



Individual Volunteer Information

Thank you for your interest in helping with Thursday's Table! We're a program organized by fellow community members to provide a free, hot and nutritious meal to Northfielders every Thursday evening.

This document contains information on the volunteer opportunities with Thursday's Table. Please share it with others!

If you have any questions, you can contact us directly at info@thursdaysstable.org or by calling the Northfield Community Action Center at (507) 664-3550.

How it Works

Thursday's Table meals are prepared and served by volunteers from the community every Thursday evening in the dining room (Shared Services Wing, Room SS103) of the Northfield Community Resource Center (beginning April 3, 2008). The menus are planned in advance by the Community Action Center and a licensed, certified food preparer from the Northfield School District. The Community Action Center purchases the foodstuffs that are used for each week's meal.

We have an on-site volunteer coordinator who will work with you. Volunteers are needed each week to help in a few different roles and at different times:

- Meal Preparation (3:00 – 5:00 PM)
- Serving and Hospitality (4:30 – 6:30 PM)
- Clean-Up (5:00 – 7:00 PM)

Meal Preparation - 2 or 3 volunteers are needed each week to help with the meal preparation. This takes place in the kitchen of the Northfield Community Resource Center under the supervision of a licensed, certified food preparer. You don't need any special equipment to help out as a chef, but some experience in the kitchen is a big help!

Serving and Hospitality - Between 7 and 9 volunteers are needed each week to provide hospitality to our guests and to serve the meal. We try to create a very welcoming environment where our guests are served with a special dignity and a community spirit thrives. So, we will greet them as they enter the building, give them direction to the room, serve their food from the kitchen window, bring drink refills to the tables, chat with them as they dine and generally create a friendly environment.

Clean-up - 5 or 6 volunteers are needed each week to help with the clean-up of the dishes and the room. We have an industrial dishwasher on-site. So, the clean-up is pretty easy. But, it can be busy! Since there are other groups that use the NCRC kitchen as well, this crew's job is to make sure that we leave the kitchen and dining room as ready for the



next group as it was when we arrived. Volunteers will remove dirty dishes and glasses from the tables, scrape the food from the plates, wash the dishes and glasses, put the clean/dry dishes away, vacuum the floor and straighten the tables.

Floating Volunteers - We also would like to have two volunteers each week serve as “floaters” who can pitch in with any of the meal and clean-up tasks above as is needed. The floaters serve from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Bring a Friend and Your Family

All volunteers are invited to bring their family and a friend/neighbor to join the dinner. By blending the family and friends of the volunteers with other guests, we hope to remove a fear of being stigmatized by those who are in need of a free meal. The fear of being stigmatized is considered one of the most significant barriers to people taking advantage of this type of service even when they have a significant need for it. Bringing your family and a friend will also make this meal a great community builder!

What to Do Next - Volunteer Sign-Up

If you are ready to help, we're ready to sign you up!

Individuals or groups are welcome to serve as volunteers for Thursday's Table. Many companies, service organizations, churches and neighborhood groups will select a week or two each year and fill the entire volunteer roster. We try to plan our volunteer times as much as three or four months in advance, but we will try to work you into the schedule as soon as possible.

If you'd like to sign-up to volunteer as a group, we ask that you identify one person to serve as the main contact for us. You'll need between 12 and 15 total volunteers to sign-up so that you will have enough people when your volunteer date comes around. You can use our online form at <http://www.thursdaystable.org/Volunteer.html> or contact us directly at info@thursdaystable.org. We will then provide you with volunteer planning sheets to help you to get organized. Also, please note that we will have “regulars” on hand each week in the kitchen, serving and on the clean-up crew to help you and your team.

Individuals are welcome to serve whenever they are available. Please use our online form at <http://www.thursdaystable.org/Volunteer.html> or contact us directly at info@thursdaystable.org. When you contact us, we'll let you know what dates are open and coordinate with you directly.

THANK YOU for your help with Thursday's Table!!!