youth, students, residents, and community leaders to address critical local needs such as food and clothing insecurity.

"It's inspiring to think that 25 years after our nation was visited by tragedy, we continue to defiantly come together in the spirit of helping one another. This anniversary of September 11th is a powerful one and we're excited to welcome everyone in our community to participate in these Days of Service to help our friends and neighbors." said New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert.

The first project will take place at Iona University in New Rochelle on Wednesday, September 9, where youth and their families will participate in projects that include packing snack bags for The Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle, creating hygiene kits for WestCOP, and preparing laundry sachets for HOPE Community Services. Iona University's collaboration in Volunteer New York!'s 9/11 Days of Service demonstrates the university's commitment to civic engagement that will inspire and educate the next generation of volunteers.

"As we mark the 25th anniversary of September 11, we remember those we lost and reflect on the extraordinary spirit of unity that carried our nation through one of its darkest days," said Iona University President Seamus Carey, Ph.D. "At Iona, that remembrance is deeply personal. We honor the lives lost — and those forever changed — by continuing to live our mission through service to others and by joining our neighbors to care for the community we call home. In doing so, we help ensure that the compassion and generosity that emerged in the wake of tragedy continue to guide future generations."

The second Volunteer New York! 9/11 Days of Service project will be held on Friday, September 11 at Monroe University, where volunteers will pack 50,000 meals for distribution to residents experiencing food insecurity through Feeding Westchester's hunger relief network. As part of 9/11 Day's national meal-packing initiative, this local meal-packing joins a national effort to pack twenty million meals across over fifty cities in America.

Held at the Monroe Athletic Complex at 11 LeCount Place, volunteers who attend have the opportunity to choose between two shifts: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM and 1:00 – 2:30 PM. Volunteers aged 18 and over, or 16-17

with an adult and a signed Youth Waiver, are invited to participate in meal preparation, weighing, sealing, and packaging.

“We’re excited to welcome this incredible event back to our campus for the fourth year in a row,” said Marc Jerome, President of Monroe University. “It’s become a very special tradition that makes a real difference for families in our community. We were amazed by what we accomplished together last year, and we’re looking forward to building on that momentum by packing even more meals for Westchester families in need.”

In addition to the local opportunities at Iona and Monroe, Volunteer New York! will host a full day of service on Thursday, September 10 at the Westchester County Center that is open to all. Volunteers will have the opportunity to address various local needs, from food and clothing insecurity to a blood drive.

With thousands of local volunteers having contributed to 9/11 Days of Service over the past 15 years, this event has stood as a moment for our community to turn a tragic moment in our nation’s history into a call for civic action. We urge local students and families to participate this 9/11 Day to connect with the spirit of service and understand the significance of 9/11.

“As we commemorate the 25th anniversary of 9/11, our goal is to make our 9/11 Days of Service not only the largest volunteer event in our county, but also a starting point for community members to engage in volunteerism all year long,” said Polly Lagana, Executive Director of Volunteer New York! “Volunteering is needed more than ever today - to solve our community’s greatest problems while building a bridge of trust, unity, and hope across generations.”

This year’s 9/11 Days of Service is presented by Volunteer New York!, in partnership with Westchester County, and supported by **Major Sponsor:** Robison; **Partner Sponsors:** Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, 911Day and AmeriCorps, WMC Health, The Construction Industry Council; **Community Sponsors:** Webster Bank, Million Air, Hatz AI, Brown & Brown Insurance Services, Inc., The Gallin Family; **Small Business Sponsors:** RBC Wealth Management, Bronx River Digital, CMIT Solutions, Sunrise Senior Living Scarsdale, Mark Seiden Real Estate Team, 16 Handles Larchmont, Clean Capital Holdings, LLC, The Capitol Theatre, Empowering Creative Minds LLC, and Pioneer Financial.

To learn more about joining Volunteer New York!’s 9/11 Days of Service, visit volunteernewyork.org/serve. Advanced registration is required. For questions, please call 914-948-4452.

About 9/11 Day

Founded in 2002, the nonprofit 9/11 Day led the successful effort to establish September 11 as a federally recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance. Each year, tens of millions of Americans observe the day by performing good deeds in honor of those who perished, were injured or sickened; the survivors; the first responders; and all who rose to serve in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Learn more at 911day.org.

About Volunteer New York!

Volunteer New York!’s mission is to mobilize our community to address its greatest challenges. We envision a community that is vibrant, resilient, and equitable and see volunteerism and civic engagement as critical strategies to achieve this vision. Volunteer New York! is a one-stop resource devoted to increasing

volunteerism in Westchester and our surrounding communities through programming, partner engagement, and volunteer matching services.

In partnership with the City of New Rochelle, Volunteer New Rochelle! was launched in 2016 to provide residents with year-round opportunities to volunteer where they live and support local nonprofits. Volunteer New York! is proud to support the City of New Rochelle to help increase local volunteerism and spread awareness of local nonprofits' volunteer needs. For an active list of ways to volunteer in New Rochelle, please visit volunteernewyork.org/newrochelle or call 914-948-4452.

Last year, Volunteer New York! inspired more than 40,000 volunteers to take action and to coordinate more than 531,000 hours of service that supported more than 350 nonprofits and local organizations, providing a value of \$20.4 million back to our community.

Volunteer New York!'s Corporate Champions include: The Journal News & LoHud.com, MasterCard, New York State Power Authority Canal Corporation, Regeneron, Morgan Stanley, M&T Bank, PKF O'Connor Davies, Robison, Webster Bank, Corporate AV, PCSB Community Foundation, WMC Health, Empire City Casino, Million Air, Neuberger, Paraco, RAND, Rethink Capital, UBS Financial Services, and Yankwitt LLP. With additional and ongoing support from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the New York State Office for Aging, and the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services.

About Iona University

Founded in 1940, [Iona University](http://iona.edu) is a private, Catholic institution in the tradition of the Edmund Rice Christian Brothers. Serving more than 4,000 students across campuses in New Rochelle and Bronxville, New York, Iona is recognized for academic excellence, student success and preparing graduates to lead lives of purpose and service. Building on its growth and momentum, Iona has garnered national recognition for both its student experience and the value of an Iona degree. In 2026, The Princeton Review, The Wall Street Journal and Forbes each named Iona among the nation's best colleges, with Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce ranking an Iona degree in the top 6 percent nationally for long-term return on investment. The University offers undergraduate and graduate programs through its School of Arts & Science; LaPenta School of Business; NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Nursing & Health Sciences; and Hynes Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation. Iona also operates a campus in County Mayo, Ireland. Learn more at iona.edu

About Monroe University

Founded in 1933, [Monroe University](http://monroe.edu) is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The institution is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receives for its strong impact on graduates' social mobility.

Monroe educates more than 10,000 students each year, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs from New York campuses in the Bronx and New Rochelle, as well as in the Caribbean nation of Saint Lucia. Students may also pursue degree programs through Monroe Online. Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available.

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