

GRACE House Gazette

February 10, 2013

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Dear GRACE House Friends,

Helping people move from homelessness to permanent, stable housing relieves the community costs for law enforcement, emergency room care and mental health crisis care. Recognizing the important role GRACE House plays in community well-being; our County Commissioners recently approved a \$10,000 Health & Human Services contribution for Itasca County's only homeless shelter!

This funding will greatly enhance our ability to provide an on-site training program that's designed to augment the workforce and independent living skills of GRACE House's guests. This training will help our guests lead more self-sufficient lives, and break the cycle of homelessness.

GRACE House is one of four, local nonprofit organizations to receive funding through the Federal Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP). Administered by United Way of 1000 Lakes, this funding enables GRACE House to continue serving as one of Minnesota's most successful homeless shelters.

I am excited to announce that GRACE House will soon have a new website! The Nonprofit Assistance Fund recently approved a capacity-building grant, which will provide us with the necessary resources to construct a new, user-friendly website for GRACE House. I'll keep you posted on our progress. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support of our shelter!

Sincerely,

Sherry Shadley

Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight

I would like to thank and congratulate **Al Zachman** for being one of GRACE House's most committed volunteers! A retired master electrician and regular overnight volunteer, Al typically contributes 40 hours of service or more at GRACE House each month. We frequently rely on him to fill overnight shifts when we've had last-minute cancellations. Thanks, Al, for all you do to make GRACE House a safe haven for our guests. You continue to answer our pleas for help, time and time again. You're the best! We hope you continue volunteering at the shelter for many years to come.

GRACE House's Top 5 Critical Needs (New or Gently-used only):

1. Non-stick cookware
2. Air mattresses (for guests leaving the shelter)
3. Jogging pants (M, L, XL)
4. Long-sleeved-shirts (L, XL, XXL)
5. Fresh/frozen ground beef

HELP WANTED: Part-Time Volunteer Coordinator (Uncompensated Position)

Do you like helping people? Do you want to make a real difference in the lives of people in our community who are experiencing homelessness? Do you have a bubbly personality and like talking on the phone? If you answered yes to these questions, then GRACE House is looking for you! We are currently seeking a part-time Volunteer Coordinator who is willing to contribute five hours of service each week to fill our daily volunteer shifts. You can work from home or at GRACE House, during weeknights or weekends. **Call us today at 326-2790 to find out more about this opportunity to serve GRACE House.**

A Note from GRACE House's Board Chair:

I want to thank all of GRACE House's volunteers for contributing their time and talent to Itasca County's only homeless shelter. As a volunteer, you should know your service is critical to the successful operation of GRACE House!

I was recently reminded of the important role our volunteers fill while reviewing GRACE House's 2013 payroll budget. I knew our volunteers logged a lot of hours, but I was awestruck by the numbers on the spreadsheet. Did you know GRACE House volunteers contribute over 700 hours of service each month? That means our volunteers comprise more than 50% of GRACE House's workforce! Incredible!

When volunteers fill a shift, they serve as mentors and positive role models to the individuals and families who stay at GRACE House. They supply compassion and support so our guests feel welcomed and valued. They prepare and serve homemade meals that comfort our guests and make them feel at home. Most importantly, our volunteers provide an extra level of security at the shelter to ensure the safety and well-being of all of GRACE House guests.

Assistance from our volunteer corps affords GRACE House's staff the time to provide individualized case management services that enable our guests to find stable housing before they leave our shelter.

If you've ever considered volunteering at GRACE House, what are you waiting for? There's no time like the present. Our staff will provide volunteer training and orientation on March 11th and April 8th— both from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We encourage, invite, and look forward to your participation!

Take Care & Stay Warm!

Madelen Schuemann

Additional Volunteer Opportunities:

GRACE House will provide **CPR and First Aid Training** on March 14 at 10:00 a.m. This training is highly recommended to volunteers who work four or more shifts per month. This workshop is limited to the first 16 registrants. Email ami@grgracehouse to inquiry about openings.

Do you love to cook? Then come join the **Saturday Cooking Club** on February 23, anytime between 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. Our Saturday Cooking Club volunteers whip up casseroles, soups, and entrees that use chicken as a primary recipe ingredient. They help fill GRACE House's freezers with delicious food. Having homemade meals on hand really helps out as we continue to operate at maximum capacity. For more information on the Saturday Cooking Club, please call Alice Billings at: 218-999-5118.