

Haywood Christian Emergency Shelter Volunteer Information

Van Drivers: Must be at least age 21. A copy of a valid driver's license must be provided to Dick Strawser, Property Manager, to be kept on file at the church. The van key can be picked up at the church office; the van is to be picked up and returned to the church parking lot. Women drivers are welcome and a driver could also do devotions.

Morning Driver: Pick up the van from the church parking lot at 6:30 am and drive to the Shelter at Camp New Life. Pick up clients from 6:50-7:00 am and deliver them to the Open Door in Frog Level by 7:15 am. Return to the church parking lot with the van and leave the key locked up inside the vehicle.

Evening Driver: Get the van from the church parking lot at 6:00 pm and drive to the Shelter to pick up the paid security guard by 6:20pm. Drive to Canton's Community Kitchen, if needed, and to the Open Door by 7pm. After clients are tested, admitted, and have eaten, transport them with the guard to the Shelter by 7:30 pm to spend the night. Return the van to the church parking lot and lock the key inside the vehicle.

Host and Hostess: Arrive at the Shelter by 7:15pm. Prepare coffee, (snack desserts may be available to distribute) and prepare for clients' arrival. CD music may be played. A family could host as a group. A host or hostess could also provide the devotions. Host and hostess are not required to spend the night, and may leave at 10:00 pm lights out. If you wish to spend the night, bring your pillow, blanket, sleeping bag, toiletries, etc. Initiate conversations, make personal contact with clients. Show hospitality, compassion, and giving of your time. Be a listener too.

Devotion Leader: Devotions begin around 8:00 pm, and last 10-15 min. Handouts (scripture, poem, song lyrics, notes, etc.) can be distributed around the square large tables before clients arrive; attending devotions is not a requirement to attend the Shelter but is encouraged. Discussion can continue afterwards with hosting personnel and devotional leader for clients interested. Leave after devotions, stay until lights out at 10:00 pm or, optionally, spend the night.

Snack Supper Preparers: Arrive at the Open Door at 6:00 pm; a key will be provided to unlock the back door to enter the premises. Make a pot of coffee first, and plan to serve by 7:00 pm. The security guard will arrive by van with the clients and the security guard will unlock the front door when the time is appropriate. Introduce yourselves to the guard. If you have any problem, let him know immediately and he will handle any problems with the clients. For the snack supper, either 1) Use leftover food from the refrigerator and combine with pantry items; 2) Prepare food from home and bring to serve; or 3) Buy items to feed 20-25 people. Put time in the meal as you see fit to provide a light supper.

Fruit can be a healthy snack. Cookies, brownies, etc. can be taken and eaten at the Shelter around devotion time. Use paper products provided to serve the meal. Set up the drink cart with ice and look for leftover tea, etc. in the cooler. Wash any pots or dishes used. Turn off the lights and lock up by 8:00 pm. It would be fantastic if a group took the entire week and coordinated each night among the members.

Weeks begin on Sunday evening and end the following Sunday. Long's Chapel's commitments for 2010 are February 21-28, March 21-28, and April 11-18.

Volunteering for any of the described duties would be a great project for a Lenten group, ministry group, Disciple or Sunday School class. Volunteers are coordinated through Melanie Newsome, a volunteer herself, serving on the Missions committee. Contact her at 454-0303 (home), 421-8911 (cell), or email news0303@bellsouth.net. You may also write in on a Connect Card and the information will be forwarded to her.