

Service Opportunity Data Sheet

Mennonite Voluntary Service



Jubilee North – Rochester NY

Position Title: Homeless Shelter Staff

Organization/Agency Name: Saint Joseph's House of Hospitality

402 South Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31049, Rochester, NY 14603
Phone: (585) 232-3262

The Agency

Inspired by the non-violence and corporal works of mercy of Jesus, the Catholic Worker Movement was founded by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in New York City during the Great Depression. For close to 70 years, the Rochester Catholic Worker, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, has been providing food, clothing and shelter to the poor, while promoting non-violence and actively opposing war and militarism. Currently, St. Joe's serves lunch daily, operates a men's emergency shelter, distributes clean clothing, offers clothes washing and showering facilities, and makes available local phone calls to the homeless population. Weekly ecumenical services are held on Tuesdays. The house and the movement are historically Catholic, but our staff, volunteers and guests are of many faiths. The community members of St. Joe's Catholic Worker advocate for those who are homeless, and work for peace and justice, especially for the poor. The community takes part in such activities as the annual "Way of the Cross" procession through downtown on Good Friday, with stops at the Federal Building, the County Office Building, the Jail, and other sites familiar to those who work with and for the poor of Rochester.

Website: www.saintjoeshouse.org

The Job

Actively participate in the life of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. This is an immersion experience in living out the works of mercy!

Specific tasks include:

- Preparing and serving lunch for approximately 100 homeless persons daily.
- Provide overnight shelter to the homeless poor during the winter months (typically October – April)
- Provide hospitality year-round to those who come to the house, especially the poor.
- Provide psychological and emotional support to the homeless population.
- There are opportunities for writing in the newsletter, or helping to produce it.
- The volunteer could help in planning a retreat for the community in the spring.
- Participate in advocacy efforts on behalf of the poor and homeless.
- Participate in promoting non-violent alternatives to war and militarism.
- Participate in community meetings, and in the life of the community as much as possible.
- Optional participation in weekly prayer services and morning prayers.

The Qualifications

- Good interpersonal skills to work with a diverse population.
- Able to see that which is of God in others, and to see Jesus in distressing disguise in the homeless poor – even when that person is mean, or drunk, or smelly, or mentally ill.
- Ability to work effectively on own and with others
- Able bodied to go & down our three flights of stairs, and to live without air conditioning.
- Willingness to do whatever is needed, and ability to find meaning and joy in a simple task well done.
- Drivers license an asset but not required.

For more details on the Rochester MVS unit, contact Roger Kurtz at 585-831-6724.

To apply for this or other MVS positions, go to <http://service.mennonitemission.net> and choose “Mennonite Voluntary Service.”