

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The
Harbour *Inc.*

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*Volunteers aren't paid, not
because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless.*

-Anonymous

Birthday Club

Remember the memories of your birthday parties as a child?

The balloons, the presents, the cake...

For one day out of the year, you felt more special than anyone else.

That is something most girls at The Harbour don't have, but you can help change that.



We will provide you with the “wish list” of a client who will be celebrating an upcoming birthday. We would ask you to put together a birthday package (complete with a cupcake!) and bring it to one of our drop off locations in Park Ridge or Des Plaines on the day of her birthday. Staff will deliver her gift that evening and help celebrate her special day.

Moving in the Right Direction

Our Successful Teens/Effective Parents and Independent Living programs were established to help our clients make that final step towards independence. These clients move into their own apartments, while we provide decreasing rent subsidy as they transition into this responsibility.

Many of these clients do not have the connections or income to find help moving their furniture, often to third floor apartments. With the help of volunteers like you, we can help these girls as they continue on their journey to independence.



Due to the labor-intensive nature of the work, this is a great project for sports teams or families with older children.

We have the van and the furniture, we just need the muscles!'

Board Position

In 1971, a group of concerned citizens founded The Harbour to advocate for community youth in crisis. In the forty years since, we have grown as an agency and extended our services to at-risk youth thanks to the support and dedication of individuals with a vision.



The Board of Directors is responsible for setting policy, monitoring operations and developing resources for The Harbour.

A rewarding position on our Board of Directors or one of the many committees requires a minimum monthly commitment. This is a great way to become more involved with your community while working toward a great cause.

Share a Skill

Entering The Harbour was a big step toward independence for the young women in our programs. Our Life Skills Group helps our clients continue on this path by teaching the skills necessary for independent living.

Many of our clients have not had parental figures in their lives to teach them these basic living skills.

You can make a lasting impact on our clients by sharing a valuable skill that will be of lifelong benefit. You may even help a young girl



If you have a special skill, trade, or hobby that you would like to share with our clients, this might be a great activity for you.

“Green up”

The Safe Harbour House

The Safe Harbour House in Des Plaines has become a beacon of safety within our community. For 41 years, the Safe Harbour House has been a refuge for girls during a trying time.

With the help of friends like you we are able to keep this safe house look as warm and welcoming on the outside as it is on the inside.



This is a great activity for families, clubs, and organizations looking to help out in the community.

Welcome Baskets

The Harbour is proud to be able to provide our clients with a safe, supportive living environment. However, it is sometimes difficult to help clients feel truly at home in their new settings. By creating a “welcome basket”, you can help a young girl settle into her new home and begin to take those first steps into her new life.

Suggestions for items for our Transitional Living Welcome Baskets:

- Journals
- Slippers
- Large bath towel
- Pillowcases
- Decorative items
- Stuffed animals
- Afghan or quilt



Please call for additional suggestions or specific items needed

Job Hunting

One of our requirements for young women in our programs is employment. While our dedicated staff help clients with their job search, you can help them develop the skills necessary to land that job!



Suggested activities:

- Mock interviews
- Resume-writing assistance
- How to dress for success
- Professional etiquette
- Follow-up procedure
- Leveraging social media

Seasonal Parties

Who doesn't love an excuse to celebrate?

We would like to show our clients the importance of play and have a little fun by throwing them parties and picnics during the year to encourage our girls to enjoy each day.

We are looking for groups to host these annual parties during the spring, summer, and fall.



This is a great annual activity for a larger group.

Parties will be held at our location in Des Plaines.

Successful Teens/Effective Parenting

Our Successful Teens/Effective Parenting (STEPS) program was designed to help young women who find themselves homeless while parenting a child. These young women are often juggling a lot of responsibility, and we are looking for a group to adopt this program and provide things for these young mothers.

Support would include:

- Mother's Day gifts and cards
- Birthday cards
- Birthday gifts for their young children
- An annual event for our moms and their children



Host a drive

You can help The Harbour by hosting a drive at your office or group to help us gather much needed supplies throughout the year. We are always looking for new items to supply to our Harbour girls.

Drive Suggestions:

- School supplies (including backpacks)
- Coat Drive
- Sheet sets and Pillows (new, unopened twin size only)
- Food Drive (non-perishables)



Great project for church and school groups.

Adopt-A-House

The Harbour currently has five sites around the north and northwest suburbs that house our Transitional Living Program clients. These houses provide safety and shelter, but could use a little sprucing up.



We are looking for volunteers to “adopt a house” and work with our young women, offering them decorating tips, cooking techniques and domestic living skills that will help them care for and appreciate the space around them.

Thank you for your interest in helping us with our mission:



Offering youth safety today and opportunities for a successful tomorrow

We make it easy to give both time and resources. You can make a tax-deductible donation anytime through our website or by contacting Mackenzie Merrill-Wick at (847) 297-8540 ext. 135.