I want to Volunteer...
What do I need to do?
You want to volunteer? That’s great! Welcome! This is the first step in helping you learn more about where you can serve others within Catholic Charities. So many programs, so many locations, so on we go....
We would like to take a moment to share with you about who we are, what our mission is and what services we provide so you can get a better feel of how YOU as a volunteer can help! We are so excited you are considering joining in our mission to serve others.
Catholic Charities is the charity arm of the Catholic Church...we serve because we are called as Christians to help our neighbors in need. We hope to serve all who come to our door.
Catholic Charities has been serving the Diocese of La Crosse since 1872. That is almost 150 years!! We were originally known as the Catholic Welfare Bureau. Our services have grown and changed over the years to fit the needs of our communities, but one thing is always constant, we follow our mission.
Our mission is simple...

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse proclaims Christ’s Gospel of Life and promotes human dignity by alleviating poverty and strengthening families.
We have 5 offices and 2 outreach locations, but we provide services to the entire Diocese of La Crosse. Due to the advancement of technology, most of our services can now be provided across the entire area. While there are two programs, Disability Services (La Crosse) and Domestic Abuse (Prairie du Chien), we do our best to connect with all communities in all other services. We are literally a phone call or an email away, which is why we need volunteers like you! You assist us in the effort to reach out!
Where Do We Serve?

Office Locations:

- Eau Claire
- Loyal – House of Mercy
- Eau Claire – Sojourner House
- Prairie du Chien
- La Crosse
- Wausau
- La Crosse Downtown

www.cclse.org
Now you get to learn more about the services we offer and decide how you would like to partner with us. We feel it is important that volunteers know all of the programs we provide as there have been so many clients who have received multiple services from Catholic Charities. Don’t worry, you don’t have to memorize everything, this is just to help you figure out where your service interest lies. So here we go…
This program provides assistance for rent, mortgages, food, and utilities, as well as financial, bankruptcy and housing counseling and mentoring.

We have certified and experienced staff that meet with clients and individually tailor assistance to each client. Struggling families and individuals will be able to receive an evaluation of their situation, develop a plan, participate in financial education, and case management.

Our goal is to be an advocate for each client by providing support and guidance as they make a permanent change in regards to their relationship with money.
Representative Payee Program

Representative Payee Case Managers provide confidential, compassionate assistance with budgeting needs to those on a fixed income to meet their basic needs and reach future goals.
This program is based out of the La Crosse office and focuses on strengthening individuals and families dealing with developmental and emotional disabilities.

Services are offered in our East Avenue La Crosse office and at the Dwelling Place.
Since opening our doors, Catholic Charities has been working with widows and orphans. As our mission states, we work to strengthen families. Our Adoption Program continues to help families grow, whether it is through a domestic or international adoption. In 2010 we became accredited for international adoptions.
Post Adoption

The Post Adoption Resource Center offers services to all members of the adoption triad: adoptive families, birth parents, adult adoptees, relatives, and parents. It doesn’t matter whether you have adopted through Catholic Charities or with another agency, our Post Adoption staff and resources are there to offer continued support and connection. The center provides fun activities, support, education, and referrals to adoptive families.
Catholic Charities offers free, confidential, compassionate support to expectant parents regardless of their choice to parent or create an adoption plan. We work with the expectant parents to help them examine their options for making the best decision for themselves and their baby. Like all Catholic Charities services, they are available regardless of age, religion, or race. Pregnancy Support Social Workers offer free and confidential support throughout their pregnancy.
Every county within the state of Wisconsin is required to have a Domestic Abuse program. Within Crawford County, Catholic Charities offered to provide this service. Our program seeks to increase safety and decrease isolation for victims, and to challenge attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate the cycle of violence. Services are available only through our Prairie du Chien office in Crawford County.
In 2016, Catholic Charities provided Immigration services to over 361 clients from 29 different countries. Our program provides direct legal assistance to all immigrants for naturalization, adjustment of status, DACA, immigration services under the Violence Against Women Act and other immigration services. In addition, we provide all immigrants general assistance and/or referrals for special needs. We are always in need of volunteers to assist with translation and interpretation services.
Community Homeless Facilities

Catholic Charities provides overnight facilities for many poor, hurting, and homeless people in our communities. Our facilities offers adult men and women a safe, clean place to sleep overnight, shower, clean their clothing, and have a nutritious meal. We have three locations and we collaborate with other service organizations to provide great community service while not duplicating service.

Catholic Charities Locations:
• Sojourner House – Eau Claire – Open year-round
• La Crosse Warming Center – Open November 1 through April 30
• Wausau Warming Center – Open November 1 through April 30
Franciscan Hospitality House

This is a year-round center of welcome and outreach that is open in the afternoons to those who are homeless or live on the edge of homelessness. This daytime center is located in downtown La Crosse. It is a community space of welcome and outreach. Some services provided are showers, laundry, housing assistance, and legal assistance.
Beyond Shelter is a program based on the housing first model. These homes provide safe, affordable housing, case management, and supportive services designed to help the individual stay housed and live a more productive life in the community.

Beyond Shelter facilities are located in Loyal and Wausau
- House of Mercy – Loyal
- Beyond Shelter Homes – Wausau
Hopefully this helped you learn more about Catholic Charities and identifying an area in which you would like to partner with us! Every year we partner with over 1,000 community members as volunteers to serve all regardless of faith! We could not provide all of the services we do without your help.

So what comes next???
Now What Do You Do?

✓ Take a brief survey to help us evaluate what you have learned from this presentation.

✓ Submit your Volunteer Application
That’s it!! Wasn’t that easy! Our Volunteer Coordinator will contact you to follow-up and get you started. In the meantime, if you want to learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please visit our volunteer website at cclse.org. We look forward to seeing you around our office!