

Project Title: Brethren Nutrition Program #803
Job Title: Soup Kitchen Coordinator

Job Description:

Washington City Church of the Brethren Nutrition Program for the Homeless serves about 100 guests daily. The Coordinator will plan and prepare daily meals, maintain food supplies and storage, interact positively with guests, supervise local volunteers and work with other church staff as a Team.

The Program is staffed by a part-time paid Coordinator. Two full time Brethren Volunteers direct the activities of the Kitchen and work with other short term volunteers from churches, schools, other community organizations, and interested individuals.

Volunteers are in charge of running the kitchen-from collecting, purchasing and preparing the food, to sweeping, mopping and recycling when the day is over. A very important part of this job is also relating on a personal and spiritual level and dealing with the tensions, frustrations, and conflicts that sometimes arise among the clients. Creativity, sensitivity and initiative are important skills for this project. Developing newsletters and program promotion are additional opportunities for volunteers who have those interests and abilities.

Although responsible to the Program Coordinator for day to day supervision, the church's Pastor and Soup Kitchen Committee offer additional support.

Minimum requirements:

Maturity, self-starter, sensitivity to needs of the poor; ability to relate to diverse people, organizational and cooking skills.

Description of Project:

The Nutrition Feeding Program began in 1980 as the Church asked how it could respond to the people who lived on the city streets. The program began with about 35 people, expanded to over 200 and currently serves about 75-100 clients every Monday through Friday. Along with providing a hot meal each day, support services, legal counsel, and some physical and mental health counseling services are offered with the assistance of other community agencies. This continues to be the only daily lunch program for the poor and homeless of the Capitol Hill area.

Housing for Volunteer:

The local congregation provides volunteers with room, board and the stipulated BVS stipend. Housing is provided at nearby "Brethren House" which gives opportunities to relate to other volunteers and develop a sense of community with like-minded people.

The Capitol Hill location of the church gives easy access to the city's subway and bus system and unique possibilities for exploring the many political and social organizations that are located in Washington, DC.

Additional Factors:

We will take couples.

We offer a six month term for older adults.

We are unable to receive a volunteer with a physical handicap.