

PADS Homeless Ministry

Purpose: SPLC partners with the “Journeys: The Road Home” organization, where volunteers provide food and shelter to the homeless in our community via a program called PADS. This ministry contributes to our church mission of leading people to a full life in Christ by helping them to serve the Lord by helping others.

Responsible to and supported by: The St. Peter PADS volunteer organization is responsible to the Director of Equipping, Karen Kogler. Pat Polerecky is the Ministry Coordinator and is also supported by the Social Ministry Committee.

Job duties: Many volunteer opportunities exist within this ministry: pickup of food donations; food preparation; serving dinner or breakfast; site set-up on Saturday night or clean up on Sunday morning; manning the site during three shifts.

Time requirement: The amount of time required is based upon which serving opportunity is selected. It can range from one hour helping to set up the site to five hours covering first shift. There are three shifts... 6 pm to 11 pm, 11 pm to 3:30 am and 3:30 am to 7 am.

Length of commitment: There is no set commitment. A volunteer can work one time, one shift or each month. The program operates from the beginning of October through the end of April. St. Peter volunteers serve on the third Saturday of each of those months at the PADS site located at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 1234 N. Arlington Heights Road, just two blocks east of St. Peter.

Training provided: Before serving on site, all volunteers attend one two-hour orientation session conducted by the Journeys organization at their offices and one half-hour training session held at Our Savior’s which covers their site specific policies and procedures. Training for specific tasks is provided the first time the volunteer serves.

Skills/qualifications: No special skills are required, only a heart to serve the Lord and a non-judgmental and caring attitude in serving the guests. Youth may serve in this ministry, but must be at least 16 years old and a junior in high school to serve at the site when guests are present.

Benefits to the volunteer: This ministry provides multi-generational serving opportunities and builds fellowship among the volunteers as we serve the Lord together. Our homeless population is blessed as their needs are met in a safe and compassionate setting and they see the Lord’s love in action through our joyful service.