

The Haven at First & Market - Volunteers Needed!

The Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless is actively recruiting volunteers for shifts at The Haven at First & Market, a safe place for our homeless neighbors and community members to be during the day. The Haven at First & Market is a dynamic, multi-purpose community space that features resources for the hungry, disadvantaged and homeless. It enhances our community by providing a centralized space for resource providers, a community kitchen, a day haven, and a cultural and arts space in downtown Charlottesville. The Haven at First & Market is in a renovated historic church and annex building located in downtown Charlottesville, across from Lee Park and one block from the library. The Haven opened full time on January 18, 2009. Volunteers are needed for shifts preparing and serving breakfast daily from 6:30am – 10:30am, and for two hour shifts from 7:00am – 5:00pm daily serving at the Day Haven. Job duties at the Day Haven include welcoming guests, intake processing, helping people with computer access, mail and storage; and monitoring laundry and shower facilities. Contact Kaki Dimock at executivedirector@tjach.org for more information.

Background information on the Haven at First & Market

The Thomas Jefferson Area Coalition for the Homeless (TJACH) is a broad-based coalition of individuals and organizations working to end homelessness in our region through strategic planning, coordination of services, and public education on the causes and impacts of homelessness.

After several years of serving as the central coordinating body for homelessness services and funding for Albemarle, Louisa, Greene, Nelson and Fluvanna counties, TJACH is expanding its focus. Earlier this year, TJACH merged with the First Street Church Project to benefit from the complementary skills and parallel missions of these two organizations. Together, TJACH and the First Street Church Project are developing the Haven at First & Market, a centralized resource center, which will provide the homeless and working poor of central Virginia with a safe place to be during the day.

The Haven will be open 7 days a week from 7:00am – 5:00pm.

Volunteer opportunities at the Haven at First & Market

Volunteer with the Day Haven

- 2 hour shifts during the daytime from 7:00am – 5:00pm 7 days a week
- Many kinds of jobs:
 - monitoring sign-up and use of showers & laundry
 - helping people access the computers to find jobs and other services
 - staffing the intake/welcome desk
 - engaging our guests in easy conversation

- keeping the place clean

Volunteer with Kay's Kitchen

- 4 hour shifts during the daytime from 6:30am – 10:30am 7 days a week
- Several kinds of jobs:
 - Food Service – Prepare and service a breakfast meal, package to-go lunches
 - Food Management – pick up & deliver food donations, stock the kitchen and track food inventory

Other opportunities include facilitating a class about a topic of interest to Haven client guests such as managing diabetes, interview skills, stretching/yoga or exercise. These would likely be scheduled erratically based on interest.

Next Steps

- 1) Identify what kind of volunteer opportunity suits you best
 - a. Day Haven or Kay's Kitchen
 - b. Your preferred shift
 - c. Would you like a regular date/time every week or every month
- 2) E-mail Kaki Dimock at executivedirector@tjach.org with your contact information including:
 - a. Name
 - b. Address
 - c. Phone number
 - d. E-mail address
 - e. Preferred shift and type of volunteer opportunity
- 3) Trainings sessions will be scheduled at least monthly on an as needed basis. Once you volunteer, a training session will be scheduled.