

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### ▪ SAMPLE LISTING ▪

The following list is not meant to exclude other options for volunteer service. These are activities in which volunteers can engage over a length of time or simply on a one-time-only basis. If you have an idea of your own, please feel free to share it.

#### **DIRECT SERVICES... Services That Directly Relate To Residents**

**The Guest Chef program.** Guest Chefs – from a local congregation, service organization, or business firm – prepare and serve evening meals to the residents in the emergency housing program, usually from 35 to 40 individuals. Most Guest Chef Groups commit to one meal per month. Over 40 community groups volunteer to service 14,600 meals annually.

**Breakfast.** This can be a one-time event, occasional, or quarterly; that is, preparation of breakfast for residents, serving at 6:30 a.m. A family, a congregation, community, or school group may serve anything from waffles or pancakes to scrambled eggs and bacon.

**Holiday Parties.** Groups adopt holidays throughout the year to provide meals or desserts and other special activities. We are usually fully subscribed for Thanksgiving and Christmas, but we welcome groups for other days, such as Valentine's Day, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, Memorial Day, Mother's Day or Father's Day.

**Tutoring.** We have a very good tutoring program, working with school-age children three nights a week, on a one-to-one basis. Scheduling is handled by School-on-Wheels; if anyone is interested in tutoring, we can put him/her in touch with that organization.

**Crafts for the holidays.** Individuals, families, or small groups can come in to lead children or families in creating gifts, cards, or art projects for a holiday, such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Valentine's Day.

**Teaching/sharing specialties.** Individuals, or families, or small groups may have a special skill or interest that they would like to share with residents here. That could range from Armenian/Greek folk dancing to tai chi to theater improvisation to lectures on history or astronomy, using a telescope. It's a way to introduce residents to the wider world.

**Dessert with a program.** A family or small group might prepare an evening of story-telling, or choral singing, or game playing, followed by dessert. This could be the kind of event that existed regularly in homes in the pre-television and even pre-radio eras.

To learn more, please call Ascencia at (818) 246-7900.

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#### **INDIRECT SERVICES... Services That Are Extremely Helpful In Supporting Program Operations**

**Housewarming baskets.** As clients leave us for a new home of their own, it is much appreciated and very useful to provide them with a set of housekeeping “tools” in a laundry basket, items ranging from laundry soap to floor cleaner to sheets and towels and kitchen essentials. This is a project that could be undertaken by a youth group or other congregation or community group.

**House and Garden Opportunities.** We are always looking for ways to improve the décor of the shelter – through plants, pictures, other amenities, inside and outside. We have to be concerned about ease of care and cleanliness (nothing too fussy or difficult to care for), but we are open to suggestions from individuals, families, or groups.

**Blankets, sheets, and towels (add to these, toothpaste, shampoo, socks, underwear).** All of these items are needed on an ongoing basis. Individuals can donate some or all; and groups can make this a worthwhile project.

**Back-to-School backpacks.** Of the persons we serve, about 30% are school-age children. At any given time, but especially in late August they can use new backpacks filled with school supplies.

**Fundraising efforts.** Help in fundraising includes everything and anything from addressing and stuffing envelopes to distributing flyers to speaking on behalf of the agency at a local congregation or community group.

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