

**Youth Service Projects
Greater Des Moines Area**

What follows is a sample of the many Discipleship Service Witness Opportunities in the Greater Des Moines Community. There are many, many more opportunities and the information changes regularly. Most agencies have web sites with up to date contact information, service opportunities, times and locations that service can be provided.

Please be sure to check an organizations web site for the most up to date information prior to making contact.

Opportunity	Location	Contact (last known)	Contact Info.
Amanda the Panda	1000 73 rd St., Windsor Heights	Website or phone	223-4847
Anawim Housing	2024 Forest Ave., Des Moines	Website or phone	244-8308
Central Iowa Shelter and Services	205 15 th St., Des Moines	AJ Olson	280-2991
Children and Family Urban Ministries - The Haven	1548 Eighth Street Des Moines, IA	Janelle Mueller	288-3242 Cell 729-8060
ChildServe	5406 Merle Hay Road P.O. Box 707 Johnston, IA 50131	Kaylene Steele Volunteer Coordinator kaylens@childserve.org	276-0140
Connection Café	600 6 th Ave., Des Moines	Rob Hoover	771-1481
DMARC Food Pantry	Multiple locations - see information below.		277-6969
FreeStore	1040 24 th St., West Des Moines		282-3733
Goodwill Industries of Central Iowa	4900 NE 22 nd St.	Rodney Tomilson	Email @ rodney@dmgoodwill.org 265-5323
Habitat for Humanity	2200 E. Euclid Ave. Des Moines, IA 50317 515-471-8686	Website or Phone	www.gdmhabitat.org
Rebuilding Together	1111 9th St # 265 Des Moines, IA 50314	Website or Phone	284-7403 http://www.rebuildingdm.org
Ronald McDonald House	1441 Pleasant St., Des Moines	volunteer@rmhdesmoines.org	243-211
St Vincent De Paul	1426 6th Ave. Des Moines	Website or Phone	282-8327 http://svdpdsm.org/
Meals From the Heartland	357 Lincoln St, West Des Moines, IA 50265	https://mealsfromtheheartland.org/	877-457-6384

About the Greater Des Moines Area organizations:

- **Amanda the Panda**

www.amandathepanda.org

“Amanda the Panda Family Grief Center in Windsor Heights, Iowa offers the most comprehensive and ongoing services for children, teens, adults and families struggling with a death of a loved one in the state of Iowa. “

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Office duties: mailings, answering telephones, organizing files and running errands
- Camp preparation
- Organizing special events – such as the golf tournament – as an organizer or committee member
- Fundraising, grant research and grant writing
- Preparing meeting rooms or meals for support groups

If you are available to volunteer your time, energy and abilities, please register online @ www.amandathepanda.org or call the number listed on the chart.

- **Anawim Housing**

www.anawimhousing.org

For additional information about Anawim Housing volunteer opportunities please download and complete the volunteer form, then contact:

2024 Forest Avenue, Suite 101

Des Moines, IA 50311

(515) 244-8308

- **Central Iowa Shelter and Services**

www.centraliowashelter.org

Their mission is to provide free shelter and meals to homeless adults regardless of physical or emotional conditions and to facilitate their move toward self-sufficiency. Volunteer opportunities involve providing breakfast, lunch and dinner meals, helping with check-in and general office activities. Meals are prepared off-site and delivered/served to guests at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Contact Judy or visit the website @ www.centraliowashelter.org

- **ChildServe**

www.childserve.org

Volunteering at ChildServe

ChildServe volunteers are found in every area of the organization. They offer friendship and care to the children we serve, and provide much-needed support so our staff can help each child live a great life! Volunteer opportunities are available for individuals and groups at every ChildServe location and for all of our services. There are many opportunities to be involved directly with the children, or to support children indirectly, based on your interests. Volunteers are needed during the day, evenings, and weekends. No experience is necessary. Time involvement will vary based on each volunteer's schedule and availability. Opportunities can be scheduled on a one-time basis or as an ongoing volunteer opportunity.

- **Children and Family Urban Ministries: The Haven**

www.cfum.org

3:20pm – 5:30pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

2:00pm – 5:30pm (Wednesday)

Mid July through Early June.

Assist children with academics; computer assistance; play and interact with children, Kindergarten – 5th grade.

Contact Janelle Mueller: janelle@cfum.org or 515-282-3242

- **Connection Café**

<http://www.theconnectioncafe.org/>

In need of volunteer groups on the first Wednesday, the fourth Tuesday and the fourth Friday of each month.

We also have other openings. If you would like to get involved with the Café as an individual or with a group, please call Rob at 771-1481 or e-mail him at www.theconnectioncafe@hotmail.com.

- **DMARC Food Pantry**

www.dmreligious.org

Volunteers and the DMARC EFP warehouse have three main responsibilities.

- Count all incoming individual food items.
- Check each food item for container integrity and expiration date.
- Package food for distribution to the nine pantry sites.

The DMARC EFP warehouse operates Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:40 p.m. Volunteers normally work from either 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or from 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. There is, however, a considerable amount of flexibility associated with times and frequency that a volunteer can participate.

If you have any questions concerning volunteer opportunities contact the DMARC EFP Director at (515) 277-6969 or by e-mail at foodpantry@dmreligious.org. You can also volunteer online.

- **FreeStore (non-profit)**

www.thefreestore.org

FreeStore assists families and children leaving the Iowa Children and Family Services-Family Violence Center. They collect furniture and house wares to be given to the families as they establish a new residence.

Volunteers are needed to help families move into their new homes on Saturday mornings. Lifting and moving furniture is required. FreeStore provides the trucks, drivers and greeter who work with the client.

Call 282-3733 for more information.

- **Goodwill Industries**

www.dmgoodwill.org

A variety of service opportunities are available. The opportunities are flexible and you can volunteer on own, with a friend or as a group.

A volunteer application must be completed and submitted. Application can be located online.

- **Rebuilding Together**

The leading volunteer organization that, in partnership with the community, rehabilitates the homes of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly, disabled, and families with dependent children. There is no cost to qualified homeowners for the services provided. Since 1995, Rebuilding Together Greater Des Moines has improved 1,300+ homes through the efforts of approximately 18,000 volunteers.

- **Ronald McDonald House**

www.rmhdsmoines.org

Opportunities include preparing meals, maintenance, baking, relief help, special events, cleaning, landscaping, baskets, pop tabs and holiday prep. A volunteer form must be completed online – www.rmhdsmoines.org. You may email inquires to volunteer@rmhdsmoines.org.

- **St. Vincent de Paul**

www.svdpusa.org

Help needed with stocking, cleaning and misc. duties.

Catholic Charities

Age requirements and youth service guidelines:

On-site volunteers must be 16 or older without adult supervision. Youth age 13-15 must have an adult with them to volunteer.

About the Catholic Charities Organizations

Refugee Resettlement Services

www.dmdiocese.org

www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org.

Opportunities include apartment set-ups, sorting and organization donations.

Contact: Katie Ryan @ 237-5090 or kryan@dmdiocese.org with questions or go to

www.CatholicCharitiesDM.org

<http://www.dmdiocese.org/Refugee%20Apartment%20Setup%20Vol%20Opp.pdf>

Catholic Charities Family Center

1815 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines

www.dmdiocese.org/st-mary-family-center.cfm

Hours: 9:30 am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday

Volunteer shifts: 9:30am-12:30pm and 12:30pm-3:30pm

Contact: 515-237-5019

Helped needed with: food box preparation, clothing donation processing, cleaning, patron processing and other tasks as needed.

Catholic Charities Emergency Shelter

1535 11th Street, Des Moines

www.dmdiocese.org

Volunteer opportunities include: Preparing an evening meal for up to 30 people (10 families)

Contact: call 282-1235 directly to set up a time.

Shelter maintenance, cleaning and collecting items for the shelter are available opportunities.

OLIH Community

Please be sure to check the OLIH website for the most up to date opportunities and contact person as ministries and contact information can change regularly to meet the needs of the community.

Liturgical Ministry

Below is a brief overview of the ministries at OLIH. Training is provided! Ministers are assigned for each of the weekend liturgies; holiday liturgies are generally filled by volunteering. Each ministry provides training and any necessary materials. If you are interested in serving in any of these ministries, please contact the person listed or the church office at 964.3038. or olih@olih.org.

Altar Servers

When we gather for Liturgy, the Altar Servers take responsibility for freeing the presider from various details so he may give full attention to presiding. Tasks include: Carry candles in procession to and from the sanctuary; presenting and hold the sacramentary (book of prayers) for presider at several times during Mass; carrying the candles to the ambo for reading of the Gospel; assist with preparing the altar for Liturgy of Eucharist and clearing the altar. 4th grade and older

Contact: Brian Fitzpatrick, shamrock9498@msn.com

Cross Bearer

The entrance procession is not only a solemn introduction of the priest and other ministers to the sanctuary, but it is also a visible expression of the people becoming a liturgical community. We follow the cross into the sanctuary, a reminder and sign that we are to follow the cross in our daily lives.

Contact: Don Ochs, dmmsochs@yahoo.com

Children's Liturgy of the Word

A ministry for children ages 5 – 7 years old, offered during the 10:30 am Sunday Mass. Children are gathered around the baptismal font by the principal Celebrant (Priest) and dismissed to Room 3 where they hear the Scriptures in language they may understand and might participate in an activity to reinforce what they have learned.

Contact: Kyle Lechtenberg, Director of Liturgy & Worship 515-964-3080

Environment

Liturgical Environment is used to foster the mood and focus of the Liturgical Seasons, sometimes the mood is festive, other times the mood is penitence or anticipation, but always the mood of dignity and hospitality. This group gathers primarily on a Saturday morning as the Liturgical Season changes.

Contact: Beth Boehlert, bethb52@mchsi.com

Eucharistic Ministers (EMs)

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist assist the priest in distributing Holy Communion at Mass. They also bring “food for the journey” to the sick and homebound. EMs must be confirmed, practicing Catholics, *16 years or older*.

Contact: Rhonda Snyder, rrsnyder85@gmail.com

Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network-IHN)

Family Promise of Greater Des Moines is a non-profit organization providing a safe haven for homeless families. Family Promise strives to create a safe, stable and nurturing environment for the children as well as to support the efforts of their parents in securing employment and housing. OLIH is a member of the network of 13 area religious congregations who provide shelter and nutritious meals for one week every three

months. During our host week, parishioners create a home-like atmosphere where guests can receive what they need: rest, hope, respect, confidence boosting and a sense of control in their lives.

A few weeks prior to our host week, we post a volunteer sign-up board in the gathering space. Volunteers are needed as dinner preparers, evening and overnight hosts, laundry help and van drivers.

**Contacts: Todd & Donna Halbach at tdhalbach@gmail.com or 494-4714
Rob & Natalie Francis at francisankeny@aol.com or 494-6913**

Gardening Angels (outside)

OLIH Gardeners help maintain the grounds and plantings around the outside of the church and rectory.

Volunteers are scheduled on a rotating basis. A landscaper prepares the design and purchases the plants needed; help is required for planting, weeding and watering. Green thumbs not a requirement!

Contact: Gary Jones, garjon@aol.com

Hospitality Ministers

Teams of Hospitality Ministers are assigned to the weekend liturgies. They serve as an outward sign of Christ's hospitality by welcoming those coming to worship, assisting with seating, receiving the offerings for monetary support, directing communicants to the altar, distributing the parish bulletin, and being available to address any emergencies that might arise during the liturgy. Adults and high school students are encouraged to volunteer for this ministry.

Contact: Greg Clawson, Clawson_36@msn.com

Lectors/Commentators

Lectors proclaim Sacred Scriptures in a way that conveys their meaning and intent while upholding the dignity of Christ's presence in the Word. A lector is assigned to proclaim either the first or second Scripture reading at each weekend Mass. A copy of the assigned reading is emailed to each lector on the preceding Wednesday. Commentators read the Prayers of the Faithful and weekly announcements at Mass. Lectors and Commentators need to be confirmed, practicing Catholics, *16 years or older*.

Contact: Bill Konnath, billk@olih.org

Music Ministry

This ministry provides music for the weekend Mass and other liturgical celebrations and consists of choirs, cantors and instrumentalists. There are numerous opportunities for all to be involved.

Contact: Kyle Lechtenberg, Director of Liturgy & Worship 515-964-3080

Nursery

To provide parents the opportunity to fully participate in the Mass by providing a safe, friendly environment, OLIH offers free nursery care during the Sunday Masses to children ages one to four, or until children are enrolled in the RE program. The nursery is open September through May during the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Masses. During the summer months (June, July and August) the nursery is open only during the 8:30 Mass. The nursery does not operate during the following holiday weekends, so that the volunteers may be with their families: New Year's, Spring Break, Easter, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The nursery is staffed by volunteers, many of them parents of the children served. A background check is required to volunteer.

Contact: nursery@olih.org