



## **Care For Friends Needs During Construction**

**Who:** Care for Friends (CFF) is a Lincoln Park based direct service organization, providing support and resources to people experiencing homelessness and food-insecurity. Learn more here: <https://www.careforfriends.org/mission-statement>

**Why:** In partnership with Church of our Saviour, based in Lincoln Park, Care for Friends is replacing the current Parish Building. Construction is estimated begin at the end of May 2022 and expected to last for 1-1.5 years. Care for Friends is in need of a temporary home during that period.

**What:** Currently, CFF offers thrice weekly hot meals on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Volunteers and staff arrive at 9am to begin cooking. We invite in guests and serve at 11am, close the doors at 12:30, and clean up by 1:15pm. These meals host between 40-55 guests. During the meals, we distribute available clothing and toiletries. Guests also have access to basic washroom facilities for personal hygiene needs.

Every second Tuesday, we receive a large donation (between 3-4K lbs of food) from the Greater Chicago Food Depository. We use much of the food (60%) to box up groceries for families in need, which we then deliver directly to wherever the families are staying. Staff and volunteers arrive at 8am and leave by 3:30p. The remaining food, we store and use for our hot meals. The delivery van is kept in the COS parking lot.

Every third Saturday, from 10:30am-Noon, we host a screening clinic. This is held during hot meal and requires a separate space from where guests eat. This is led by a volunteer doctor, and it offers the guests an opportunity to get their blood pressure and glucose levels checked. Primary Care Physician (PCP) referrals are provided to guests in need.

Every fourth Saturday, from 10:30am-Noon, we host a foot care clinic. This is held during hot meal and requires a separate space from where guests eat. This is led by a volunteer podiatrist, and it offers the guests an opportunity to clean their feet and have them examined by the podiatrist. This is especially helpful in the winter when many of our guests suffer from frostbite. PCP referrals are provided to guests in need. Program needs can be amended, depending on capabilities of the temporary space.

Our Peace Officer, who is responsible for the peace and security of the programs, is present at every program. He also offers hair cuts to the guests, but this service can be on pause during construction. We invite the Church of the Ascension Vestry to observe/volunteer to get a deeper understanding of programmatic flow. Visit <https://www.careforfriends.org/programs> to learn more.

**How:** CFF has an active volunteer base and engaged staff. We welcome Ascension leaders and members to join us in delivering services and to be a part of the programs, but we do not expect their involvement. We are happy for them to be as engaged as they would like to be with Care For Friends. It would be helpful if the ED was in contact with the building manager of Ascension for any building needs that might arise.

**Storage & Space Needs:** We have freezers, fridges, tables, chairs, pots, pans, cutlery, and paper goods, which we would bring over to the temporary space. If there is not room, we could discuss using on-site materials. Storage for our clothing and toiletry donations would also be ideal. Parking for the delivery cargo van is needed. We need a secure closet (or perhaps large lock box would suffice) for the screening clinic and space for the foot clinic tools (foot baths, sanitizers, etc). We require a dining room and kitchen for the meal program, a space to pack up groceries for 50 families (direct delivery, no onsite guests), and space for the health clinics.

**Ideas to address bathrooms:** Port-a-potties, temporary bathrooms, direct guests to the Chicago Public Library (only .3 miles away from Ascension) or Jewel (.1 miles away).

On behalf of Care For Friends, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present on our needs. We greatly appreciate the consideration given to potentially partner with us and look forward to discussing this possibility more in-depth.



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