

May 9, 2014 Volume II: Issue 7

Dear Friends,

Our April 26 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was an incredibly fun event; filled with delicious food, fantastic music, and wonderful camaraderie. It gave our board and staff the opportunity to recognize Grace House’s greatest asset: the faithful volunteers who generously and selflessly donate their time, talent and energy to keep our shelter running like a well-oiled machine.

As door prizes, awards and recognition gifts were distributed I couldn’t help but feel humbled by the loyalty and devotion exemplified by Grace House volunteers. Through daily shifts and special events, our volunteers contributed nearly **9,000 hours of service in 2013** **alone!**

As Grace House nears its 8th Birthday (May 22), this annual luncheon served as an important reminder that **volunteers are the key** to the success and continued growth of any nonprofit organization. For instance, implementation of the 2014 Winter Overflow Shelter Plan (WOSP) would not have been possible without the involvement of more than 150 community volunteers. In addition to supplying essential manpower, WOSP volunteers provided the necessary feedback for fine-tuning this capacity-building, emergency shelter program.

Grace House now holds monthly meetings to gain input from volunteers and supporters, provide updates on programmatic/procedural changes and offer training opportunities. We invite you to attend our ***Coffee, Chocolate & Conversation***meetings, which are held at Grace House the fourth Monday (at 1:00 p.m.) and Tuesday (at 5:30 p.m.) of each month. We’d like to hear from you because your voice matters!

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, this month’s *Coffee, Chocolate & Conversation* meetings will be held **Tuesday, May 27 at 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.** Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator, Peg Christensen, will provide an overview of the ever-changing roles of Grace House volunteers. She’ll highlight the primary responsibilities of each of the three daily shifts, while distinguishing the differences in volunteer roles since Grace House moved from Zion Lutheran Church into our new home.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support and involvement.

Best Wishes,

Sherry Shadley

Executive Director

**Volunteer Spotlight:**

After last month’s Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, it would be nearly impossible to highlight the efforts of one single volunteer. Grace House volunteers make our guests feel comfortable and safe at the shelter; just like they would for a treasured family member. The compassion and constant care of our volunteers is what sets Grace House apart from other homeless shelters in the state.

In addition, our volunteer corps comprises **50% percent of our workforce**! Without the assistance of more than 160 volunteers, Grace House would need to hire 4.5 additional staff members to keep the shelter running as seamlessly as it has for the past eight years.

On behalf of Grace House’s board, staff and guests, we thank all of our amazing volunteers for taking time out of their busy schedules to make our guests feel right at home. We’d also like to recognize the following volunteers for their incredible contributions of service in 2013:

**99 to 199 Hours of Service**

Barb Veit — 99 hours Doug Veit — 99 hours Mary Ann Bartos — 108 hours

Mimi Eisele — 110 hours Dave Roerick — 110 hours Jean Hoshel — 117 hours

Mary Ruby — 126 hours Vicki Andrews — 136 hours Diane Hesslund — 144 hours

Jim Olson — 144 hours

**200 to 300 Hours of Service**

Candy Miller — 201 hours Cheryl Shepard — 208 hours Joe Rust — 234 hours

Samantha Mattson — 277.5 hours

**301 to 600 + Hours of Service**

Al Zachman — 301 hours Greg Johnson — 387.25 Nikki Calvin — 467.75

Peg Christensen — 523 hours Simon Gretton — 532 hours Gwenn Smith — 643 hours

**Important Dates To Remember**

**May 27 @ 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.** — *Coffee, Chocolate & Conversation:* “The Evolution of Volunteerism at Grace House”

**June 9 @ 5:30 p.m.** — Volunteer Orientation & Training

**June 23 @ 1:00 p.m.** — *Coffee, Chocolate & Conversation:* Topic not yet determined

**June 24 @ 5:30 p.m.** — *Coffee, Chocolate & Conversation:* Topic not yet determined

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**Top 5 Critical Needs:**

1. New or Gently Used Laundry Baskets 4. Men’s & Women’s Socks
2. A coffee grinder 5. Beef and/or Pork Roasts
3. HE Laundry Detergent (liquid or powder)