



Volunteer Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2014

SAVE THE DATES!



MARCHESANI MIX UP

November 14,
7 p.m. - 10p.m.

Chicago Marriott
Naperville
1801 N. Naperville Blvd.
Naperville, 60563



O'MALLEY'S HESED CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER!

December 13,
701 Hill Ave., Aurora
11 a.m.
Specials!
Raffles!
7 p.m.
Dinner!
For more information,
contact Carolyn
Fairbanks at 630-897-2156 x514

Dear Friends,

On September 16th, I celebrated my one year of service at Hesed House. It, by far, has been a special year for me. I have witnessed some amazing things from so many of our volunteer teams that quite simply make me proud to be a part of this family. When we hit our middle ages (the best years of my life, I might add) words like *proud* really begin to mean something, so we use them lightly. Well, I am extremely proud of the work that you and your teams do, day in and day out. As the Executive Director, I find myself standing before hundreds of people, like a

proud father, singing the praises of all our volunteers and your dedication to live out Micah 6:8 and Matthew 25:34-40 - after all this is the Hesed Way.

You, as a whole, exemplify the soul of what Hesed is all about: "To act with justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly in the company of our God." You are a true testament to the meaning of servant hood as witnessed 365 days a year by our guests, without fail. Proud is an understatement and I only hope I am able to live up to the standard that you have set. I promise you I will be okay because of all of you who teach me something



new each day.

I am proud to serve alongside you.. This is a Proven Way, this is the Agape Way, this is the Hesed Way.

Blessings,
Michael

Kitchen Remodel: The Final Countdown!

Good news! We are currently on schedule to finish the kitchen remodel on or before our target of Nov. 13. I will send a notice to everyone as soon as it is finished, but things are going very well thus far! Thank you so much to all of the coordinators and volunteers who adjusted their normal schedules to accommodate the much-needed kitchen remodel. I hope you enjoy the results! — Bruce

Immediate Needs:

Also see our website for the needs list!

- Prayer, prayer, prayer!
- Towels
- Men's and women's white socks
- Men's and women's underwear (new, please!)
- Disposable diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5 and 6)

- Cold Medicine (without acetaminophen)
- Twin-Sized Sheets (fitted and flat)
- Jeans
- Children's and infants cold medicine
- Baby wipes
- Index cards
- Hot chocolate mix and marshmallows

- Lotion
- Hand warmer packets
- Flash drives
- Adult and children's vitamins
- Fabric softener/dryer sheets
- Shampoo (travel-size bottles)
- Neosporin/antibiotic ointment
- Gauze pads
- Gift cards from CVS, Jewel, Meijer, Target, Walgreens or Walmart

The L.E.A.P. Corner



By Barb Thurlby,
Director of
Lorentzen
Education and
Advocacy
Program (L.E.A.P)

Advocacy is alive and well at Hesed House!

This past quarter has been very busy and productive. We registered 44 guests and residents to vote! Last year we registered 30, so our numbers were up substantially.

We are partnering with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) to address some issues currently on the floor in Springfield, and hope to take a delegation of folks from Hesed to Springfield on November 20th for an opportunity to speak with our legislators.

CCH helped us create Hesed's own advocacy team for our guests and supporters, called the Faith and Justice Alliance for the Homeless (FJAH). FJAH will lead the group to Springfield in November. We are looking for additional FJAH members.

We are also working as part of the Fox River Valley Initiative (FRVI) to research and address possible community-wide issues affecting our homeless population. Currently, FRVI is looking into mental health issues in Kane County.

If you, or someone you know would be interested our advocacy initiatives, kindly have them contact me at bthurlby@hesedhouse.org or 630/897-2156 ext. 553.

Alternative Giving Ideas for the Holidays!

By Michael Dutra, Volunteer VISTA

The holidays are coming up really soon, and everyone knows just how hectic and crazy this time of year can get. However, if you find yourself called to give in alternative ways for the Holiday Season, here are a couple of great ways to give back this year!



Hesed Holiday Wish List:

We will be collecting these items for our annual "Christmas Store," where our guests at Hesed House have an opportunity to do some Christmas shopping for their families, without having to spend any money. If you are interested in making a donation, please remember that due to the high volume of donations we receive during the Holiday Season, we can only accept new, unwrapped items for the Christmas Store. Please see the box on the right if you are interested! Also note that we LOVE gift cards, not only to fill last minute needs for our Christmas Store, but also to fill emergency needs for guests as they arise throughout the year. Please see the next page for our Hesed House Holiday Wish List!

Adopt-A-Family:

At Hesed House we try to help everyone in the community, this includes families in supportive housing, as well as people involved in our Carpenter's Homeless Prevention Program. These families may not be able to set aside enough money to buy gifts for the holidays. That's why Hesed House started Adopt-A-Family.

This is our gift donation program in which donors agree to purchase gifts from a gift request list from people in the community who need a little extra help this year. This lets the families that we "adopt out" experience the joy of opening up presents on Christmas morning and spend some quality time together.

If you or your group are interested in adopting a family this holiday season please contact AmeriCorps VISTA, Michael Dutra, at mdutra@hesedhouse.org

Hesed Home Starter Kit:

Transitioning out of Homelessness and into a home is a wonderful feeling, but it can also cause a lot of stress. The new home that people move into is usually pretty empty, and all of the "little things" that a person needs become sorely missed. That's why we have created the Hesed Home Starter Kit.

The Hesed Home Starter Kit provides all the "little things" that someone needs when they move into a new home. Items like dishes, laundry supplies and all of the other basics that make a home functional. Since we have started this program, about 25 kits have been given to families and individuals moving from Hesed House.

If you have a group that would like to help out and donate a Hesed Home Starter Kit, please contact Director of Volunteers Bruce Bachmeier, at bbachmeier@hesedhouse.org. The donating group will receive a thank you card from the former Hesed guest moving into housing.

Our Thanks, and Best Wishes to Sisters of Mercy

The Sisters of Mercy have a long and storied relationship with Aurora and with Hesed House, and we want to keep them in our thoughts and prayers for their upcoming move to Chicago.

The Sisters have been a mainstay in Aurora for the past 104 years. Their relationship with Hesed House is foundational. Sister Mary Catherine Daly, RSM, along with members of the Aurora Clergy Association, was instrumental in establishing Hesed House and became its first Associate Director. Sister Renee Humble, RSM was also the first co-Director of TLC!

In recent years, the retired Sisters of Mercy at McAuley Convent (ages 80-99) continued to offer their services at Hesed. Every other month they had the opportunity to “feed the hungry” by making sack lunches which were passed out the next



morning as people left Hesed House... children going to school, men and women going to work, and to those who were not returning to the building before the evening meal.

The Sisters are now moving from Aurora, to their new retirement facility in Chicago. They have passed the “lunch duties” on to the Red Hat Society at Presence Fox Knoll!

Volunteer Quick Hits!

DENTAL MINISTRY LIST —

We are in need of volunteer pairs interested in transporting and accompanying guests for follow-through dental care in Wheaton and Downer's Grove, when dental needs cannot be met locally. Any pair of volunteers with a heart to serve and willing to use their vehicle to transport, please contact Bruce Bachmeier at bbachmeier@hesedhouse.org. Thank you!

USED POWER WHEELCHAIR, ANYONE? If anyone happens to have a working power wheelchair that they are not using anymore, please let us know!

FOOD TIDINGS!!!

PADS Coordinators,
You can post your menus at www.foodtidings.com! This can also give you an idea of what menus are being served and help with providing a variety of menu items! We don't have a lot of menus on there currently, but would like to build it up for 2015!
Call Bruce at 630-914-6429 with questions.



Hesed House Holiday Wish List

All of our volunteers and donors are extremely wonderful throughout the year and help us stay stocked up on many of our day-to-day items, but our needs change a little bit during the Holiday Season. Some of the items we are looking for are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Batteries Belts Coats Flannels Gift cards (Meijer, Walmart, Target, gas cards, etc.) Gloves/mittens Hats/stocking caps Hoodies Jeans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scarves Socks (both athletic/white and heavy/warm/wool) Sweaters and sweatshirts Sweatpants Underwear (regular and thermal) Wallets Warm winter boots (including work boots) Watches
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We will be collecting these items for use in our Christmas Store, where our guests will have the opportunity to do a little holiday shopping for their families. If you are interested in making a donation, please remember that due to the high volume of donations we receive during the holiday season, we would prefer that all donated items be new.

Please contact Michael Dutra at 630-897-2156 ext. 557 (or via email at mdutra@hesedhouse.org) with any questions you may have.

Thank you for helping to make the holidays a little brighter for our less fortunate friends and neighbors. We truly appreciate your generosity and support.



Got Muscle? Help us Move Hope for the Holidays!



Our LIGHT-House program has an exciting and rewarding volunteer opportunity we would like to tell you about. We are looking for a group of volunteers that would be interested in helping folks move furniture and their belongings into their very own place. We would like to build a base of 20 volunteers that we could draw from to help our guests move into housing. Our approximate timeframe is December as we foresee six units becoming available for our supportive housing program. Flexibility is key on this team, because often there is not much of an advance notice, and we are moving multiple guests or families in a short time frame. If you would be interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Bruce at bbachmeier@hesedhouse.org. When the moving opportunities come up, we will contact the people on our list with as much advance notice as possible. Thank you for considering this opportunity!



**We know you're busy...
so Hesed House is coming to you!**

Please join us for
Coffee and Conversation

as we share with you the successes and challenges experienced each day at Hesed House while enjoying complimentary coffee and tea.

Saturday, November 1, 2014 from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

Panera Bread Co.
Located at 154 W. Wilson Street in Batavia, IL 60510

— or —

Saturday, November 8, 2014 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Whole Foods Market
Located at 2607 W. 75th Street in Naperville, IL 60540

There is still space at both events, so please contact Carolyn Fairbanks at 630-897-2156 x514 or via email at cfairbanks@hesedhouse.org to reserve your spot! See you there!



Hesed Goes Classical with Picoso!

Picoso, a professional ensemble performing virtuosic chamber music, has partnered with Hesed House!

The group began its fall season with a music workshop for the children at Hesed House, and will continue at some of the finest venues in Illinois, including PianoForte in Chicago, Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook and Wentz Hall at North Central College.

At the Hesed workshop, the children were rapt with attention for over an hour as the artists performed, gave music history and instrument lessons, answered questions and engaged in rhythm activities which included clapping and playing a recorder.

Picoso's schedule of performances can be found at <http://picosamusic.com>. General admission tickets are \$25. With a donation to Hesed House either from our needs list online or a monetary donation, audience members will be given a \$5 discount on their ticket price!