

Lend a Hand: You can help homeless families stabilize their lives

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Whether you choose to help Habitat for Humanity solicit the donation of building materials or to help out in one of the community shelter Thrift Shops you can help local families find stability. This week's opportunities focus on helping non-profits that provide temporary housing and help families move toward a permanent home and achieve financial stability.

Help make affordable homes possible

Habitat for Humanity is a faith-based organization that builds homes with community members who can't afford to buy homes on the standard housing market. Habitat provides the home at cost, and provides interest free financing. The Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Dover is a new retail home building supply store. It gets products donated from vendors and home renovators, sells them to the public, keeps stuff out of landfills and uses the money to build Habitat Homes. It needs volunteers to help build its supply chain. It needs someone with the ability to contact and build relationships with local and regional wholesale and retail building material vendors and suppliers, as well as local building and installation contractors to seek donations of new, used, overstock, or sample building materials for resale at the Dover Habitat ReStore. Volunteers will work directly with the ReStore manager and can create their own flexible hours. Some sales experience may be helpful.

Contact Cheryl Van Allen, executive director at 433-9555 or senhhab@rcn.com.

Location: Dover

Do you love clothes?

New Generation provides living quarters for up to 7 pregnant or parenting women and their children at a time in a cooperative living program. Residents attend counseling appointments, parenting education classes, learn nutrition and life skills, attend health and dental appointments, and find housing and work, while receiving transportation to and from partnering agencies in the seacoast. It aids residents in obtaining housing, education, counseling, financial aid, and employment opportunities. It is looking for dedicated volunteers that love clothes and people to



You can help move families toward self-sufficiency by volunteering to help at the Fair Tide Thrift Store.

help in the Rochester Second Generation Thrift Shoppes. Volunteers are needed to sort, tag and hang our clothing donations as well as organize the shelves of donated items. The Shoppes are open Monday - Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-4:30 and Sundays Noon-4:30. Training is provided.

Contact Judy Meredith, volunteer coordinator at 436-4989 or jmeredith@newgennh.org.

Location: Rochester

Spend some time with families experiencing homelessness

Seacoast Family Promise is a group of local faith communities that supply housing for 3-5 families with children on a week-to-week, rotating basis. Volunteers cook the evening meals and trained volunteers stay overnight with the families in a congregation building. In the morning, the families eat breakfast in the faith community building and make a brown bag lunch. The families spend the day at work or school or meeting with a caseworker in the day center to discuss housing and employment opportunities. After work, school, or time at the day center, family members return to the faith community building for the evening meal. Volunteers are the backbone of our agency serving families experiencing temporary homelessness. The Day Center, located in Stratham, is always in need of volunteers who would like to interact with families. Book readers, crafters, administrative, musicians, puppeteers, and more are needed to assist our children and adults as they experience difficult times but are working toward self sufficiency.

Contact Pati Frew-Waters, executive director at 658-8448 or pafwaters@comcast.net.

Location: Stratham

Support transitional housing by volunteering at a thrift store

The mission of Fair Tide is to provide safe and affordable housing and support services to formerly homeless, low-income individuals and families. Its goal is to support families in their move toward self-sufficiency. Participants accepted into the Fair Tide program reside at the Center for Sustainable Living, located in downtown Kittery, Maine. The Fair Tide Thrift Store is in need of volunteers to support the two store managers. Volunteers assist in sorting, tagging, and displaying our daily donated items. Volunteers receive 50 percent off the thrift store prices; 100 percent of the net proceeds of the thrift store go for the direct benefit of Fair Tide's transitional housing program. Thrift Store hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Contact Anne Hunter, thrift store manager at (207) 439-2427 or thriftstore@fairtide.org.

Location: Kittery, Maine

LEND A HAND: These and hundreds of other opportunities to volunteer or donate goods are brought to you by the United Way of the Greater Seacoast Volunteer Action Center online at www.uwgs.org or call 436-5554 ext. 136.