Comments from Former Guests

“This was my first time being homeless and I was scared. I thought homeless people were like the dirty, addicted, violent people you saw on TV. But they are people, just like me. We all have our reasons for being at Sojourner House. I have made some friends that understand what I am going through and the staff was very supportive. They helped me find the services I need to get my life together again.”

– Sandy

“I was once a guest at Sojourner House, now I get to come back as a volunteer. I am happy to be able to give a little back to the place that helped me when I was down on my luck.”

– Mark

“The staff and volunteers are very nice and helpful. They care about you. They celebrate with you when you get a job or place or even just get an interview. It’s nice to have that support, to get a pat on the back even if it’s a little thing, because those are the hardest sometimes.”

– Jackie

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a sojourner and you welcomed me.”

Matthew 25:35
The Sojourn House provides a safe, clean place for single men and women experiencing homelessness; affirms the Christ-like dignity in every individual through compassionate presence, listening and hospitality; and empowers people to rebuild their lives with the engagement of the greater community.

Catholic Charities
Sojourner House provides:

- Overnight sleeping for up to 38 men and 15 women
- Separate bathrooms and showers for men and women
- Guest laundry facilities
- Provides an evening meal and a carry-out breakfast to our guests
- A professional and helpful staff
- A coordinated community effort to offer a place of welcome, acceptance, and hope in overcoming homelessness

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities for you to help at the Sojourn House. All volunteers must be 18 or older. Under the supervision of professional staff, volunteer roles and responsibilities include:

**GREETER**

One volunteer welcomes guests and sets a positive tone by assuring that the shelter is a place of hope, acceptance and restoration. Guest Greeter may assist staff in welcoming guests for the evening by assisting with the entry process.

*Shift hours: 6:30 – 9:30 pm.*

**CHECK IN TABLE**

Volunteers gather guest information and assist with sign up for shower and laundry times.

*Shift hours: 6:30 – 9:30 pm.*

**TOTE ROOM MONITOR**

Volunteer monitors the room that is used to keep guests’ belongings during their stay at the Sojourn House. Additional duties include bunk assignments during check in.

*Shift hours: 6:30 – 9:30 pm and 5:30 – 8:30 am.*

**KITCHEN CREW**

Volunteers assist with the evening meal or breakfast; helping to serve guests and clean up after shift.

*Shift hours: 6:30 – 9:30 pm and 5:30 – 8:30 am.*

**MEAL PROVIDER**

Volunteers meet the need for a healthy, modest evening meal for 60 people. Meal to be prepared off-site. Food needs to be delivered to the Sojourn House by 6:30 pm.

**OVERNIGHT HOSPITALITY**

Volunteers help manage the overnight/early morning shifts including assisting guests with any special needs.

*Shift hours: 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm and 5:30 - 8:30 am*

FILLING A VITAL NEED FOR THE COMMUNITY

At the Sojourn House, we serve people that may not otherwise know where their next meal will come from or if they would have a roof over their head at night. We provide a safe place for guests to have a good meal, get some rest, and when they get up in the morning have breakfast before they leave for the day.

Since opening in November 2011, Sojourn House has averaged more than 1,500 sheltered stays per month to people experiencing homelessness in the Chippewa Valley. We welcome adults, over the age of 18, into our home, meeting guests where they are at in their journey. Our guests, volunteers, and staff bring their diverse experiences and individual personalities, creating the amazing Sojourn House community.

Owned and operated by Catholic Charities, the shelter relies heavily on support from individuals, local businesses, and churches of all denominations. Without community support, the shelter would not have become a reality and would be hard-pressed to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness in the community.

Interested in volunteering? Contact Clare Nelson at:
715-450-1457 or cnelson@cclse.org