



"To reflect the love of Christ to all who come through our doors by building relationships and offering programs that foster dignity and respect."

Dégagé serves 400-500 individuals each day and offers a variety of programs to address the immediate and long-term needs of homeless and low-income individuals.

Contact Bonnie Mulder:  
[bonnie@degageministries.org](mailto:bonnie@degageministries.org) or (616) 454-1661

<p><b>Weekday Coffee Server</b></p>	<p>Dégagé is best known for its coffeehouse, which offers a safe alternative to the streets by providing a place for relationship building and relaxation. Seven days a week, meals are offered at a low-cost with the intent of promoting dignity and responsibility.</p> <p>Volunteers are needed to serve coffee in Degage's dining room on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 7:00-8:30am. One volunteer is needed for Tuesdays, and one volunteer is needed for Wednesdays. This is a great way to start your day and get to know the patrons at Degage Ministries!</p>
<p><b>Women's Open Door Volunteers</b></p>	<p>The Women's Open Door Operating is a safe haven for women in crisis. Women are provided with a place to sleep, access to showers and lockers and the opportunity to be part of support groups.</p> <p>The Open Door needs volunteers to help open from 8:00pm until 10:00pm Saturday and Sunday as well as help close on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 6:00am-8:00am.</p> <p>This position provides mentor opportunities with the women while enhancing unforgettable memories and lasting relationships.</p>
<p><b>Driver for Housing Program</b></p>	<p>Degage Ministries is in need of drivers to transport individuals who need to look at available properties once they have qualified for housing. Drivers use their own vehicles but receive reimbursement for their mileage. This is an urgent need since many individuals are currently qualifying for housing.</p> <p>Volunteer must have a valid drivers license and their own vehicle (mileage will be reimbursed).</p>
<p><b>Phone Answering Assistant</b></p>	<p>Degage Ministries is in need of a volunteer to assist in answering the phones Thursday morning from 8:00am until noon or Friday afternoons from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. The shifts can be two hours long during that needed time frame. There will be proper information given to assist in answering questions and transferring calls. Please bring a book to read or some other way to keep busy when the phones are not ringing.</p>



We exist to advocate, assist, educate, and inform on independent living options for persons with disabilities and to create a barrier-free society for all. Disability Advocates of Kent County is about empowering persons with disabilities to live independently. This means ensuring that persons with disabilities have the same options that those without disabilities have regarding: education, recreation, socialization, employment, housing, and transportation. We have a broad scope of services in the community that address such areas as public transportation advocacy, housing accessibility and Universal Design, employer/employee awareness trainings, long term care, and navigation of government bureaucracies.

Contact: Linda Larson  
[lindal@dakc.org](mailto:lindal@dakc.org) or (616) 949-1100

<p><b>Creative Writers</b></p>	<p>Put your creative writing skills to good use! Link up with Disability Advocates of Kent County to create articles in our monthly e-newsletter for our “Best Highest Use” initiative. This exciting program connects people who need work in West Michigan with employers who need to hire qualified people.</p>
<p><b>Community Housing Advocates</b></p>	<p>Many of Grand Rapids’ homeless citizens are people with disabilities. Adequate and suitable housing is difficult to find. Join us in our advocacy efforts to improve and expand affordable and accessible housing opportunities for these residents. The overall goal is to decrease the number of homeless individuals and families by our advocacy efforts. Disability Advocates will provide training and resources.</p>
<p><b>Disability Accessibility Audit Assistant</b></p>	<p>When we hear of a complaint or concern that an establishment is potentially not in compliance with the law and the Americans with Disability Act, we send representatives out to perform an audit. By helping us provide this service, you can help improve accessibility in our community.</p> <p>Volunteers must be able to use a tape measure and record measurements accurately. They must also be able to drive a full size van, and have a good driving record.</p>
<p><b>Internet Researcher</b></p>	<p>Do you enjoy finding information on the internet? If so, Disability Advocates needs you! We need a volunteer who can do internet research for our “Best Highest Use” program. You can do it here at DAKC or from home. Volunteer and be part of our “Best Highest Use” initiative that is connecting people with employment opportunities in the West Michigan area. To learn more about “Best Highest Use”, check out our website at <a href="http://www.dakc.us">www.dakc.us</a></p>



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<p><b>Photographer</b></p>	<p>Help us generate a collection of positive photographs of individuals with disabilities, and document special events. These photographs will be used on our paper and online materials, helping us to raise awareness and nurture inclusivity in our community. It is preferred but not necessary for this volunteer to have their own camera, and be comfortable with saving images to a computer.</p>
<p><b>Volunteer Driver</b></p>	<p>Do you enjoy driving? We're looking for someone who can assist one of our staff who is visually impaired get to appointments with DAKC consumers. The times are variable depending on current need and mileage will be paid.</p>
<p><b>"Best Highest Use" Spokesperson</b></p>	<p>We are looking for people who love to "schmooze" and would like to be part of our "Best Highest Use" initiative that is connecting people with employment opportunities in the West Michigan area.</p> <p>Disability Advocates of Kent County needs volunteers who like talking with others and who can be persuasive with a variety of audiences. In your volunteer capacity you might meet with local agencies or work a display at an event.</p>



...Creating a community of compassion and justice by organizing responses to human need and issues of faith.

GRACE is a religious non-profit organization whose volunteers and staff provide educational, advocacy and social justice programs. Through a collaborative and inclusive style, we focus on issues of hunger, homelessness, and racial justice. GRACE invites and recruits the participation and financial support of people from throughout the community, according to their own interest, conscience or tradition.

Contact Lori Fedewa:

[lfedewa@graceoffice.org](mailto:lfedewa@graceoffice.org)

or

(616) 643-0349

<p><b>Partnership Team Leader</b></p>	<p>Build and lead a supportive team that is committed to walking with a family household experiencing a housing crisis. Through connections with a congregation or other group, you will secure \$3500 contribution that will provide rent assistance for a family in need. In addition to providing rent assistance, your team or congregation will walk alongside an individual or family in their journey to maintain housing</p> <p>Volunteers receive training about the roles and expectations of the partnership and how to reinforce a participant's strengths. You will establish a compassionate relationship as a friend, supporter, and resource to a household in need.</p>
<p><b>Partnership Team Member</b></p>	<p>As a member of a supportive team committed to walking with a household experiencing a housing crisis, you will establish a compassionate relationship as a friend, supporter, and resource to a household in need. This may include offering a listening ear, helping to complete job applications, offer rides to appointments, getting groceries, tutoring children, mentoring someone obtaining GED, and having fun and celebrating successes.</p> <p>Volunteers receive training about the roles and expectations of the partnership and how to reinforce a participant's strengths.</p>
<p><b>Fundraising Specialist</b></p>	<p>Create, develop and execute fundraising opportunities to increase Congregational Partnership Fund, providing rent assistance for families experiencing a housing crisis.</p> <p>In the role, you will develop partnerships with existing community organizations/events, engage congregations and businesses to raise money to end homelessness, and develop an annual event to promote CPP and increase funds.</p>



Habitat is a faith based housing organization dedicated to providing simple, decent, affordable housing to low-income families in need. The mission is to serve God, build hope and transform lives through neighborhood revitalization and home ownership for families who otherwise could not afford a home of their own.

Established in 1983, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County has built over 300 homes in Kent, Eastern Ottawa and Northern Allegan Counties with over 1,500 individuals served.

Contact Barb Benda:

[bbenda@habitatkent.org](mailto:bbenda@habitatkent.org) or (616) 774-2431

<p><b>Carpenter's Club</b></p>	<p>Work on construction sites during the week, when the need for volunteers is greatest. Help renovate existing homes, including deconstruction, re-framing, vinyl siding, painting, staining, trim carpentry, and landscaping</p>
<p><b>Homebuyer Recruiter</b></p>	<p>Learn about the Habitat for Humanity Homebuyer partner intake process, and meet with various social service agencies that serve our target Homebuyer Partner population.</p> <p>For example, you might meet with the local Homeless Veterans Agency to discuss ways of getting a home for some of our veterans.</p>
<p><b>Community Liaison Ambassador</b></p>	<p>Go out into the community to meet with civic groups, private foundations and other community organizations to explain the Habitat model and share volunteer and funding needs.</p>
<p><b>Mission Advocate</b></p>	<p>Get informed about the plight of the homelessness in Grand Rapids, and Habitat's role in helping alleviating it. As an advocate, you will attend meetings or seminars where homelessness issues are being discussed, and provide an important voice for Habitat in their discussions.</p>



**"Stable Homes, Stable Lives"**

Well House, located in the inner city of Grand Rapids, began providing shelter for homeless woman and families in 1978. Now, in connection with the Grand Rapids Coalition to End Homelessness, we are providing permanent housing to those individuals or families who have been homeless.

We are working to become an eco-village, promoting activities that foster sustainable living. Well House values emphasize living gently on the earth and with each other. Recycling, gardening, energy conservation, gathering, sharing, consideration, and respect are all prominent features of our community. We are a fragrance free facility.

Contact Therese Kent:

[Theresepeace957@gmail.com](mailto:Theresepeace957@gmail.com) or (616) 245-3190

<p><b>Facilities Planning Team</b></p>	<p>Well House is always evolving, making three historic houses energy efficient and productive spaces for growing food, making art, and building community. Get involved by volunteering on a new decision making committee to plan and prioritize improvements made to Well House facilities; including implementing recent ideas from a pro-bono proposal from the Design Team at Steelcase.</p>
<p><b>Adopt-A-Room</b></p>	<p>Churches, Corporations and other organizations are invited to “adopt” a room. Work together with resident(s) of that room to redecorate, add shelving, and other space-saving additions, and make the space a comfortable place to call home.</p>
<p><b>Gardening with At-Risk Youth</b></p>	<p>Throughout the summer, junior high school students come to Well House to work in the garden as community service. The youth build skills in gardening, fix-it projects and “on the job” awareness. The Gardening Team will provide mentorship, working alongside the students to share their gardening skills.</p> <p>This opportunity takes place:          Thursdays: Noon-4pm, June 16<sup>th</sup> – August 18<sup>th</sup>.          Training: Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> noon-1pm.</p>
<p><b>Monthly Building Projects with At-Risk Youth</b></p>	<p>Once a month, we’ll involve students in building projects (e.g. a Swing trellis, bicycle storage, et c.) These projects are great skill-builders, giving the students real world experience and “on the job” awareness.</p>



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[Theresepeace957@gmail.com](mailto:Theresepeace957@gmail.com)

or

(616) 245-3190

<p><b>Volunteer Recruiter</b></p>	<p>Use your skills talents and passions to assist with the recruitment of volunteers for Well House. You will work with an event planner to recruit volunteers for a variety of projects and increase the awareness of Well House amongst individuals and organizations throughout Grand Rapids and neighboring communities.</p>
<p><b>Computer Guru</b></p>	<p>Help us keep our computers running, and teach residents computer skills.</p>
<p><b>Videographer Mentor</b></p>	<p>Use your skills and passion to teach a Well House resident[s] the art of Videography to capture events and ongoing projects at Well House. You will work as a team to develop a plan based on events, teach skills to residents, create and post mini videos for Well House website, Facebook and YouTube.</p>
<p><b>Well House Event Team</b></p>	<p>The Well House has benefitted from a variety of traditional as well as unlikely fundraising events, from resident art and plant sales, to benefit concerts and Roller Derbies, and more. As a part of this fun, creative team, you will help: plan events, recruit organizations for volunteers and support, solicit donations, assist in marketing the event, and help out on the day of events.</p>
<p><b>Work Party Organizer</b></p>	<p>Many hands make light work. Work closely with the volunteer coordinator to coordinate work parties, and organize a monthly work party to implement our Energy Efficiency Plan.</p>



The Healthy Homes Coalition seeks to eliminate housing conditions in West Michigan that harm children's health. Healthy Homes focuses on childhood lead poisoning, carbon monoxide, fire safety, pest management and radon. We are building a strong, solid foundation to eliminate these threats and continue to build our comprehensive approach to ensuring that children's homes are healthy and free from environmental harm.

Contact Paul Haan:

[paul@healthyhomescoalition.org](mailto:paul@healthyhomescoalition.org) or (616) 241-3300



The Salvation Army Booth Family Services offers a practical and daily expression of the historic mission of The Salvation Army to meet people at their point of need in Christ's name. We offer resources and support through a variety of programs to low-income individuals, teens and families.

- A food pantry which is open every week day afternoon and serves the entire county
- Limited utility and rent assistance
- Entry point for homelessness prevention services
- Two residential programs for women and children who need short term or temporary housing
- Pregnant/Parenting teen services, including temporary residential program, outreach services and child care program.
- Prenatal and Family Health Clinic for low income women and children in the community

Contact: Terry Cruzan

[terry\\_cruzan@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:terry_cruzan@usc.salvationarmy.org) or (616) 459-3433 x 1320