



FEEDING HOPE

## Volunteering for The Chicago Help Initiative

Welcome to The Chicago Help Initiative (CHI). Largely through the work of a community of volunteers, CHI serves a full, sit-down dinner with food provided from some of Chicago's top restaurants, to 200 homeless and disadvantaged individuals each Wednesday throughout the year in downtown Chicago, at Catholic Charities, 721 North LaSalle Street (between Huron and Superior). Through our weekly meals, we offer access to health and social services.

CHI relies on volunteer support to carry out the programs and services we offer. We are always seeking volunteers for a variety of our activities:

### **MEAL SERVICE**

Our Wednesday evening meal is the core of what we do. That's how we bring people in and connect them to resources. It is also our biggest volunteer opportunity. Our meal volunteers assist in a series of different tasks associated with serving a 5-course dinner to 130 guests such as pouring coffee and working the food line to helping with the food preparation and cleaning up. We also need volunteers to assemble and distribute an additional 70 bagged meals to people who aren't able to join the sit-down meal. Generally, volunteers arrive by 4:00 pm and stay until 6:00 pm. Volunteers, as well as our guests, are expected to be respectful and courteous.

### **ADULT LEARNING**

Our trained volunteers provide personalized tutoring to guests in their areas of interest, such as math, reading and writing, computer skills, studying for the GED, and creative pursuits like photography and music. Tutors meet with students weekly for an hour-long session preceding the meal. We are always seeking qualified tutors who have excellent mentoring skills and can commit to a weekly schedule.

### **BIKE FAIR**

Every year on a Saturday in May, CHI hosts a bicycle repair workshop with our partner Working Bikes and gives away 75 refurbished bikes (with locks and helmets) to our guests who use bikes as their main mode of transportation. We need volunteers to unload and distribute the bikes to individuals, as well as those who can provide on-the-spot maintenance.

### **FUNDRAISING**

CHI hosts its annual Gala in June – a fun-filled night of great food, great wine, and silent and live auctions, all in support of our year-round meals and programs. And every December, we host

“Miracle on Southport,” with a special screening of the classic film, “Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street” at Chicago’s iconic Music Box Theatre. It’s a festive evening of holiday cheer for the whole family, and all proceeds support our meals, free health and social services and programs for our guests throughout the year.

Hosting your own event is a great way to support CHI. As just one example, our associates board recently hosted a “happy hour” at Lagunitas Brewery, in Chicago’s Pilsen neighborhood, which raised funds to cover the cost of several full-course meals for 200 people.

### **MEAL SPONSORS**

We rely on companies, organizations and individuals to cover the cost of each weekly meal. Volunteering to serve a meal that you sponsor can also be an enriching team-building activity for your employees, friends, and family.

**Sign up online to volunteer** at a meal either individually or as a group.

**Sign up to sponsor a meal** or other amenities.

For inquiries about hosting events, becoming a tutor, or participating in our annual Bike Fair, please email CHI Executive Director Doug Fraser at [dfraser@chicagohelpinitiative.org](mailto:dfraser@chicagohelpinitiative.org).

### **ABOUT CHI**

The Chicago Help Initiative is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization based in Chicago, Illinois. We believe that no one experiencing homelessness can make the transition to a better future alone. Our mission is to provide access to food, social services and health care to people in downtown Chicago who are homeless and in need.

CHI is located at 440 N. Wells St., Chicago, IL 60654; tel. (312) 914-2138. Visit our website at [www.chicagohelpinitiative.org](http://www.chicagohelpinitiative.org). Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TheChicagoHelpInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/TheChicagoHelpInitiative)

