

How You Can Help Haitians in Springfield: A Guide to Organizations and Ways to Get Involved

This useful guide provides ways people can get involved to support the Haitians in Springfield. Opportunities for tutoring and various other suggestions for volunteering are included. Financial contributions are always welcome and there are two great restaurants to support and experience the culinary delights and culture of Haiti.

“Neighbor is not a geographic term. It is a moral concept,” spoken by Rabbi Joachim Prinz, when he marched with Dr. King in 1963 at the March on Washington. This quote implies that the concept of neighbor goes beyond physical proximity and signifies a moral responsibility to care for others, regardless of location or background.

Haitian Community Alliance (HCA)

***Types of support needed:** donations and volunteer work

<https://haitiancommunityalliance.org>

101 S Fountain Ave, Springfield OH 45502, 844-422-2139

info@haitiancommunityalliance.org

The Haitian Community Alliance (HCA) is a united network of over 50 organizations working together to empower the Haitian community in Springfield.

Safe Driving Program and Ohio Traffic Show – Educating the community on Ohio’s driving regulations to improve road safety and reduce traffic incidents.

Creole Connect Hotline – A bilingual support service providing translation assistance and connections to essential resources.

Welcome to America Mentorship Program – Helping new Haitian immigrants adapt and thrive in their new community.

Haitian Business Boost – Supporting local Haitian-owned businesses with branding, marketing, and growth resources.

Additional resources like our NouLink Mobile App connect residents to local services, while our H Watch Security Network promotes safety in high-traffic areas.

Creole classes are conducted by Pastor Bernadette on Thursdays at 5:00 pm, upstairs. Both Haitians and non-Haitians attend to learn Haitian Creole and improve English language skills.

***NOTE:** This is an organization consisting largely of English-speaking Haitians. Many have USA citizenship and have been in Springfield for a longer time.

Haitian Community Help & Support Center

***Types of support needed:** donations and volunteer work

<https://haitiansupportcenter.org>

1530 S Yellow Springs St, Springfield, Ohio 45506

haitianhelpcenterspringfield@gmail.com

1.937.408.8251

Contact: Pastor Viles Dorsainvil, President.

Provides guidance and assistance to refugees and immigrants, especially Haitian nationals residing in Clark County and surrounding areas—housing, interpreting, job search, welfare assistance, and more.

They are in the process of renovating and moving into an old firehouse on the south side of Springfield soon.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557361812945>

*Note: this group is focused on the more recently arrived Haitians. Most of those it supports have limited English skills and have material needs. The Center hosts English classes, distributes donated materials to those in need and connects arrivals with social and employment agencies.

Pastor Viles Dorsainvil shared the following as needs of the Springfield Haitian Community

a) Advocacy

1. The Haitians are peaceful citizens
2. The Haitians are community focused
3. The Haitians boost the local economy

b) Legal training to let the Haitian community know their legal rights.

c) Haiti is not yet safe for Haitians to return or be sent back.

d) Employment opportunities, especially for the recently arrived.

e) Funds to support Center sponsored community activities.

First Evangelical Haitian Church of Springfield

1530 South Yellow Springs Street, Springfield, OH 45503

Pastor Reginald minister.

This church is a center for Haitian activities, hosting several English classes and the Haitian Community Help and Support Center (above).

Hope Haitian Community Center

***Types of support needed:** donations and volunteer work

101 S Fountain Ave, Springfield OH 45502

Contacts: Jean Philistin, a civil engineer, and Babie Calmir

Focusing on Haitian youth (personal development, educational support, talent discovery and moral and social values).

Springfield Neighbors United

***Types of support needed:** donations and volunteer work

Pastor Carl Ruby, the pastor of the Central Christian Church.

Aiming to support all immigrants who face deportation or detainment, with a large portion of those being from Haiti. Advocating “for the value and dignity of immigrants and refugees in Springfield and Clark County,” equipping “faith groups to support immigrants and refugees facing detainment or deportation” and aiding families and individuals who may face detainment or deportation

The Nehemiah Foundation: Care Portal in Clark County

<https://nehemiahfoundation.org/>

info@nehemiahfoundation.org

Amy Willmann, Executive Director

102 West High Street, Springfield, OH 45502, third floor, entrance at back of building.

937-325-6226

This is a network for Christian churches and ministries to amplify their positive impact. They have been active in supporting the Springfield Haitian Community.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/springfieldshope>

Clark County Literacy Coalition

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

102 West High Street

Provides personal tutoring for English language learners, citizenship naturalization, adult and child reading, and GED preparation. Conducts English classes for Haitians in Springfield.

Clark County Literacy Coalition/ Warder Literacy Center

137 East High Street Springfield, O.H. 45502

staffrep@cclcnet.net

sue@cclcnet.net

(937) 323-8617

Tutoring. Four primary programs: Adult Basic Literacy Education, English Speakers' of Other Languages, Teaching Children to Read, and Certified Volunteer Tutor Training.

St Vincent de Paul:

Springfield District Council of St Vincent de Paul

***Types of support needed:** general donation of goods

<https://www.svdpspfld.org/services/donate-2/>

Community Center 2415 E High St. Springfield, OH 45503

(937) 323-4277

svdp@svdpspfld.org

Casey Rollins – District Council President / Executive Director – svdp@svdpspfld.org

They suggest a "general donation" to allow St. Vincent's flexibility in meeting great and changing needs. For example, Springfield St. Vincent's has recently needed to ration their distribution of beds. They also provide food and other assistance.

Rocking Horse Community Health Center

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

***Types of support needed:**

They suggest you choose one of the following options for your contribution: Deaconess Association Women's Health/Prenatal Services Grant; Dental Contribution; Patient Advocacy Services, PIC (Parent Infant Center - provides diapers, formula, clothes, parenting classes)

Second Harvest Food Bank of Champaign, Clark, and Logan Counties

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

Centered in Springfield, Second Harvest alleviates hunger in Clark, Champaign, and Logan Counties by sourcing and distributing nutritious food to people in need, building community partnerships, and mobilizing the public to support hunger relief

Rose Goute Creole Restaurant

***Types of support needed:** patronage

1881 S. Limestone St
Springfield, OH 45505

KEKET Bongou Caribbean Restaurant

***Types of support needed:** patronage

1137 Sunset Ave.
Springfield, OH 45505

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE)

***Types of support needed:** donations towards legal services

[ABLE](https://www.ablelaw.org/support-our-work/)

<https://www.ablelaw.org/support-our-work/> (donation)

Dayton, OH

A non-profit regional law firm providing high-quality legal assistance in civil matters to help low-income individuals and groups in Ohio. Conducts free legal clinics to assist Haitians with applications for work permits, asylum, and Temporary Protected Status; represents Haitians in due process and civil rights violations.

NAACP Springfield Unit #3201:

<https://www.naacpspringfieldohio.com/>

President Denise Williams

(937) 521-2650

president@naacpspringfieldohio.com

Among other things, the NAACP is organizing a driving school under the guidance of a former police officer. This group also held several Forums at the Springfield City Hall building to debunk lies and rumors about the Haitians in Springfield.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/naacpspfdohbranch>

Ohio Immigrant Alliance

<https://ohioimmigrant.org>

<https://bit.ly/4eqQ1gW> (donation)

Ohio immigrants and citizens working together to protect the dignity and rights of all Ohioans—regardless of race, religion, gender expression, age, ability, and citizenship status.

Haitian Bridge Alliance

<https://haitianbridgealliance.org>

<https://haitianbridgealliance.org/donate-button/> (donation)

A nonprofit organization advocating for Haitian and other Black immigrants in the U.S. They have been involved in legal actions to protect the rights of Haitian immigrants in Ohio.

Compiled by the Yellow Springs Coalition for Immigrant Support. To contact the coalition, email caroma129@gmail.com