

Mission Trip Resource Manual

Week-Long Service Opportunities

DISCOVERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUTREACH AND REFLECTION (DOOR), 425 S Central Park Ave

If you're interested in having a trip with housing, food, and activities already planned, DOOR is a simple and excellent way to go. DOOR is a partly-Presbyterian program in multiple cities throughout the US. Their Chicago site is located in a church on the west side where participants sleep and eat. Mission trips can be either a week or a few days long and consist of small-group mission work at a variety of sites, as well as evening speakers, discussion, and worship. Groups are given free time to lead their own discussions and for fellowship activities. For more information, check out <http://doornetwork.org/>.

Contact: Austin Brown; Austin@doornetwork.org 312-523-9811.

VITAL BRIDGES, at multiple locations, is a pantry and food delivery service. Vital Bridges offers a week-long alternative spring break for high school and college groups.

Minimum age: 15.

Contact: Hank Watson; hwatson@vitalbridges.org 773-271-9161

GOOD NEWS PARTNERS, 1600 W Jonquil Terrace, needs volunteers to do landscaping work, prepare mailings, and do various administrative duties. Good News Partners hosts short-term mission trips.

Contact: Peter Horth or Jan Hubbard; leah@goodnewspartners.org 773-764-4998

Housing Possibilities

LAKEVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 716 W Addison Street, has space available for small youth groups, complete with shower and kitchen facilities.

Contact: Joy Strome; Joy@lakeviewpresbyterian.org 773-281-2655

GARRETT-EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston, will rent rooms for a weekend or a few days.

Contact: Barbara Adams; Barbara.adams@garrett.edu 847-866-3900

Other Service Opportunities

Multiple Types of Service Opportunities

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, various locations, conducts all sorts of direct and indirect service work throughout Chicago. Virtually any type of group volunteering activity can be arranged, as long as Catholic Charities is contacted over a month before arriving.

Contact: Zulma; 312-655-7323

FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 126 E. Chestnut, is in the center of Chicago and has various volunteer opportunities which change throughout the year.

Contact: Larry Nicholson; lnicholson@fourthchurch.org 312-981-3382

JESUS PEOPLE USA, 920 W Wilson, is a community house which provides homes for 400 people. Volunteers are needed for ongoing projects and the daily work of maintenance, cooking, etc.

Contact: Scott Ingerson and Randy Johnson; coordinators@jpusa.org (773) 561-2450, ext. 2310 & ext. 2112

Food Ministry (some material from <http://www.gcf.org>)

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER, 600 W Fullerton Parkway, needs volunteers to prepare and serve breakfasts and lunches.

Contact: Julia Weegar; LPCSinfo@LPCSONline.org 773-549-6111 ext. 216

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY, 115 N Oakley, is an order of nuns who serve lunches daily. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve lunches.

Contact: 312-421-0038

UNITED CHURCH OF HYDE PARK, 1448 E 53rd St, needs volunteers to make and distribute sack dinners, prepare breakfasts and lunches, and sort and distribute food in their food pantry.

Contact: uchp1448@yahoo.com 773-363-1620

BREAKTHROUGH URBAN MINISTRIES, various locations, is an outreach program which needs volunteers to prepare and serve meals.
Contact: Liz Laird; volunteer@breakthrough.org 773-722-1144 ext. 271

BREAKING BREAD (A MINISTRY OF LASALLE ST. CHURCH), 1111 N. Wells St., is a soup kitchen that needs volunteers on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. to help with food preparation, serving, clean up and hosting tables.
Maximum group size: 4.
Contact: Marianne Pytel; walsgooger@aol.com 312-376-0118

BREAKTHROUGH URBAN MINISTRIES, 402 N. St. Louis, is looking for to stock its pantry and deliver food to seniors across the street. Volunteers are needed on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at various times.
Minimum age: 16. Maximum group size: 10.
Contact: Erin Allen; freshmarket@breakthrough.org 773-346-1743

THE HARVEST FOOD PANTRY, 2495 Howard in Evanston, is a food pantry looking for volunteers on Wednesday evenings from 5 to 8:15 p.m.
Minimum age: 12. Maximum group size: 3.
Contact: Lisa Haskin; harvest@evanstonvineyard.org 847-328-4544 ext. 2468

HOLY APOSTOLIC CATHOLIC ASSYRIAN CHURCH, 7201 N. Ashland Ave., is a food pantry that is seeking assistance with stocking on Thursdays and distributing food on Saturdays. Volunteers are needed from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays, and 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays.
Minimum age: 18. Maximum group size: 3.
Contact: Suzie Wilson; sbw1987@aol.com 312-513-2348

HUMBOLDT PARK SOCIAL SERVICES, 2120 N. Mozart, is seeking volunteer help Monday through Saturday from 3:45 to 6:30 p.m. Assistance is needed for food preparation, serving meals, and cleaning the kitchen.
Minimum age: 16. Maximum group size: 12.
Contact: Jennie Dye; jdye@hpsschanginglives.org 773-342-0441

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SOUP KITCHEN, 4827 N. Kenmore Ave., needs assistance on Tuesdays and Fridays between 3:30 and 7 p.m. Volunteers assist with food preparation, set-up, serving the meal, and clean-up. Please note that this site is only accessed via stairs.
Minimum age: 14. Maximum group size: 15.
Contact: Christine Pao; <http://www.stcuptown.com/> 773-878-5507

CANAAN MBC PANTRY, 6659 South Harvard, is a food pantry that is requesting volunteers to help restock shelves, assist clients make food selections, sort produce, file client records, and assist with heavy cartons/bags for elderly and disabled clients. Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturdays.
Maximum group size: 12.

Contact: Claire Callahan; canaanvolunteers@gmail.com

CHATHAM-AVALON MINISTRIES, 8601 S. State St., is a food pantry that is seeking volunteers to help unloading food and stocking shelves on the first Wednesday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.

Minimum age: 18. Maximum group size: 4.

Contact: Anna Horton 708-557-4747

CHOSEN TABERNACLE MINISTRIES, 7401 S. Yates Blvd., is a food pantry that is looking for volunteers to provide administrative client intake and to oversee food as clients choose food products from their "choice based" pantry distribution model. Volunteers are needed on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers will need to be able to stand for at least 30 minutes.

Minimum age: 18. Maximum group size: 10.

Contact: Pastor Sandra Gillespie; sandygill526@yahoo.com 312-749-8991

HYDE PARK KENWOOD FOOD PANTRY, 1169 E. 56th St. (side door of 5600 S. Woodlawn), is seeking assistance with their Saturday food distributions from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Volunteers will help to set up the distribution area, pack grocery bags and cases of food and carry them to the recipients, organize/clean the pantry storage area and take inventory after the distribution.

Minimum age: 11. Maximum group size: 6.

Contact: Jan Deckenbach; jdeckenbach@press.uchicago.edu 773-702-7034

HYDE PARK S.D.A. CHURCH, 4608 S. Drexel Blvd., is a soup kitchen that needs volunteers on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help with meal preparation, cleaning, organizing the pantry and working with clients.

Maximum group size: 25.

Contact: Vickie Wilson; msvickiew@hotmail.com 773-350-3298

TRCDO - HARVEST FOR THE WORLD, 1415 W. 104th St., is a food pantry that is seeking volunteer help on Fridays and Saturdays. Volunteers are needed to pack food bags, give food to clients, take the food to clients' cars, and remove from storage areas.

Minimum age: 18. Maximum group size: 6.

Contact: Lynn Munson; 773-881-7710

GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY, 4100 W Ann Lurie Place, needs volunteers to repack bulk products, assemble food boxes, check expiration dates, etc. Sessions are Tuesday through Saturday. Participants must be at least 13 years old to volunteer at the Food Depository during regular sessions. The Food Depository hosts Kids Days once a month on a Saturday afternoon for ages 5 to 12, with one adult for each child. Close-toed shoes must be worn.

Minimum age: 5 or 13.

Contact: volunteerservices@gcfd.org 773-247-3663

VITAL BRIDGES, at multiple locations, is a pantry and food delivery service that needs volunteers to help clients shop for food and enter data. They also have a warehouse in Elk Grove (30 miles west of Chicago) which is in serious need of volunteers to sort and prepare food packages.

Vital Bridges also offers a week-long alternative spring break for high school and college groups.

Minimum age: 15 for warehouse. Maximum group size: 4 for shopping, 15 for warehouse.

Contact: Hank Watson; hwatson@vitalbridges.org 773-271-9161

KENWOOD UCC FEED THE PEOPLE, 4600 S Greenwood Ave, needs volunteers to prepare and serve lunches on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Contact: kenwooducc@sbcglobal.net, (773) 373-2861

See also: First Presbyterian Church, Deborah's Place, Cornerstone Community Outreach, The Night Ministry, EDSSC, REST, Friendly Towers.

Poverty Assistance and Shelters (Various Duties)

REST, 941 W. Lawrence Ave, is a shelter which also provides counseling and food services. Volunteers are needed to do maintenance work and serve food.

Contact: Kari; 773-784-0909

ELAM DAVIES SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER (EDSSC), 126 E Chestnut Street at Fourth Presbyterian Church, needs volunteers to prepare client files, serve food, prepare sack lunches, and sort food and clothing donations.

Contact: Kathleen McKenzie; kmckenzie@fourthchurch.org 312-981-3569

DEBORAH'S PLACE, 1532 N. Sedgwick and 1456 W. Oakdale, is a supportive housing center. Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve and clean up from meals for 25 to 30 tenants. Other volunteer opportunities are also available, such as donation sorting, playing bingo with clients, helping with landscaping and cleaning, etc. For more information, check out <http://www.deborahsplace.org/volunteer/group/>.

Minimum age: 16 for meal services.

Contact: Sarah Letson; sletson@deborahsplace.org 773-638-6579

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY OUTREACH, 4628 N Clifton Ave, is a combination shelter and counseling center. Volunteers prepare and serve lunches, distribute food, and prepare apartments for clients.

Contact: Lyda Jackson; ljackson@jpusa.org 773-506-6396 ext. 16

CASA CENTRAL, 1343 N California Ave, is an outreach center which works with children, families, and seniors. Volunteers are needed to prepare educational materials, sort clothing and food donations, and work with children and seniors.

Contact: Cheryl Debusmann-Serra; cdebusmann@casacentral.org 773-645-2465

THE NIGHT MINISTRY, various locations, is a traveling outreach program. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve food and socialize with clients.

Contact: David Weasley; davidw@thenightministry.org 773-506-6004

UNITED CHURCH OF ROGERS PARK, 1545 W. Morse Ave, needs volunteers to sort donations for their thrift store and assist with their summer day camp and after school program.

Contact: Rev. Catiana McKay; pastorcatiana@ucrogerspark.org 773-761-2500

GOOD NEWS PARTNERS, 1600 W Jonquil Terrace, needs volunteers to do landscaping work, prepare mailings, and do various administrative duties. **Good News Partners also hosts complete short-term mission trips.**

Contact: Peter Horth or Jan Hubbard; leah@goodnewspartners.org 773-764-4998

Other Direct Work

FRIENDLY TOWERS, 920 N Wilson, is a housing program for low-income seniors. Volunteers are needed for serving meals, house-keeping, and helping with activities.

Contact: David Baumgartner; info@friendlytowers.org 773-303-4200

HULL HOUSE, various locations, needs volunteers to work directly with children at their Head Start locations. If volunteers are able to pay from \$20-\$50 per person for the cost of supplies, help with painting and landscaping at schools is also needed.

Maximum group size: 30 for childcare (1 adult per 10 youth volunteers)

Contact: Mark Tisdahl; mtisdahl@hullhouse.org 312-235-5379

ADA NILES ADULT DAY SERVICES, 6717 S Elizabeth St, is an adult day care for seniors with Alzheimer's. Volunteers are needed to socialize with the seniors.

Contact: (773) 488-5400

Gardening

CHICAGO LIGHTS URBAN FARM, 444 W. Chicago Ave, is a small farm in the heart of the city. Volunteers are needed to prepare soil, rotate compost, and tend plants. Volunteer days are 10am to 3pm each Saturday, March through November.

Contact: Natasha Holbert; nholbert@fourthchurch.org 312-274-3831

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 6400 S Kimbark Ave, needs volunteers to work in their network of nearby community gardens. Volunteers may also be needed to serve lunches and do maintenance work around the church.
Contact: Reggie Weaver; rweaverfirstpres@sbcglobal.net 773-363-0505

Donation Sorting

BROWN ELEPHANT (HOWARD BROWN HEALTH CENTER), various locations, needs volunteers to sort clothing donations for their resale shops. Proceeds from the shops help provide health services to LGBT patients without health insurance. Three hour commitments are required, and groups must be scheduled at least one month in advance.
Maximum group size: 8.
Contact: Daisy Lynn Mertzell; daisym@howardbrown.org 773-572-5125

See also: EDSSC, United Church of Rogers Park, Casa Central, Deborah's Place, Sarah's Inn.

Other Non-Direct Work

HOWARD AREA COMMUNITY CENTER, 7648 N. Paulina, needs volunteers to do projects including painting in any of their facilities, landscaping and cleaning assistance, working in their food pantry, or other activities.
Contact: volunteers@howardarea.org

LELAND HOUSE, 4656 N Malden St, is a transitional housing program which needs volunteers for help with maintenance and repair.
Contact: Pegge Taylor; ptaylor@jpusa.org 773-561-0053

EMMAUS MINISTRIES, 921 W Wilson Ave, offers counseling and recovery support to men in prostitution. Volunteers are needed for cleaning and administrative work. **Emmaus Ministries also offers a night immersion program in which participants are trained and sent out in outreach teams.**
Minimum age: 18 for the immersion night. Maximum group size: 12 for administrative/cleaning duties.
Contact: Al Tauber; al@streets.org 773-334-6063 ext. 14

LIFE DIRECTIONS, 414 S. Homan, is a peer mentoring program which needs volunteers to do administrative duties. **Life Directions also hosts open discussions about teen pressures, privilege and conflict.**
Contact: Van Bensett, vanb@lifedirections.org

SARAH'S INN, Oak Park, a domestic abuse counseling center, needs volunteers to prepare mailings, clean playrooms, and sort donations.
Contact: Colleen Sutkus; csutkus@sarahsinn.org 708-386-3305 ext. 1026

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, various locations, needs groups to volunteer for full days of construction. Groups are required to make a donation to Habitat as part of their volunteering process.
Minimum age: 18. Required group size: 10-15
Register at: <http://www.windycityhabitat.org>

See also: First Presbyterian Church