



## Third Avenue Charitable Organization

**Job Title:** Going Home Services Social Worker

**Reports to:** Executive Director **or specified supervisor**

**Status:** Part-time, 20 Hours per week. **Salaried.**

**Date:** March, 2018

### **About TACO**

The Third Avenue Charitable Organization, Inc. (TACO) is a Christian non-profit organization, which started out of the social ministry work of the First Lutheran Church and continues with great support to this day. Our mission is *“Following Christ’s example, TACO gathers as a community in service with the most vulnerable among us, offering meals, healing, and care to any and all who come.”* Our meal program started in 1975 and currently serves meals to an average of 400 people each week. In 1998, TACO partnered with institutions to provide free clinics to the community. Free medical, dental, acupuncture, and legal services are offered nine times during the week. TACO provides skilled social work services for individuals dealing with crisis or seeking constructive changes in their life circumstances. Each week more than 750 people receive care from TACO.

### **The Going Home Program**

The Going Home Program was created for those who are dying on the streets from terminal illnesses and who are medically vulnerable. This program offers a support system and virtual family for these people as we care for their minds, bodies and spirits. Simon’s Walk is a component of Going Home that trains volunteers to assist in this work. (Simon of Cyrene, according to the Bible, walked with Jesus in the final hours of his life and carried his cross).

### **Job Summary:**

The Going Home program provides supportive services to homeless persons diagnosed with terminal illnesses or struggling with chronic illnesses. This position requires knowledge of community services and resources. The Going Home Social Worker supervises and trains volunteers known as the Simon’s Walk volunteers. These faith-based volunteers accompany each client in a one-on-one relationship. In addition, collaboration with medical providers and other service providers is required to meet the various needs of our clients.

### **Key Duties & Responsibilities:**

Responsibility Area: Going Home Services

- Receive referrals from TACO Director or community referrals and provide intake assessment and case plans.
- Meet with clients depending upon client needs and wishes
- Provide crisis intervention including handling of emergency calls

- Providing ongoing therapeutic needs including counseling, medication management, family reconciliation, end-of-life planning, advance directives, etc. and maintaining confidential case files and other required paperwork/records.
- Coordination with hospices, clinics at TACO and elsewhere
- Work with Medical Examiner and/or Public Administrator as needed.
- Arrange cremations when appropriate and memorial services at FLC when desired.
- Offer supportive education and coping skills to surviving friends and family.
- Provide program communication via newsletters, social media, etc.

Responsibility Area: Simon's Walk Training and Supervision

- Recruit volunteers for training.
- Interview the interested applicants with the Executive Director.
- Provide a training program and mentoring to volunteers
- Supervise volunteers in a group setting and individually as needed.
- Introduce volunteers and clients and initially accompany visits.
- Accompany volunteers for any visits that occur on the street.
- Maintain all volunteer paperwork and prepare reports as needed.

**Additional Responsibilities Required:**

- Other duties as assigned by the Executive Director.

**Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Required:**

- MSW or equivalent master's level education **or experience.**
- At least 2 years of experience **(or, evidence of or familiarity with)** working with grief, end-of-life issues, homeless populations, mental illness, medical/hospice social services, and substance abuse **(crisis management, assessment and assistance with complexities of life situations including but not limited to illness, finances, medical/mental/hospice social services and long term treatment/therapy).**
- Training in the harm reduction model of treatment
- Familiarity with and/or training in Stephen Ministries which is a model for training lay caring ministry volunteers or a comparable ministry style
- Supervisory/training experience with volunteers and undergraduate student interns
- Long-term treatment/therapy experience
- Interest in working with a faith-based organization
- Flexibility in hours and ability to respond in a timely way to crisis at all hours including nights, weekends and holidays
- Comfortable working independently and as part of a team with varying levels of supervision
- Excellent communication skills verbally and in writing
- Excellent interpersonal skills and comfort doing home visits, meeting people on the streets and working with people in organization at all levels
- Valid driver's license and proof of a good driving record and evidence of personal liability insurance