

Housing Forward

VOLUNTEERING FAQ



WHAT IS HOUSING FORWARD?

Housing Forward is a nonprofit working to end homelessness. With the help of local faith communities, we operated a rotating PADS shelter system for more than 25 years. In 2020, the pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to the congregate shelter system, and we adapted quickly, reimagining our service model and creating new programs. Today Housing Forward **prevents** homelessness whenever possible, **responds** to housing crises when they do occur, and provides a pathway to **stability** through housing and supportive services. Over the past three decades we have helped more than 25,000 people in 26 different west suburban communities.

WHAT DO HOUSING FORWARD VOLUNTEERS DO?

Our greatest need is meal providers. Last year, thanks to your generosity, we provided nearly 100,000 meals to guests staying in our Emergency Shelter and Interim Housing programs. You can get involved today by donating and delivering a hot dinner, a continental breakfast, or a sack lunch for 20 people (Emergency Shelter) or 40 people (Interim Housing). Don't have time to cook? Consider donating meals from a local restaurant or purchasing a grocery store gift card. For full details on how to get involved, please visit our website www.housingforward.org/volunteer.

WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER FOR HOUSING FORWARD?

In 2024, homelessness rose by 18% nationwide, reaching the highest level ever recorded by HUD. At the same time, federal funding and protections for people experiencing homelessness are increasingly at risk. In response to this growing crisis, Housing Forward is preparing to open a larger, 40-bed Emergency Overnight Shelter in September at 112 S. Humphrey Avenue in Oak Park. As we work to double the number of people we serve, we need your support to ensure every person we serve receives a nutritious meal and has a safe place to sleep. If you've been thinking about getting involved, giving back, or putting your faith into action, there's no better time than now to become a Housing Forward volunteer.

Questions? Contact Cherrell Jackson, Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager
cjackson@housingforward.org | (708) 338-1724 x201