



April 2020

DAYLIGHT

Happenings at St. John Center for Homeless Men



OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE SIMPLY AMAZING



Volunteers welcome the people who come to St. John Center seeking support, shelter, and resources. They pour hundreds of cups of coffee every day of the year. They sort mail, provide basic cleaning services, make sure there are supplies so the men here can shower. They also do things you may not imagine.

Janet Gerber brings her unique training and skills to St. John Center. A registered nurse certified in foot care, Janet has been coming to the shelter weekly for the past three years to provide foot care for the men. She offers nail care, reflexology, and diabetic foot care for 6-12 men each week. She also provides shoes and insoles, as well as foot care education, and referrals to podiatrists and other doctors.

“What Janet does means so much because it keeps my feet in good condition so I can get around on a daily basis. You only get two feet and you need to keep them healthy,” said Rayshawn. “She always has an open ear and is such a great listener. I have so much respect for her.”

“I am diabetic and I have a lot of problems with my feet. She educates me on how to care for my feet and how to get special shoes for diabetics,” said Luis. “She has so much knowledge and experience it is unbelievable. Thanks to her I feel like I am walking on air.”

From head to toe, volunteers are the heart of the way we care for the people we serve. This April, we miss every one of them.

“Thanks to her I feel like I am walking on air.”
- Luis

SHANNON FREY STEPS UP

“I have finally found my place.”

After seven years as a loyal volunteer, Shannon Frey joined the staff as Volunteer Coordinator on Jan. 6. Her leadership comes at a highly unusual time. For the first time in our history, St. John Center has had to temporarily suspend volunteer service in order to limit community exposure to the coronavirus.

In a short time, Shannon has boosted volunteer recruiting and training. She’s brought joy and efficiency to scheduling the nearly 200 volunteers who are the heart and soul of the St. John Center way.

“I am thrilled that I get to work in a place I love every day. Even after difficult days, I am extremely thankful that I have finally found my place,” said Shannon. The last few weeks have been difficult - but we look forward to welcoming our volunteers back as soon as we possibly can. And Shannon will be here!





The Community of Volunteers

Nothing is business as usual right now. Everything about providing shelter and social services has been turned on its head because of the coronavirus pandemic. Of all the required changes, asking volunteers to temporarily stay home has been the most profound.

People experiencing homelessness have been welcomed by volunteers in our community every day since we opened our doors. Today, staff members cover the basic shelter functions in order to keep our doors open to as many guests as possible. There is nothing usual about it!

But the values we’ve grown over 34 years in the company of our volunteers guide our work every day. And the steadfast

commitment of volunteers is always present. They are sending cleaning products, finding toilet paper for us, and even ordering lunch for staff to help us stay strong and encouraged. They are sending words of love and encouragement. Doug, a long time volunteer, sent this:

“I want you to know that I am well...coping okay with the challenges that come with these difficult times. Stepping away from St. John, however, has left a big hole in my world. I think often of the faces and voices of the men I’ve gotten to know at the coffee station; of my friend Vernon; and all the loving and dedicated staff and volunteers. I pray for grace and mercy for all of us...that we be safe and healthy and together again. So, I’ll continue to look for ways to support you and your work from afar. In community, Doug”

It is not business as usual. But we will make it through this terrible time. We are getting through every day as Doug shared to close his note: in community.


Maria A. Price
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At St. John Center, we strive to be the best possible community member while caring for people experiencing homelessness. In order to limit the spread of the coronavirus in our community, city, state, and nation, we made the very difficult decision to temporarily suspend our volunteer program.

We miss our volunteers every day. Since the day we opened in 1986, volunteers have been the first to welcome people who come in off the streets. We are missing a huge part of the heart of our mission right now.

We know you will be back.

Wish List

- 55-gallon Drum Liners
- Hand Sanitizer (Large and Purse-Size)
- Floor Cleaner (Lysol)
- Disinfectant Wipes

For more information contact
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