Reception Volunteers Play a Critical Role in Daily Operations

MEET ELIZABETH ISROFF, RECEPTION VOLUNTEER

Elizabeth Isroff has volunteered weekly as a front desk receptionist at Cathedral Center since 2015. She has answered countless calls, supported thousands of guests entering and exiting shelter, and received hundreds of donation deliveries – all the while using her professional nursing skills to infuse empathy into every interaction she has with each person she encounters. Elizabeth further utilizes her nursing experience to provide administrative support to our case management team, improving our client filing system.

We recently sat down with Elizabeth to learn more about her volunteer experience.

CATHEDRAL CENTER: What inspired you to begin volunteering at Cathedral Center?
ELIZABETH: I believe strongly in the mission of Cathedral Center, particularly in our care for children. Luckily, children are resilient and just a bit of attention and care really goes a long way. Also, hugs!

CATHEDRAL CENTER: What have you found to be most rewarding about your time as a volunteer?
ELIZABETH: Providing compassionate care for the shelter guests when — and how — they need it most.

CATHEDRAL CENTER: What would you tell someone who was thinking of volunteering?
ELIZABETH: Do it! It is a very rewarding experience and one person really can make a difference. In 2018, our team of front desk reception volunteers provided 968 hours of valuable service! You too can work to end homelessness through support of daily operations! What unique skills do you have to offer? To volunteer, contact Ana Treptow at atreptow@cathedral-center.org or 414-831-0394 ext 2133.

Did You Know?

At Cathedral Center, volunteers are intimately woven into the fabric of our mission. Last year, an astounding 1,570 volunteers served alongside our staff as champions for women and families experiencing homelessness or facing a housing crisis. Altogether, these volunteers provided 9,150.25 hours of service!

1,570

Wish List

Donations can be dropped off at The Cathedral Center at 845 N. Van Buren Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 between 9am and 4pm.

- Diapers (size 3-6)
- Baby Wipes
- Throw & Twin-size Blankets
- Laundry Pods
- Chapstick
Empowerment – I checked my thesaurus. Of the list of 20 or so like words, I see enabling, liberation, enfranchisement, emancipation, inspiration, encouragement, confidence-building, equality. Wow. Those are some mighty and powerful words. I love them all. Empowerment, to me, means supporting others to reach their full potential – not telling them how to do it or doing it for them. Sometimes, to empower someone, it helps to teach them first. To be sure that all options are clear and understood.

This is what we do at Cathedral Center – we strive to empower women and parents to move beyond their housing crises, beyond their experience of homelessness, and beyond the box that those terms may have placed them in before they arrived. Our mission underscores this focus – our shelter and flexible housing programs provide the safe place, while case management and employment services help to empower those we serve to prevent and end their homeless experience. You know what? It’s working. People are actually getting housed.

Yet, this is not all we do to empower. Cathedral Center works collaboratively within Milwaukee’s homeless provider network to not only serve women and families within our programs, but to also assess overall service needs and gaps, build partnerships, improve our systems overall service delivery, and advocate for the needs of vulnerable women and families with children. Cathedral Center is part of a community of service providers and committed, caring individuals and agencies that work together to reduce and end homelessness in Milwaukee. And it is working. People are actually getting housed.

Being a board member is about service but being a board member at Cathedral Center, for me, is about providing support for an extended family. The individuals we welcome each night are truly a part of our family and we provide more than just a safe place for them to lay their heads down at night. We provide the space, time, and services that re-empower our shelter guests to be successful in their journey towards gaining and maintaining personal independence.

Paula Johnson-Boorse, Cathedral Center Vice President
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

I am so proud to be a part of this agency and this system of homeless service delivery in Milwaukee. We are doing this together, which includes partnering with consumers and advocates, partnering with each other. It isn’t always easy – but there are so many compassionate people out there who are determined to see homelessness end in Milwaukee, it is so worth working through any potential obstacles. We need to teach each other, too.

My goal and hope for 2019 is to live what empowerment truly is – enabling ourselves and those we serve to be our best and achieve our goals. My goal is to foster experiences that liberate, inspire, build confidence, and promote equality. I look forward to sharing this 2019 journey of empowerment with all of you who support Cathedral Center.

Together in Service,

Donna Rongholt-Migan
Executive Director

Kevin O’Leary,
Cathedral Center Treasurer
President & CEO, Anick & Associates

I am proud to serve as a board member of Cathedral Center because, as an organization, we give people tools to help better their lives and we provide resources when people are at their most vulnerable but ready to grow. I have seen our organization innovate and expand our capabilities to better serve those experiencing homelessness and that progress should be celebrated.

Donna Rongholt-Migan
Executive Director
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
Meet Our 2019 Pathway Home Chairs

THE PATHWAY HOME MOVES TO NEW SUMMER DATE, JULY 31, PLAN ON JOINING US!

“Five years ago, a casual coffee with Dan McCarthy opened my eyes to a situation I could never imagine happening to any parent: A mother having to leave her 12-year-old son in one shelter, while she seeks another of her own. A father, tearfully leaving his young daughter at one shelter while he seeks refuge for himself in another, or none at all. I think about these families as I begin my “ordinary day” each morning and am grateful that the families at Cathedral Center are able to send their kids off to school with a kiss, anticipating their safe return at the end of the day.

Cathedral Center ensures families stay together to support each other in times of crisis and Pathway Home provides the critically needed resources to do so. I look forward to working with my co-chair and Cathedral Center staff to develop a meaningful and successful event. Please watch for more information in the coming weeks!” - Laura Lutter Cole, Cathedral Center Board Secretary

“I have been honored to serve as a board member to Cathedral Center for going on 4 years and during this time I have witnessed how impactful the organization is to our community. Pathway Home is Cathedral Center’s largest fundraiser to help support the mission of providing a safe environment to women and families while working to end homelessness – one life at a time. Serving as co-chair of this event is important to me because I am passionate about the cause and understand that homelessness, when left unaddressed, negatively impacts the overall health of our community for each one of us. But Pathway Home is actually more than a fundraiser. It is an opportunity for all of us to play a role in providing solutions by providing the resources necessary to implement important programming. Please join us!” - Alicia Kopp, Cathedral Center Board Member

Celebrate the Women We Serve and the Women Behind Our Programs by Contributing to the 2019 Empowerment Challenge!

In 2018, the Empowerment Challenge raised a record-setting $69,391.02, providing critically needed funds in the first quarter of the year and allowing us the flexibility to implement meaningful programs for women and families when and how they need them. This year, we have set our goal at $80,000 but we can’t do it alone! You can help by:

- Contributing to our campaign match pool by February 28. Contact Amy Rowell by emailing arowell@cathedral-center.org or calling 414-831-0394 ext. 2127 to designate your gift.
- Donating to the campaign to maximize the match pool between now and March 8 using the enclosed envelope or online during the campaign, March 1 – 8, at www.cathedral-center.org.

The final day of the Empowerment Challenge has been strategically designed to coincide with International Women’s Day on March 8, 2019. On our website, email communications, and social media platforms leading up to and on this day, we will be celebrating the women we serve, the women who implement our programs, and the women who make our services possible. Please join us!
The Cathedral Center
845 North Van Buren Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202
www.cathedral-center.org

Friends of Cathedral Center Enter Second Year

Dan McCarthy, former board member and community volunteer is fond of the saying, “Many hands make for light work.” It is with this sentiment in mind that he leads the Friends of Cathedral Center into their second year of service. Friends is a unique volunteer program of Cathedral Center that is dedicated to supporting the organization through three distinct pillars: serve, educate, and support. This year, they plan to serve an evening meal in shelter as part of the Hospitality program and volunteer at our annual fundraiser, Pathway Home, in July. They plan to educate the community through three meaningful engagements, bringing to light the complex and intertwined factors of homelessness. They plan to support the organization through targeted donation drives throughout the year.

Now is a great time to get involved! Are you interested in learning more about how you can serve others, educate the community, or support Cathedral Center as a FRIEND? Contact Dan McCarthy to learn more by emailing friends@cathedral-center.org.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

The Cathedral Center’s
Pathway Home
A Celebration of Ending Homelessness
July 31, 2019 | 5:00 – 8:00 PM
See inside for more information!

NEW SUMMER DATE!

A Celebration of Ending Homelessness
July 31, 2019 | 5:00 – 8:00 PM
See inside for more information!

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

Glitz & Glam
A Night for Women’s Independence
Thursday, May 9 2019
6-8:00pm
Access Boutique and Mainstream Boutique
159 N. Broadway | Milwaukee
$10 Admission | Pay at the Door
(Student Discount $5.00)

facebook.com/glitzglammilwaukee or cathedral-center.org/glitzglam/

HEART MATTERS
Working to end homelessness, one life at a time. THE CATHEDRAL CENTER