



Opportunities to be a “key to change”

Note: Volunteer opportunities can occur at the men’s or women’s facilities. Volunteers will be able to identify which facility they wish to serve.

1. **Meal Preparation and Delivery:**

- Prepare meals for residents on a set schedule (weekly, biweekly, or monthly).
- Include dietary considerations and ensure portions are adequate.
- Label meals with reheating instructions if necessary.
- Deliver meals to the shelter by the designated time.
- Optionally stay, serving meals and dining with guests (5-8 volunteers maximum due to space limitations).
- Plan themed dinners (e.g., Taco Night) or holiday feasts with decorations to create a festive atmosphere.

2. **Donation Drives:**

- Collect household and specific items for guests as presented in the weekly needs list. House supervisors will provide needs lists; all drives should be based on those lists.

3. **Enrichment Activities:**

- Prepare and lead classes on budgeting, cooking, or job readiness (e.g., resume writing and interview practice).
- Provide handouts or materials (e.g., templates, recipes) for participants.
- Creative arts and community-building activities. Organize art or journaling supplies and guide participants in activities like painting or writing.
- Encourage self-expression and provide a supportive environment.
- Act as a facilitator to engage guests and foster a sense of community.

4. **Outdoor/Facility Projects:**

Landscaping (with some projects, supplies and tools will need to be provided by volunteers. This will be determined prior to activities).

- Plant flowers, trim bushes, and maintain garden spaces.
- Clean outdoor areas to improve aesthetics and usability.

Minor Repairs and Decoration:

- Assist with painting, hanging decorations, or minor repairs (e.g., fixing door hinges or furniture).
- Decorate shelters for seasonal holidays or events.

5.

6. **Fellowship and Prayer:**

Prayer Groups:

- Lead or participate in non-denominational prayer or meditation sessions.
- Provide a peaceful and welcoming atmosphere for residents to join.

Fellowship Visits:

- Engage residents in casual conversations, offering companionship and emotional support.

7. **Staff Support:**

Staff Appreciation:

- Prepare small thank-you gifts or notes for shelter staff.
- Provide snacks or meals for staff during busy times or special events.

Event Support:

- Assist with setting up, running, or cleaning up after fundraisers, outreach initiatives, or community events.

Office Management Assistance:

- Help with tasks like organizing marketing materials, preparing mass mailings, or maintaining records.

8. **Shelter Supervision:**

- General Supervision
- Oversee shelter activities during staff absences (2 volunteers per shift).
- Maintain a safe and welcoming environment for residents.
- Shifts should be limited to a few hours and scheduled no more than once a month for volunteers
- Learn and follow shelter safety and emergency procedures.

9. **Financial Support:**

- Organize charity events such as bake sales, auctions, or concerts.
- Promote the fundraiser through flyers, social media, or local community boards.
- Take leadership in organizing a financial collection for donations to cover specific shelter expenses, such as utilities, supplies, or program funding.
- Adopt-a-Shelter Program: Volunteers could focus on providing ongoing support, such as sponsoring one shelter's monthly needs or one guest throughout their stay.

Scheduling Process and Timeline:

- Meal services and activities: Best in the early evening or on weekends, as most guests work.
- Sign-up Process: Platforms like Signup Genius work best for meal-related volunteer opportunities. For other activities, scheduling would be done through conversations or email.
- Advance Notice: Volunteers should be scheduled at least a week in advance to coordinate logistics and any required training.

Training Process:

- Volunteers for consistent or close-contact roles will complete a volunteer application and attend training sessions.

- Orientation about expectations, the house layout, and rules.
- Specific role-related training (e.g., shadowing an experienced volunteer for shelter supervision).
- Specific details on guest demographics to ensure volunteer engagement is culturally appropriate and sensitive to any guest's specific needs.

First Visit for New Volunteers:

- Volunteers will meet with the Executive Director or a supervisor for an orientation to the shelter(s).
- They'll be introduced to staff, other volunteers and guests and have an opportunity to ask questions.

Volunteer Requirements Before Serve Days:

- Volunteers who engage in one-on-one mentoring or consistent group activities must undergo training and complete an application.
- Volunteers should understand the expectations for their role and any specific needs (e.g., preparing themed meals, bringing supplies for creative arts workshops).

Group Involvement Initiation:

- Scheduling: Groups will coordinate with staff for meal train days, fellowship visits, or other group projects.
- Training: Groups may receive an overview of the tasks and expectations and a brief orientation.
- Shadowing: Initial participation could include shadowing experienced volunteers during their first service.

Volunteer Retention Plans:

- Regular communication and follow-ups from leadership to provide support and recognize contributions.
- Hosting volunteer appreciation events and offering meaningful ways to stay involved, such as organizing special events.