

# Volunteer Orientation





# Join Us!

4<sup>th</sup> Monday Lasagna Team at  
First United Church of Oak Park

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - *Margaret Mead*





# OUR MISSION

to transition people from housing crisis  
to housing stability.

# OUR VISION

to end homelessness.

Our Purpose



Each year,  
Housing Forward  
helps more than  
**2,000 people**  
experiencing  
homelessness or  
at risk of becoming  
homeless.



A housing crisis can affect anyone, at any time.





**Housing Forward** was founded in 1992 by citizens in Oak Park, River Forest and Forest Park who saw a need to meet the basic needs of homeless individuals in the community.

PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) was the model chosen whereby faith communities host the overnight shelter one night each week in dedicated space within their building. Trained community volunteers staff the shelter and prepare meals. That first year 250 volunteers served 120 people needing basic shelter services.

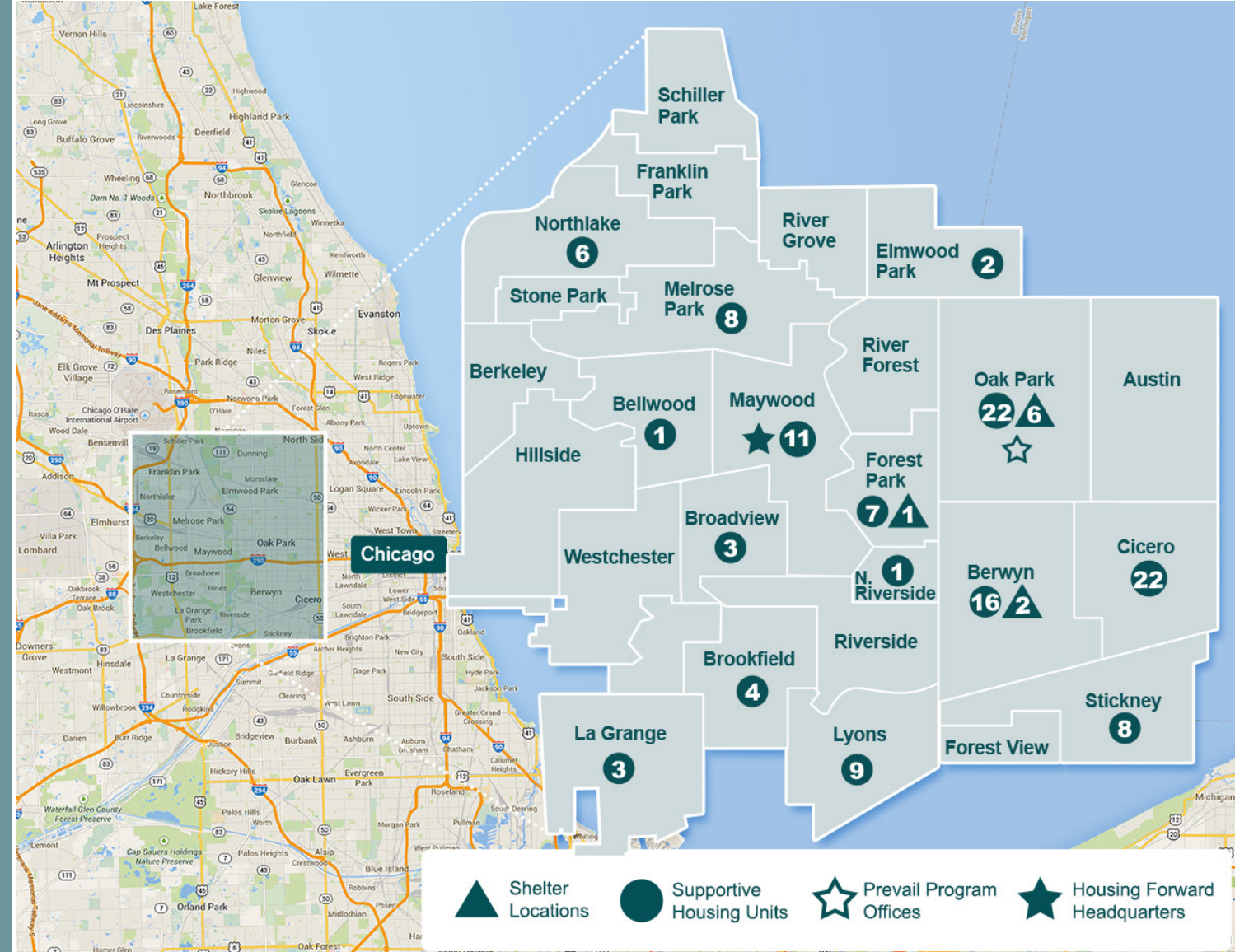
Today, Housing Forward has **1200 volunteers** and is the largest provider of homeless services in suburban Cook County providing a full continuum of programming – supportive housing, rapid rehousing, medical respite, homelessness prevention, street outreach, employment readiness, supportive services and of course, emergency shelter services.

# Our History





Housing Forward  
now serves  
**27 communities**  
in suburban  
Cook County.



Our Service Area



prevent  
respond  
**stabilize**  
**ending homelessness**

Our Approach





A team packing lunches and serving dinner.



Each year over **22,000 volunteer hours** are contributed.







Why become a volunteer?



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Individuals  
Families  
Faith Groups  
Civic Groups  
School Groups  
Corporate Groups



Summer Transitional Shelter dinner providers.

Together we can end homelessness.





# prevent homelessness

- Client Counselor (skills-based)
- Registration Assistant
- Administrative Support
- Budget Counselor (skills-based)
- Short Term Stability (skills-based)

# respond to homelessness

- Support Center – reception desk, milieu management
- Medical Clinic (skills-based)
- Legal Clinic Volunteer (skills-based)
- Shelter Site Captain
- Meal Provider
- Shelter Volunteer
- Laundry Transportation
- Donation Sorting

# stabilize to end homelessness

- Employment Consultant (skills-based)
- Computer Specialist (skills-based)

Volunteers help in many ways.





Scouts from Troop 16 built the fence at Sojourner House for Eagle Scout badge.

Our volunteers work on both one-time and ongoing projects.





Opportunity Knocks  
volunteers pack care  
packages.

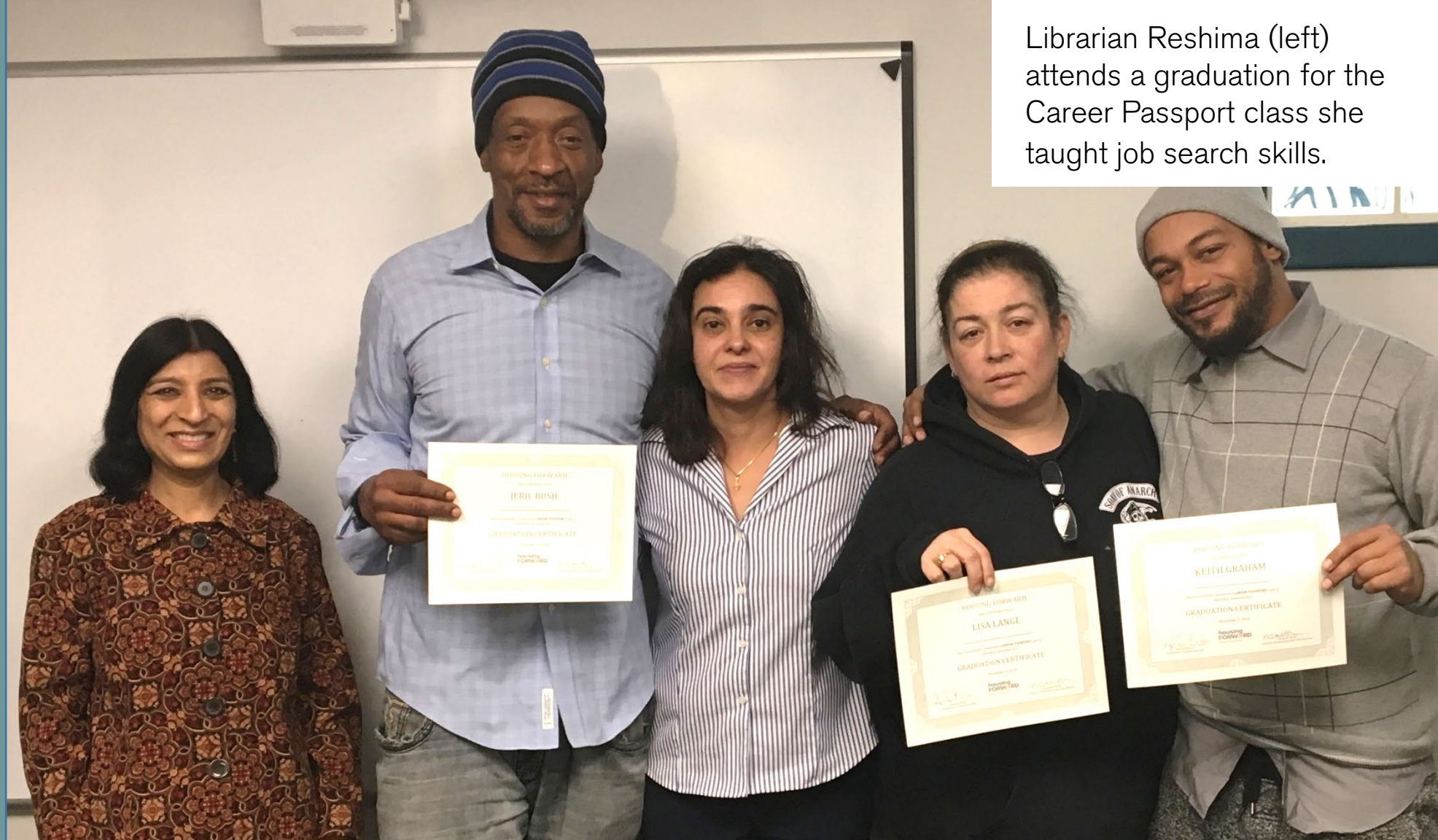


No act of service is too big or small.





With help  
from hundreds  
of dedicated  
volunteers,  
we provide a  
safety net for  
the most  
vulnerable.



Librarian Reshima (left)  
attends a graduation for the  
Career Passport class she  
taught job search skills.

Volunteers contribute time AND skills.







## **PADS Shelter**



## **Support Services**



## **One-time Events**



## **Emergency Assistance**



## **Employment Readiness**



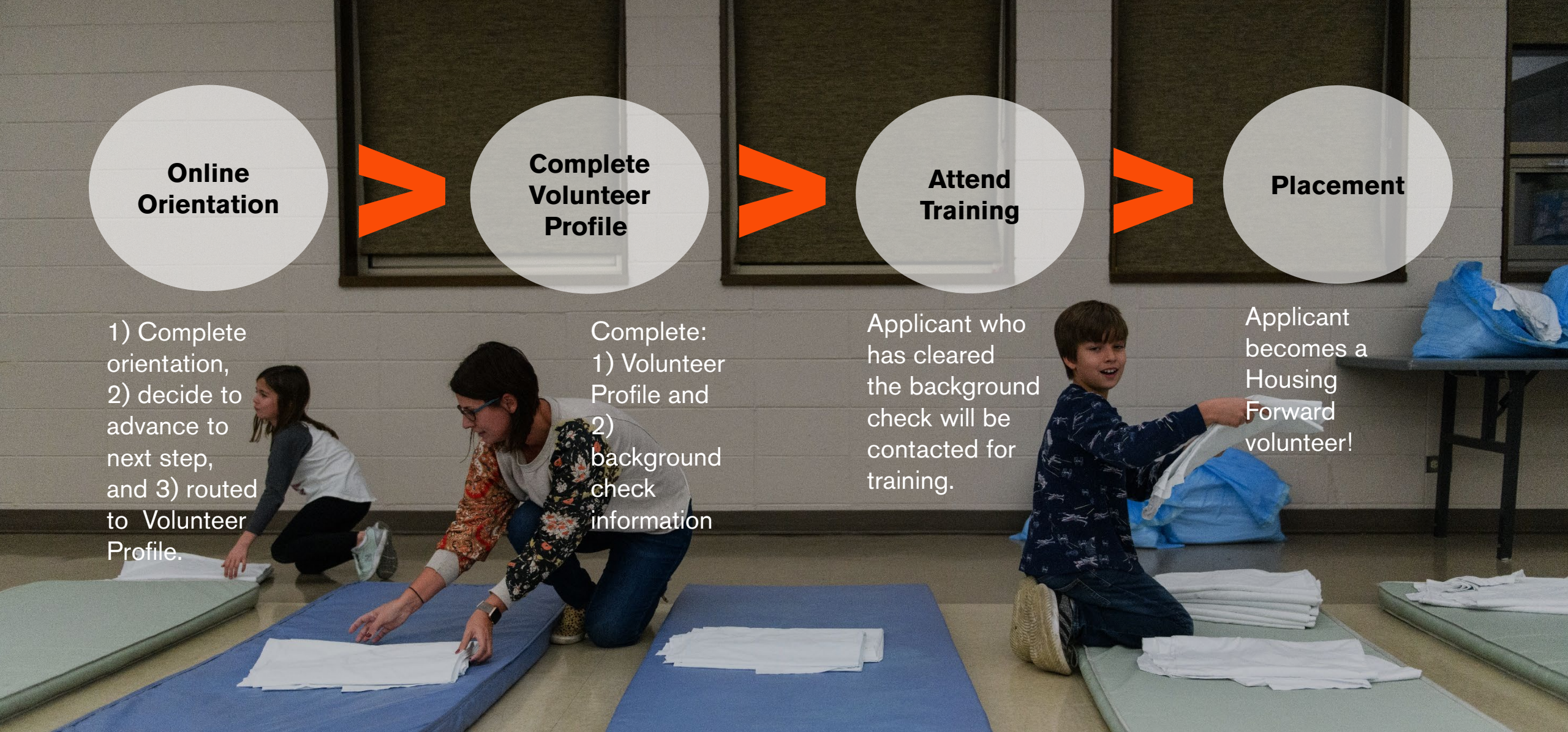
## **Corporate Groups**

Employee  
Giving Campaign

Where do you want to make a difference?







## Online Orientation

1) Complete orientation, 2) decide to advance to next step, and 3) routed to Volunteer Profile.

## Complete Volunteer Profile

Complete:  
1) Volunteer Profile and  
2) background check information

## Attend Training

Applicant who has cleared the background check will be contacted for training.

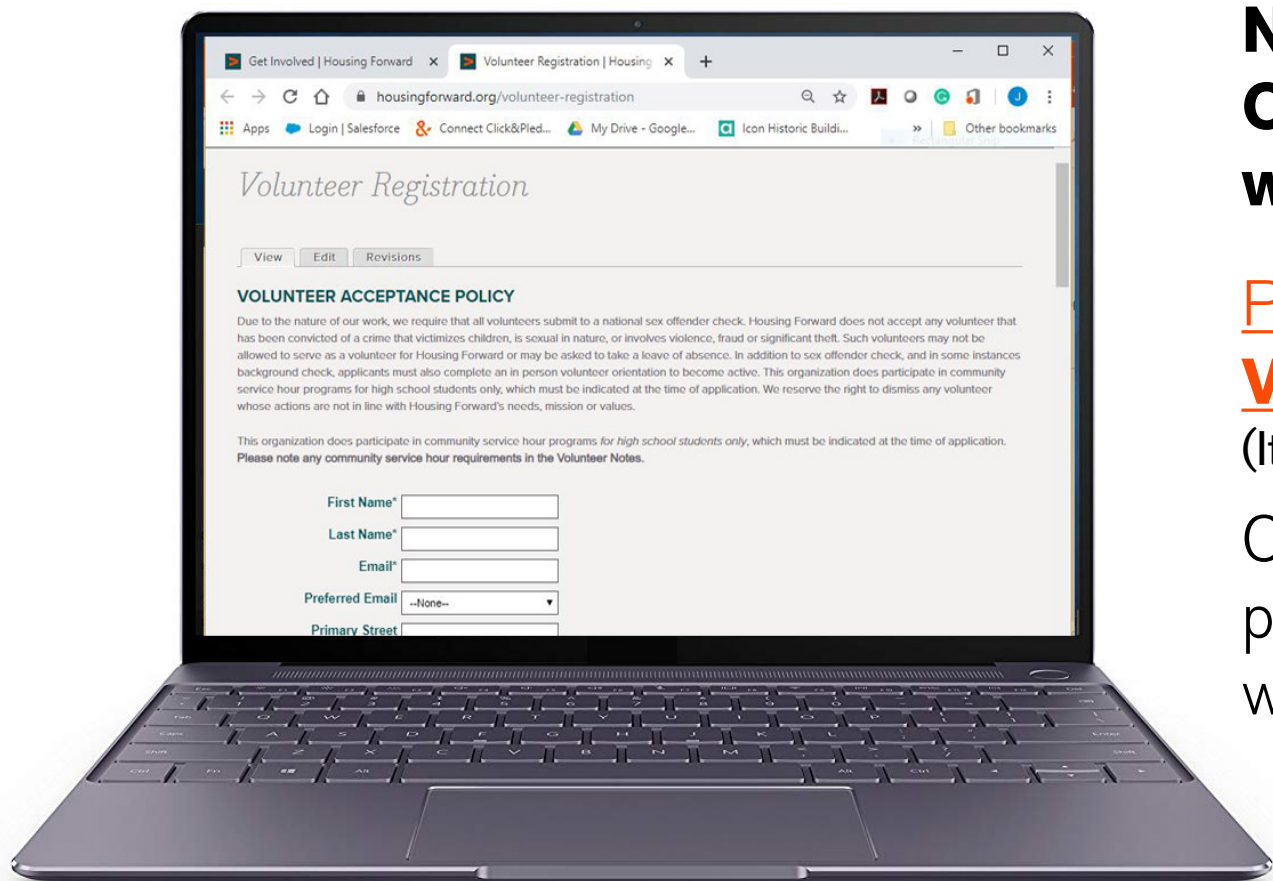
## Placement

Applicant becomes a Housing Forward volunteer!

Did we convince you? Here's how it works.







**Now that you've completed the Orientation to know more about us, we're excited to get to know you.**

Please click here to complete our  
**Volunteer Profile Form**

(It takes less than 5 minutes.)

Our staff will contact you to discuss a placement that matches our needs with your interests and availability.

Interested? Great!  
Let's complete your Volunteer Profile Form.



# **Thank you for completing your profile.**

We look forward to working alongside you,  
to end homelessness.

## **More questions?**

Contact Volunteer Services at 708.338.1724 ext. 220 or [volunteer@housingforward.org](mailto:volunteer@housingforward.org)