
Grocery Shopping

Tasks Involved

Taking the family or individual to grocery store weekly, based on pre-arranged time. These volunteers will need a working knowledge of the budget for the family, as well as understanding of specific cultural food needs (ex. Halal). This is an opportunity to help the family learn how they develop a weekly budget that is reasonable to their income.

Clearances Required

PA Child Abuse, PA Criminal Background Check, Bethany Volunteer Application, Transportation Clearances helpful (at least one person must have these in order to drive)

Expected Time Commitment

Weekly, 1-2 hours. This can be arranged either on a weekend or a week day, depending on volunteer availability.

Volunteer Hour & In-Kind Tracker

Tasks Involved

Keeping track of all volunteer hours and in-kind donations to the family, and sharing these with Bethany Christian Services for their records.

Clearances Required

None

Expected Time Commitment

Approximately 1 hour a week

ESL Support

Tasks Involved

Tutoring kids and parents in ESL.

Clearances Required

PA Child Abuse, PA Criminal Background Check, Bethany Volunteer Application

Expected Time Commitment

At least 1 hour per week, with additional hours at your availability (can be flexible).



Miscellaneous Jobs

(no clearances required)

Sorting Donations

Helping us to stay organized with what we receive.

Seeking Donations

Reaching out to your networks when lists are provided with specific needs.

Fundraising Activities

We welcome ideas as well as person-power.

Food shopping to stock the apartment

In the days prior to their arrival, with a detailed list provided.

Provide the first hot dinner for the family

To be at the apartment waiting for their arrival.



Volunteer Opportunities

Weekly Family Check-In Coordinators

Tasks Involved

Two people serve as the primary contacts for the residents of First Place Swarthmore while they are with us.

These two people develop a regular schedule to meet with the family once a week, and serve as the main contact for the primary assigned social worker. These two also serve as the main communicators for needs to other teams.

Upon first arrival, these Coordinators demonstrate use of all appliances and related information for the apartment (locks on the door, street traffic, trash/recycling, etc).

Clearances Required

PA Child Abuse, PA Criminal Background Check, Bethany Volunteer Application, Transportation Clearances helpful

Expected Time Commitment

Weekly, 1-2 hours for check-in meeting, and on-call for the residents as needed.

Tour of the Neighborhood

Tasks Involved

Introduce the family to the neighborhood—Library, Co-Op, Police Station, Train Station, Swarthmore Campus, etc.

Clearances Required

Bethany Volunteer Application. None other if meet outdoors and remain in public spaces.

Expected Time Commitment

Approximately 2 hours, one time

Housing & Set-Up

Tasks Involved

Once we learn about an arrival, this team does the first work of verifying that all items on the Home Supply Check List are in place, including verifying that all appliances, lighting, heating, and WiFi are operating properly. In preparation for our new residents, the team cleans the apartment, including linens.

Once move-in has occurred, this team serves as contact for any questions that arise specific to the apartment—including repairs or utility operations. This team is then the one to contact the landlord if necessary to arrange repairs.

Clearances Required

Prior to move-in: None

After move-in: PA Child Abuse, PA Criminal Background Check, Bethany Volunteer Application

Expected Time Commitment

Prior to move-in: Approximately 4 hours (with a team of helpers)

After move-in: On-call, but minimal time.

Let us know your interest or contact us with questions:

Rev. Sarah Cooper Searight

Sarah.cooper.searight@swarthmorepres.org

610-543-4712, x. 117

Anne Wohlschlaeger

wohlschlaeger@chop.edu

Transportation

Tasks Involved

Two people meet the individual or family as they arrive at the airport, or port of entry, joining the primary assigned social worker there to transport the new residents back to the apartment.

Further transportation needs are then determined in the weekly check-ins. The Weekly Check-In Coordinators communicate these transportation needs which can include—medical exams, visits to a house of worship, nearby family support services, initial shopping for critical needs (shoes, mobile phones).

Clearances Required

PA Child Abuse, PA Criminal Background Check, Bethany Volunteer Application, Transportation Clearances

Expected Time Commitment

This varies weekly and typically involves 1-3 trips per week, scheduled with your availability* and the resident's needs.

*It is the case that often, some trips must be made during the daytime, so daytime flexibility is helpful.

Public Transport Support

Tasks Involved

Introducing family to public transport options in our area and doing initial ride-alongs with them.

Clearances Required

Bethany Volunteer Application. None other if meet outdoors and remain in public spaces.

Expected Time Commitment

Variable on need. Up to 3 hours in a week.