



Downtown Emergency Service Center

connecting Seattle's most vulnerable men and women to homes, health and community

Volunteer Opportunities

DESC volunteers help to provide the opportunity for residents and clients to develop relationships with their community. By providing a listening ear and a kind smile, volunteers help the men and women at DESC increase their confidence and help them become more able to face their day to day challenges.

Individual Volunteer Positions

Volunteers agree to a 6 month commitment, must be dependable, have good communication skills and able to maintain appropriate boundaries with clients. Volunteers must be comfortable working with clients and staff from various backgrounds. No experience or training is needed for volunteer positions, unless otherwise stated (For Group volunteer opportunities please see reverse side)

Shelter Support Volunteer

Positioned at the Coffee Counter in the shelter; volunteers, help homeless clients access to hygiene supplies, coffee, towels, mail and games. Volunteers listen to clients and provide friendly conversation. Positions are available 7 days a week, morning, noon, and evening. Two hour shifts, one per week minimum.

Lunch/Breakfast Meal Assistant Volunteer

Volunteers help with the preparation, serving, and clean up of the noon meal. Volunteer interact with residents and help residents with tasks. Positions are available in our Connections program, The Morrison housing program, and 1811 housing program. Positions available 7 days a week in Connections for breakfast and lunch, and 5 days a week in the Morrison and 1811 for lunch. One to two hour shifts, one shift per week minimum.

Drop in Center Assistant

Provide support to clinical clients by helping them with various activities such as laundry, handing out hygiene supplies, serving snacks and coffee, as well as providing clients with opportunities for socialization. Background knowledge or experience with mental health issues and homelessness required. 4 hour shifts, 8:30-12:30 Monday thru Friday, one shift per week minimum.

Clothing Room Assistant

Sort and organize in kind donations for shelter. Work with shelter staff to maintain clothing closets and the hygiene counter. At least one day a week Monday thru Friday, 2 to 3 hour shift.

Saturday Bingo Activity Leader

Lead Bingo activity for residents at the Morrison. Set up, call numbers, and distribute prizes. Must have prior experience with mental health issues, and feel comfortable leading a group. At least two Saturdays per month, 12:30 to 2pm.

Please view reverse side for more volunteer positions and information on group volunteering

Administration or Maintenance Assistant

This is the only DESC volunteer position open to Community Service Volunteers. Administration Volunteers assist with filing and copying, the Maintenance Assistants help with various cleaning and light maintenance tasks. At least one day between Monday and Friday, three to four hour shift.

Resume/Job Skills Assistant

Work with Connection clients to develop resumes and job searching skills. This position requires you to be comfortable working with clients on an individual basis, and have experience writing resumes and working with homeless men and women. Shifts are available seven days a week, two to three hour shifts.

Didn't see a position you like? Have special skills to share?

We are always looking for suggestions for volunteer positions, and want volunteers to be able to share their skills. Some examples of skill sets include: hair stylist, art, computer, cooking, gardening, etc.

Group Volunteer Opportunities

Religious, civic, business, and professional groups regularly help with seasonal cleaning, maintenance and other special projects. Groups can choose to make a one-time commitment, or to build a longer relationship with DESC and the people we serve.

One-Time Groups

Projects are mostly maintenance and other special projects. One month notice is needed to properly plan a group project. Volunteer groups are approved on a project availability basis. Group projects typically work best for 5-10 volunteers and occur either in the morning or afternoon. Group projects can be arranged for Saturdays. **All volunteers must be 18 or older.** Re-occurring groups can be arranged on a monthly, or quarterly basis.

Adopt a Building Project

Groups wanting to build a relationship and work directly with residents in our housing programs can adopt a building. Possible activities include: hosting a meal or social event, provide classes or workshops, organize an in kind supply drive, special activities for the holidays and other ideas the group would like to share. Commitment is at least one year, visiting the program at least four times per year and providing holiday gifts (approx. \$ 10 per gift) for the building residents.

Buildings "Up for Adoption"

The Union Hotel (52 residents) Corner of 3rd Ave S and S Washington
The Morrison (190 residents) 3rd Ave between James and Yesler
Main Shelter (203 beds) 3rd Ave between James and Yesler
The Lyon Building (64 residents) 3rd Ave and James
1811 Eastlake (75 residents) Corner of Yale and Boren
Rainier House (50 residents) 5270 Rainier Ave S

*For more information, Contact DESC's Volunteer/Donations Coordinator at (206) 515-1517
or volunteer@desc.org*