

Christ Our Light Participates in the Homeless Hospitality Network

April 21- May 5

About IHOC

IHOC's flagship program is what is called the Homeless Hospitality Network. Through this innovative, intensive, six month long program, IHOC takes up to a dozen homeless men and provides them with shelter and food, housing them with our member congregations, while also enabling them to become self-sufficient through regular drug and alcohol counseling and life skills training.

This program is run from October until May, during which time homeless men, are housed with various member congregations. The congregations serve as hosts for two week periods, providing meals, a warm, secure place to sleep, and fellowship. During the first ten weeks, the men gain valuable lessons by attending life skills classes on money management, job seeking, and developing interpersonal relationships while also working with nonprofit organizations such as the Goodwill Industries. Following the required training, the men begin an intensive job search. Once they obtain a job, the men must deposit 80 percent of their salaries into an IHOC managed account to be held for them until they secure permanent housing. In addition to all these rehabilitative programs the congregations also make a strong effort to engage the clients during their spare time and keep them active with various recreational activities.

COL Volunteer Opportunities

Between April 21 and May 5th, we will be hosting 7 men at the Queen of Heaven campus. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities during this two week period

_____ Set up: help prepare before the men arrive. Scheduled for Saturday, April 20th.

_____ I can help out in the morning

_____ I can help out in the afternoon

_____ Food preparation: prepare dinner for approximately 15 people (our guests and some parishioners). This is best done in teams. If you volunteer by yourself, you will be put in a team with others to help put the meal together.

_____ Please put me on a meal preparation team

_____ I have a team of people who will work together to prepare the meal. My other team members are _____

_____ Hosting

_____ Men to host overnight. We need at least one man, preferably two, to stay with the men overnight. You will be contacted to arrange the schedule.

_____ Men/ women/ families are needed on the weekends to be present at the facility during the day- We will make up shifts of several hours for these days.

_____ Saturday, April 27

_____ Sunday, April 28

_____ Saturday, May 4

_____ Sunday, May 5 (the men leave that afternoon)

Transportation: We need evening transportation for the men for four nights. The destinations are local and you can just drop the men off and pick them up later.

- ☐ Monday, April 22 (6:30 pm – 9:00 pm)
- ☐ Wednesday, April 24 (7:30 pm – 10:00 pm)
- ☐ Monday, April 29 (6:30 pm – 9:00 pm)
- ☐ Wednesday, May 1 (7:30 pm – 10:00 pm)

☐ Recreation: We would like a few volunteers who might be willing to take some of the men to a movie or bowling the afternoons of April 27th and May 4th from noon until about 3. The volunteers would come to some consensus as to what that activity might be.

- ☐ April 27
- ☐ May 4

☐ We will also have the opportunity to take our guests to a Riversharks game on Sunday, April 28 at 1:35 pm. The hope is that our “hosts” would provide transportation and buy refreshments for one or two men. We do have some free tickets provided by the Riversharks.

☐ We would like to have a community cook-out on Saturday, May 4. Help with the arrangements for this.

☐ We will need donations of breakfast foods (cereal, milk, pancake mix and syrup, bacon or sausage), lunch foods (bread, cheese, cold cuts, packaged snacks, cut vegetables), snacks and baked goods. You will be contacted as to when to bring in your donation so we can spread this out over the two weeks.

- ☐ I can donate breakfast foods
- ☐ I can donate lunch items
- ☐ I can donate snack items or soda
- ☐ I can donate baked goods (small, easy to pack items like cookies, brownies)
- ☐ I can donate cleaning supplies

☐ Clean up after the men leave (can be late Sunday on the 5th or Monday the 6th during the day)

Other: If you have other suggestions on how you might serve...

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Slater, Pastoral Associate for Justice and Community Outreach at the parish office 856-667-2440 x. 327 or by email at pslater@christourlight.net. Please return this form to the parish office or through the offertory collection by March 24.