

Volunteering at The Gathering Place

An Information Sheet

The Gathering Place is an equal opportunity organization. We do not discriminate and will take affirmative action measures to ensure against discrimination for guests, staff, and volunteers based on race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, gender identity or gender expression. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for staff, guests, volunteers, and all who visit us.

The Gathering Place [TGP] is a daytime shelter, a warm and welcoming sanctuary for people to gather in downtown Brunswick. WELCOME is our mission! Since early 2011, The Gathering Place provides a friendly welcome to all who stop by. Here our guests find respect, encouragement, companionship, hope and a safe space free from judgment. The coffee pot is always on and a variety of snacks are always available! Here our guests find others who share their experiences and are willing to listen. From card games and puzzles to support in accessing community resources, lonely daytime hours are filled with positive energy, kindness, and possibility. Our guests are a diverse group of wonderful people. Many are materially poor or homeless or precariously housed. Others suffer from physical, mental or emotional disabilities and others are simply seeking comfort and companionship. All are welcome!

Shift Volunteers

The most important aspect of a Volunteer's role and responsibility is to greet every guest and be a sincere, listening presence to those looking for companionship and wanting to talk. Volunteers assist in opening and/or closing activities. Other tasks that make up the work of each shift are: keeping the coffee pots and the snack trays filled and making sure there are always plenty of clean cups. They inventory kitchen and bathroom supplies, create shopping lists, replenish supplies and clean the shelter. Volunteers frequently participate in group activities like card games and crossword puzzles with guests and are available to help them problem solve and find needed resources. Volunteers are the backbone of The Gathering Place, doing whatever is needed whenever it's needed! It takes a team of 3 volunteers each shift to make the experience of coming to The Gathering Place a comfortable one for the 60-80 guests who gather on a typical day. We are always ready to welcome new volunteers with their varied interests and abilities to become part of our Team.

A Volunteer Coordinator provides individualized training for each volunteer. All volunteers must be trustworthy and reliable. Respect for both the guests and other volunteers is the key to the success of The Gathering Place.

Time Commitment

Each shift is 3.5 hours, from 8:30-12 or 12-3:30. A schedule is set monthly that accommodates volunteers varying needs. For instance, some volunteers have a set AM or PM shift every week; others choose only to volunteer every other week or once a month and some only certain months of the year. We will work with you to find a time that works for you!

The Next Steps

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Sally Hennessey, by emailing her at: volunteercoordinator@gp@gmail.com or by calling The Gathering Place at 729-0288 to set up a time to discuss your interest. We'll schedule a time for you to come visit us at The Gathering Place for a shift or two to see if it's the right fit for you; if yes, you will fill out a brief application. The training is one on one with Sally and you will be scheduled to volunteer on 4 different shifts with 4 different teams to experience what's involved first hand. The Supervisors with whom you have worked then recommend a volunteer for approval to the Volunteer Coordinator.

We'd love to hear from you if you enjoy helping others and making new friends!

Volunteer Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Name and telephone number of your pastor or another person whom we can use as a character reference. _____

What experience or skills do you have that you see as being helpful at The Gathering Place?

Have you in the past or do you currently volunteer at any other agency(ies) locally, and if so Where?

Please list some examples of your previous work experience or profession(s)

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? _____ Have you ever been convicted of a sex related or child abuse offense? _____ If yes to either, please explain on the reverse side.

Where did you hear about The Gathering Place? _____

Why are you interested in volunteering at The Gathering Place? _____

Is there anything else you would like us to know about you?

Please list an emergency contact, with phone number(s) and identify relationship:

Signed/Date _____

Covenant of service and confidentiality

As a volunteer for The Gathering Place I commit to serving all who use the center.

I agree to work respectfully with other volunteers and guests at the Gathering Place.

I agree to attend and participate in the supervision and training sessions provided for volunteers.

I agree to follow the training guidelines and the operating practices of the center.

I agree to adhere to the center's policy of confidentiality.

I will take responsibility for finding a substitute for my scheduled shift if I am unable to be there.

I understand that children may not accompany me to the Center while I am working as a volunteer.

I understand that e-mail is the primary way in which I will be contacted with/for information regarding the Center. I will check my e-mail regularly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #'s: Home: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact name and phone number(s): _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____