

# Community Outreach

## Mary House

Mary House is located between Wisconsin Dells and Oxford. For 20 years Cassandra Dixon has provided hospitality for visitors to the Oxford Federal Prison.

Volunteer help is needed in many ways:

- Welcome guests and prepare Friday evening meal
- Prepare a Saturday nights or Sunday morning meal
- Some overnights– stay with guests
- Help moms with kids (many on the road long hours).
- Yard work
- Newsletter mailing

## Circles of Support

In Matthew 25, one of the ways Jesus recognized those who are saved is that they visited him in prison. Circles of Support works with those recently released from jail. Violent offenders are not accepted into Circles.

Volunteers are needed to form a team that is paired with a “core team member” who had been recently released. The goal of a Circle is to provide support so that the core team member avoids reincarceration. Team members focus on employment, housing, transportation, treatment and family. Weekly meetings are scheduled for a circle to meet at a time that is convenient for all.

## River Haven Homeless Shelter

River Haven Shelter continues to need volunteers to staff the shelter. The greatest need is the 6 to 10 pm shift. A once a month commitment would be a great help. A volunteer is provided training. Volunteers play with children who may be at the shelter and listen and converse with residents. A ministry of presence or voice of someone in charge is the work of a volunteer. Remember, you can provide a roof and a bed for Christ who has nowhere to lay his head.

## Hope House of South Central Wisconsin

Hope House of South Central Wisconsin provides advocacy and shelter to people affected by domestic/ dating violence and sexual assault and works to prevent these issues through community education in Columbia, Sauk, Marquette, Adams, and Juneau Counties. As a volunteer, you will have a vital role in the mission of Hope House to end domestic violence and sexual assault. Volunteer opportunities are flexible in terms of the time, quantity, and location of

volunteering. Examples of volunteer opportunities include administrative help (sort donations and assist with mailings), advocacy help (provide support and resources for callers to Hope House’s helpline), children’s support (help create and facilitate programming for kids), community awareness (assist with presentations, written materials, and educational booths), maintenance help, language interpretation, and more. To learn more about Hope House’s volunteer program, contact Laura O’Leary, Hope House’s Volunteer Coordinator, at 608-356-9123 or [lolarey@hopehousesw.org](mailto:lolarey@hopehousesw.org).

## Habitat for Humanity

Habitat committees include volunteer- soliciting volunteers from our Parish, PR/fundraising and Construction- planning the house and materials and obtaining professionals. Habitat bills itself as a “an ecumenical housing ministry.” Potential homeowners partner with volunteers to build decent housing.

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

Organized locally, Vincentians witness God’s love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served, because, in them Vincentians see the face of Christ. Our members come from every ethnic, religious, and cultural background, age group, and economic level. We are united in an international society of charity by a spirit of poverty, humility, and sharing, which is nourished by prayer and reflection, mutually supportive gatherings, and adherence to a basic Rule. We help the needy with clothing, household items, and rental and utility bills. Volunteer at the store or become a member of the St. Vincent De Paul Portage Conference. The society meets monthly. We would like to see the Portage conference become even stronger. Please join us.

## CROP Walk

The CROP Walk is an ecumenical anti-hunger fundraiser. This spring event needs help to plan and promote the walk. CROP is unusual in that funds raised can be designated to over 15 international food aid organizations including Catholic Relief Services. The major need is to inspire and encourage participation from St Mary.