Volunteer: Corporate, Service, and Faith Groups

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Cornerstones! We truly value the numerous corporate, service, and faith groups that help us to provide critical resources to over 16,000 clients each year. With our many programs, we have multiple opportunities that may be tailored to fit your team’s needs and interests that engage you to provide meaningful impact on our community. Please read below to learn about opportunities we need throughout the year!

Embry Rucker Community Shelter Opportunities

❖ Provide and Serve Hot Meals

The Embry Rucker Community Shelter serves three hot meals each day and is always in need of groups to financially sponsor and provide volunteer support for a meal. We have a number of options to accomplish this based on your group’s level of comfort in food preparation and available time frame for volunteering. We can also help you schedule your date to provide and serve the meal to our clients. Weekdays (Monday through Friday) are typically available. Currently, weekend meal catering opportunities at the Embry Rucker Community Shelter are full.

Each day, we currently provide:

- Breakfast for 100 clients
- Lunch for 70 clients
- Dinner for 120 clients

The Embry Rucker Community Shelter has the capacity to support 10 meal volunteers at a time.

❖ Beautification Projects

Volunteers are occasionally needed to perform projects like landscaping, path maintenance, seasonal clean up, property upkeep and other activities that make our shelter a more welcoming place for our clients. These projects may be available depending on the time of year and the skill set of your group. NOTE: Some projects may have supply expenses that we ask be covered by the volunteer group as part of their service to us.

❖ Donation Drives and Donation Organization

We often rely on our community to provide needed materials for our clients or facility. Sponsoring a seasonal drive for these items is a great way for your team to assist us. When you work with our coordinator to decide what items you should collect, you ensure that your efforts support our most pressing needs. Our space is limited, so it’s always best to check before you collect!

Keeping the material donations we receive organized is always a challenge. From time to time we need help organizing donations at our shelter or storage space. We appreciate your group’s willingness to help with the manual labor required to accomplish this and save staff’s time for more urgent duties. Many hands make light work!
Recreational Activities and Entertainment—Evenings and Weekends

Life in a homeless shelter offers very few opportunities to relax and take part in recreational activities. Between meetings, housing searches, job searches, medical appointments, chores and all the other pressures and responsibilities of trying to improve their situation, clients have very little time or resources to have fun. Groups that are willing to provide and staff some early evening activities for our adult and/or family clients are very welcomed and appreciated by shelter staff and residents. Work with us to set up a seasonal party, bingo night, games night, musical entertainment, or other creative opportunity to enhance the quality of life for our clients.

Life Skills Instruction

Have a special skill or knowledge that might be valuable to someone struggling to find a job, maintain housing, improve in school, work or other challenges? Work with us to set up a class or workshop that meets the needs of our clients.

Please NOTE: For all beautification, donation organizing, recreational activities and life skill instruction projects we can only accommodate groups up to 25 due to staffing and space considerations. All on-site volunteers and persons accompanying them at the Embry Rucker Community Shelter must be at least 18 years old.

For more information regarding group service at the Embry Rucker Community Shelter please contact Adrian Chadwell,Coordinator, Volunteer and Community Engagement, at 571-323-3675 or adrian.chadwell@cornerstonesva.org.