Volunteer Orientation
Join Us!

4th 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.
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 1,200 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.
Housing Forward now serves 27 communities in suburban Cook County.

Our Service Area
Our Approach

prevent
respond
stabilize

ending homelessness
Each year over **22,000 volunteer hours** are contributed.
Why become a volunteer?
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
Individually
Families
Faith Groups
Civic Groups
School Groups
Corporate Groups

Together we can end homelessness.
Volunteers help in many ways.
Our volunteers work on both one-time and ongoing projects.

Scouts from Troop 16 built the fence at Sojourner House for Eagle Scout badge.
No act of service is too big or small.

Opportunity Knocks volunteers pack care packages.
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.
Where do you want to make a difference?

PADS
Shelter
Support
Services
One-time
Events

Emergency
Assistance
Employment
Readiness
Corporate
Groups

Employee Giving Campaign
Complete Volunteer Profile and background check information.

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

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