
Overnight Shelter Host

7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. weekdays/8:00 a.m. weekends



FAITHFUL HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION

Faithful Hospitality provides mobile shelter in St. Paul houses of worship to help Hennepin County deal with an overflow of families experiencing homelessness, especially families seeking asylum. The initiative, supported by the State of Minnesota, alleviates capacity challenges in shelters, decreases costs of serving families experiencing homelessness, and empowers interfaith partners to live out their faith values. Each month, three different area churches, synagogues, and schools host 20-24 emergency shelter beds. We strive to provide a site, volunteers, and a safe, clean, comfortable place for children and their parents/guardians to spend the night until they can transition into housing.

Time Commitment

- Please plan to arrive at the shelter site by 7:00 p.m. A staff member will greet you and orient you to the space and the shelter rules. You will be needed until the families are picked up in the morning and the space is tidy.

Responsibilities

- Greet the families as introduced to you by the Faithful Hospitality staff member.
- Serve a simple snack (provided by Faithful Hospitality).
- Encourage families to slowly stop their activities, help tidy the space, and begin getting ready for bed.
- Be available to talk with adult guests if they wish to converse.
- Be a model for shelter rules and remind families of the shelter rules when needed.
- Complete daily page in Pass Down Log: enter any comments and sign in.
- Secure facility for the evening – make sure doors are locked, extraneous lights are turned off, passages to restrooms are clear and lit, kitchen and activity areas are tidy.
- If asked, distribute any extra needed items, such as clean bedding and care packs items.
- Guidelines for bedtime is around 9 p.m. (weekdays) and 10 p.m. (weekends).
- Sleep in designated volunteer area. You will need to bring your own bedding with you, such as a sleeping bag and pillow. You may also want to bring a book and alarm clock with you.
- Wake families around 5:30 a.m. on the weekdays and 6:30 a.m. on the weekends. You can ask guest parents what wake up time gives them enough time to get ready.
- Families will depart from the same bus they arrived in; check log for pick-up times.
- Please call in any needed items noted in the Pass Down Log.
- Secure facility for the day – make sure doors are locked, site is tidy and lights are off.
- **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**, please stay calm. For transportation to the Emergency Room or Urgent Care, call the on call Faithful Hospitality staff person. In dire emergencies, call 911.

Qualifications

- A friendly, caring attitude
- Reliability – our mobile shelter depends on the support of volunteers
- Energy and a love of children
- Respect and understanding for parents

Training

- A training session will be held online by a Faithful Hospitality staff member. You are required to attend before volunteering.

*A pessimist, they say, sees a glass of water as being half empty;
an optimist sees the same glass as half full.*

But a giving person sees a glass of water and starts looking for someone who might be thirsty.

~ G. Donald Gale ~