

## Volunteer Opportunities at Blessing House

We are so happy that you are interested in being a part of the heart and volunteering at Blessing House! We can only do what we do because of the support we receive from so many who are willing to donate their time, talent and treasure.

As we move into our new building, we are developing our plans for the future including our volunteer program. We will have new opportunities for community support and are in the process of forming this program. We expect it is going to take a little time to adapt to our new surroundings, so we ask for your patience as we organize these opportunities.

What is on the horizon for volunteers looking for *regular onsite opportunities*?

- Helping with yardwork and landscaping
- Helping sort donations
- Helping organize our storage pantries
- Preparing meals onsite
- Vacuuming and cleaning
- Administrative help – office, promotion, social media



If you are interested in being a regular volunteer in one of these areas, the requirements are: 1) Fill out an application, 2) Complete state required background checks and allow us to check the national sex offender database, 3) Interview with Blessing House Staff, 4) Participate in a 3 hour orientation. These opportunities do not involve any direct care of our children. Additional information regarding this process will be provided when final arrangements have been made.

### *Other onsite opportunities – “Done in a day” projects/visits*



- Yoga/Pilates class for children
- Spring/fall yard cleanup
- Special event/party for children
- Theme day/story time
- Mailings

If you are interested in coming occasionally to help out with a special project, you will need to fill out an application to let us know your areas of interest. These opportunities depend on the ages and situations of children staying at the house and typically require flexible scheduling. These activities are supervised by Blessing House staff.

### *Offsite opportunities*

**Fundraising** – We have a committee that works all year to put on one of the best galas in the area. (OK, we believe it IS the best gala in the area!) Let us know if you would like to help with this event. Other board sponsored fundraising events with opportunities to volunteer include a golf outing, spring tea, car wash and parking support for the Girls Give Back Summer and Winter Markets. If you have an idea for another fundraiser, let us know!





**Community Outreach** – If you have an event in your community that would give the opportunity to share information about Blessing House, let us know. You can help us get the word out to families that need our help as well as people who want to help. If you belong to a church, organization, social group or business where folks would like to hear more about Blessing House, contact us so we can set up a time to tell our story.

**Collections and donations for our kids** – We always love it when people call and ask if they can take up a collection for us at their school, organization or place of business. Folks will collect household items (toilet paper, tissue, diapers, wipes, etc.), food (formula, canned goods, shelf staples) or other

items from our wish list. Also welcomed are **new** children's clothing. Depending on space, we may be able to accept gently used children's clothing – please call and check with us first. We typically do not accept used toys and adult clothing. Check our website for drop off times.

**Sponsor your own fundraiser for Blessing House** – Have a garage sale, spaghetti dinner, book sale, etc. We will work with you to promote your event and help you raise funds for our children. (There is a third party fundraising agreement for events where we are the designated beneficiary.)



### ***Volunteering to provide direct care for our children***

We receive many requests from individuals who want to come and provide direct care for our children. There is much interest in direct interaction and many who want to come in and rock babies!

Any direct interaction with our children is closely monitored and supervised according to our licensing regulations. For those who want to volunteer regularly with our children assisting in their ongoing care, specific requirements must be met. These include: an application, three personal references, a physical, state required background checks and a check of the national sex offender database, an interview with Blessing House staff and ongoing training. 20 hours of training are required to start and additional ongoing training is required each year. These rules are required to ensure the safety and confidentiality of our children. We have not been able to establish a child care volunteer program in the past because of our space constraints, but hope to do so in the future. If you are interested in assisting with child care as a volunteer, indicate your interest on our form and your willingness to meet these requirements and we will be in touch to discuss this opportunity further with you.

### ***Specific areas of volunteer assistance:***

If you have certifications or experience in any of these areas and would like to volunteer, please let us know.

- Tutoring/Academic assistance
- Child Development
- Other Professional Direct Service

Qualifications and training will be discussed individually. Background checks will be required of all who work onsite with our children.

