

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities are generally Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm to coincide with Catholic Charities office hours. Occasional weekend opportunities available as well. Paperwork required for volunteers working directly with clients. Orientation and training provided.

To start volunteering, visit: <https://catholiccharitiesdm.org/contribute/volunteer> or contact Emily Klisares at 515-237-5078 or eklisares@catholiccharitiesdm.org

Volunteer Opportunities with Catholic Charities across Southwest Iowa:

Des Moines	Volunteer Opportunities
Emergency Family Shelter	<p><u>Meal Providers:</u> Volunteers prepare a meal to serve shelter clients for dinner. Needs to feed up to 35 people. Contact Emily Klisares at 515-237-5078 for a list of open dates.</p> <p><u>General Needs:</u> Volunteers to assist with shelter maintenance. Includes organization of shelter and pantry, light yard work (adults only) and light painting (adults only)</p>
Food Pantry	<p><u>Daily Window Volunteers:</u> Assist clients at the daily window at Catholic Charities Food Pantry, hand out food (minimal lifting required ~10lbs)</p> <p><u>Monthly Box Volunteers:</u> Assist clients with their monthly supply box and lead them through the “grocery” side of Food Pantry (minimal lifting required ~25lbs)</p> <p><u>Food Rescue Drivers:</u> Volunteers pick up donated food items from various grocery stores and restaurants and deliver to pantry</p> <p><u>General Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers to help plant and maintain community garden • Volunteers to help with produce rescue missions at various local farms • Volunteers to help with shelter maintenance and cleaning
Refugee Resettlement Program	<p><u>Home/Apartment Set Ups:</u> Help carry in and organize furniture, toiletries, kitchen supplies, etc. into a new home for a newly resettled individual or family</p> <p><u>Bus Training:</u> Assist refugee clients in learning how to use the DART Bus system</p> <p><u>Catholic Charities Connect:</u> This is a unique opportunity to be a new Iowan’s personal tour guide to life in Des Moines. Family friends will be asked to invite families to dinner, practice English, and show them all the</p>

	<p>city of Des Moines has to offer. Paperwork required contact Shalom Lule slule@catholiccharitiesdm.org to get started.</p> <p><u>Warehouse Donation Sorting:</u> Volunteers sort incoming donations at Catholic Charities Refugee warehouse into respective locations. In the event of upcoming home/apartment set up volunteers will be given a packing list and gather supplies.</p> <p><u>General Needs:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing child care during cultural orientation • Transporting clients to various appointments • Teaching financial literacy classes (basic budgeting and how to use debit/credit cards)
Council Bluffs	Volunteer Opportunities
Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Crisis Line Advocate</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Answer crisis line and assist callers by providing support, information and links to community resources. Training required and provided by program - <u>Group Class Co-facilitator</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Co-facilitate educational support groups offered in Council Bluffs. Training required and provided by program. Groups offered Tues & Fri 10-11:30am and Tues 3-4:30pm - <u>DVSART (Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Response Team)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assist victims seeking medical care as a result of DV/SA by providing support, information and links to community services. Training required and provided by program. On call shifts are after hours and weekends - <u>General Needs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assist in monitoring and operating door and greeting clients to connect with proper staff ○ Assist in taking donations, sorting them into proper location and maintaining donation room ○ Assist in recycling materials collected on weekly basis ○ Assist with community health fairs, awareness month activities and events - <u>Office Support</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assistance in making informational packets for various purposes, database maintenance for resources - <u>Childcare Provider</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilitate activities while mothers are in house meetings, classes or just need a break
All Locations	

Donation Collection	Groups, businesses, schools and more can do a special collection for Catholic Charities. Contact Emily Klisares 515-237-5078 or eklisares@catholiccharitiesdm.org to ask for a list of current needs, and how we can help make your collection a success!
Special Events and Fundraising	Volunteers for events and fundraising help us raise awareness, promote and plan events, decorate for parties, solicit auction items and more! Shamrocks & Shenanigans is our feature event in Des Moines. It includes a silent auction, food, music and fun and games. Council Bluffs events include event booths, collections and civic partnerships.