

COVID-19 ScAAN Community Check-in and Mutual Aid Opportunities



April 27th, 2020

ScAAN is continuing to meet remotely, and we hope it will continue to serve as a virtual community for its members. Please don't hesitate to reach out and help with [current projects](#), or to propose a project of your own. In addition to ongoing collaborations with the Maryland Transit Alliance and the Plastic Pollution Coalition as well as projects in juvenile justice and platform-based micro-working, there are plenty of other opportunities to get involved in your community, wherever you are. While we are more connected than ever through the internet, now is the time to get to know our immediate neighbours-- to ask how they are doing, to see if they need help with grocery or pharmacy runs, or if they just need someone with whom to chat!

The principles of mutual aid are important now more than ever. Below are a set of resources that different ScAAN members have compiled as a reference for those who want to get involved in their communities during this time. Mutual aid is "a voluntary reciprocal exchange of resources and services for mutual benefit." It involves the voluntary organization of labour and support in domains and communities where centralized governments and corporations have fallen short. All around the world, COVID-19 has led to the establishment of countless mutual aid tools and networks which we hope will continue to thrive beyond the pandemic!

Please email info@scaan.net if you have other resources or ideas to add to this document.

Compiled NYC resources

Mutual aid resources

Organized by borough, highlighting ways to support one another and local businesses.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/18WYGoVlJuXYc3QFN1RABnARZlwDG3aLQsnNokl1KhZQ/edit?fbclid=IwAR3eOjxqx2Z3Qk6G__reaLEDofEptCbkXVvTZg7d_NH2JnKpl6WkHVIFCjs

Activist and grassroots campaigns

Support initiatives in healthcare, housing/homelessness, prison abolition, immigration, debt relief, utilities relief, and workers/strikes.

https://sites.google.com/view/nycovidaction/home?fbclid=IwAR2SSQa6OyYQg_v8Wo2Jhu9EcFY_tFWDQRpBm9M-c4DJKw3FSeFaP-eSmvM

Mapping and data

COVID-19 Strike Wave Interactive Map

Over 100 wildcat strikes have happened since the beginning of March, with larger strikes at companies like Instacart and Whole Foods occurring over multiple cities. You can help keep this map updated by sending information about new strikes. They need people on the ground to keep sending tips-- many strikes are going uncovered because workers are simply calling out sick en masse or refusing to show up.

https://paydayreport.com/covid-19-strike-wave-interactive-map/?fbclid=IwAR3HxzTzjo8U9sgvypRdHrW30MNilCgYErCrNWSyZIZOcZtdl84BZP_a_jQ

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

You can update maps to reflect accurate information about hospitals/clinics, pharmacies, supermarkets, banks, ATMs, and other institutions. Help ensure opening hours, addresses, services provided, and other information are complete and up-to-date.

<https://www.hotosm.org/updates/mapping-in-the-times-of-covid-19-and-how-you-can-help/>

Find the Masks

Search for requesters via an interactive map that need masks or other PPE if you have extra to donate. There are additional opportunities to join the volunteer team and help with their outreach, translations, internationalization, engineering, data, and social media efforts.

<https://findthemasks.com>

CovidCareMap

A volunteer open-source geospatial effort to map beds, ventilators, supplies, staff, and other resources related to COVID-19 patient care. If you collect or use this data, you can request their support here.

<https://www.covidcaremap.org/>

Crowdfight COVID-19

An initiative from the scientific community. If you are a researcher directly involved in COVID-19 and would like help, or if you are an expert in any field and want to help, this site attempts to pair experts and researchers together.

<https://crowdfightcovid19.org/>

Additional mutual aid initiatives

Mutual Aid Hub

Find mutual aid groups or community-supported projects in your locality via an interactive map, and contact these groups directly to get involved, offer resources, or submit needs requests.

<https://www.mutualaidhub.org>

Adopt a Grandparent

Creating Happiness Daily (CDH) living is an organization which owns 13 nursing homes around London, which initially started inviting English volunteers to remotely engage with assigned elderly during this pandemic. The response was so overwhelming that the initiative exploded internationally. Currently, the organization lists volunteers from all across the globe, including the United Kingdom, Australia, the US and more. You can write a letter, a song, send a video message, draw/paint something, etc. to help the elderly combat loneliness.

<https://chdliving.co.uk/adopt-grandparent>