



WESTMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUNTEERS



Guide to Volunteer
Opportunities
through Westminster

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others,
faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”*

1 Peter 4:10

Guide to Volunteer Opportunities

through Westminster

Westminster Presbyterian Church seeks to be a caring community of faith committed to bringing people to Christ and developing their faith through worshipping God together, teaching the faith, and serving in mission.

God is at work in the world and He expects us to join Him. By serving communities and individuals in need, we also serve God. It is an important part of our faith journey to serve with the love of Christ.

This booklet provides a list of mission partners that Westminster supports, with further information on volunteer opportunities at several mission partners for adults of all ages and abilities.

Through time, talents or funding, Westminster supports the following mission partners*:

Local:

Bread for the World	www.bread.org
Center for Victims	www.centerforvictims.org
City Mission	www.citymission.org
Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO)	www.ccojubilee.org
East End Cooperative Ministries	www.eecm.org
Family Promise of SW Pennsylvania (previously IHN)	www.familypromisewpa.org
Friendship Community Presbyterian Church	www.friendshipcpc.org
Garfield Community Farm	http://garfieldfarm.com
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank	www.pittsburghfoodbank.org
Jubilee Soup Kitchen	www.jubileesoupkitchen.org
Lazarus Fund	www.pghpresbytery.org
Meals on Wheels of Peters Township	http://mowpt.pghfree.net
Open Door Youth Outreach Center	www.opendoorpgh.org
Open Hand Ministries	www.openhandpittsburgh.org
Pittsburgh Presbytery	www.pghpresbytery.org
Presbyterian Men's Mission	www.pghpresbytery.org
PRISM	www.prismpg.org
Produce to People	www.pittsburghfoodbank.org
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh	www.rtpittsburgh.org
SHIM (South Hills Interfaith Ministries)	www.shimcares.org
Stop Hunger Now	www.stophungernow.org
World Vision	www.worldvision.org

International:

We partner with the LaCroix, Haiti New Testament Mission, with educational, social and religious organizations in India, and support an orphanage in Malawi.

For more information, please contact:

Jan Baumann, Volunteer Coordinator
412-835-6630
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** This is not a complete list of the missions Westminster supports.*

City Mission

City Mission is a non-denominational Christian social services organization which provides critically needed goods and services to homeless, poor, and needy of Western Pennsylvania without regard to race, color, creed, national origin or religion. The Mission operates two shelters, provides 3 meals daily for residents and the poor in Washington PA, and operates 6 Hidden Treasures thrift stores, a food pantry, a medical clinic, and a recycling center.

Westminster Presbyterian Church supports City Mission through volunteers, funds from the Outreach Commission, the purchase and placement of a clothing collection bin in the north parking lot, and in past years, a Westminster Endowment Fund grant was provided to the Mission. A member of Westminster is on the City Mission's Board of Directors.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Serve meals
- Donate supplies for the men and women's live-in facilities (towels, sheets, toys, etc.)
- Provide goods and clothing for the donation/recycling center
- Sort donations at the recycling center
- Volunteer at one of the Hidden Treasure stores
- Food pantry donations and/or assistance
- Medical/dental/nursing help at the medical clinic

www.citymission.org

Family Promise of SW Pennsylvania

Family Promise is an interdenominational program that partners with local congregations to offer round-the-clock shelter, meals and social services to homeless families in the southwestern Pennsylvania area.

Family Promise provides help to homeless families in several ways. The primary manner it assists families is to provide 24-hour shelter, with evening and overnight accommodations provided by area churches. Meals are also provided by host congregation volunteers who provide a family-style evening meal as well as breakfast. Guests are transported to one of Family Promise's two Family Centers in Washington or Crafton during the day, where they take care of daily living tasks, such as showering and laundry. Guests also work with staff to set priorities and take the steps necessary to gain self-sufficiency.

Westminster Presbyterian Church assists Family Promise through the fundraising event sponsored by the Deacons. They have hosted a yearly Family Promise event to raise funds, such as last year's golf event fundraiser. WPC additionally supports Family Promise through Outreach Commission funds; through the sharing of proceeds and household goods from the WPC Rummage Sale events, and through items donated through the Gifting Tree. One of the Deacons serves as the primary liaison with Family Promise.

www.familypromisewpa.org

Garfield Community Farm

Those at Garfield Community Farm seek to learn, teach and practice organic gardening and farming in the places that have been neglected and abandoned in the neighborhood of Garfield. Started in the winter of 2008 as a collaboration between The Open Door Presbyterian Church and Valley View Presbyterian Church, it is now one of the Pittsburgh Presbytery's Mission organizations.

Westminster Presbyterian Church provides volunteers to assist in garden preparation, care and gardening. WPC has also provided gardening equipment and money for trees through the Gifting Tree; a Westminster Endowment Grant for the Urban Kitchen project and for the construction of a new pavilion and neighborhood gathering space, and provides funds from our Outreach Commission. Barefoot School 5th graders have been hosted several times at Garfield Community Farm.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- The first Saturday of each month (except January and February), meet other volunteers from church, university and other organizations to weed, harvest, and plant (seasonal). Every Thursday, April through October, volunteers can assist local neighbors from 6:00 until dusk working in the garden.
- Donate funds to purchase fruit trees, fencing, plants and items for farming

<http://garfieldfarm.com>

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (GPCFB) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating hunger in our region. The Food Bank collects, stores, and distributes food and grocery products in order to supply soup kitchens, food pantries, after-school programs, shelters and other agencies that help needy

clients. The Food Bank is housed in a 94,000 square-foot green warehouse in RIDC Park in Duquesne, Pennsylvania. The GPCFB's mission is to feed people in need in 11 counties of southwestern Pennsylvania and to mobilize our community to eliminate hunger.

GPCFB currently serves nearly 360,000 people annually, including 76,000 children and 92,000 seniors age 60 and older through member agencies who operate 1,130 programs. Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank is a member of Feeding America.

Westminster Presbyterian Church has provided volunteers several times a year to package and sort food product at the Duquesne Food Bank Warehouse; provides Outreach donations to support the Food bank's efforts, and provides food collections several times yearly for area food pantries and affiliated Food Bank agencies such as SHIM and City Mission. We also provide volunteers three times/year for the Food Bank's Produce 2 People food distribution on the north side.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Pack/sort food donations at the food bank warehouse
- Collect food for the food bank as an individual or for a member food pantry like SHIM

www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

Open Door Youth Outreach Center

Since 1987, the Open Door Youth Outreach Center has been a centerpiece of Crafton Heights in the west end of Pittsburgh. The Open Door ministry exists to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to neighborhood young people through intentional relationships with caring adults in an environment of safety and fun. It is one of the Pittsburgh Presbytery's Mission organizations. The Open Door provides a kids program on Tuesdays for children K-5, a summer camp, a soccer club, and a Friday night recreation program for kids K-12 grade.

Westminster Presbyterian Church supports the Open Door Youth program through volunteers and through funds from the Outreach Commission for specific projects and for general support. One member of Westminster is the Chair of the Open Door Board of Directors.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Chaperone during Friday night recreation
- Be an After-School tutor

- Volunteer for the Tuesday night Kid's Klub as a mentor or assisting with the family meal program

www.opendoorpgh.org

Open Hand Ministries

Open Hand Ministries promotes social justice in our communities through homeownership. It responds to the social injustice and inequalities that plague the economically challenged inner city Pittsburgh neighborhoods of Garfield and East Liberty. OHM works with local families to become "wealth builders" through debt reduction, budgeting, saving, and investing. As families work to become mortgage-ready, OHM rehabilitates vacant or abandoned properties within targeted areas. Open Hand Ministries partners and works with urban and suburban churches, Community Development Corporations, community lending agencies, expert trade-skill professionals, funding organizations, and other local support agencies in order to provide:

- Sustainable and affordable homeownership opportunities to disadvantaged households in the Garfield and East Liberty neighborhoods
- Ongoing care for client families remaining in "covenant" relationship with these families
- Ongoing care for the communities in which OHM works

Westminster Presbyterian Church provides volunteers to assist in home renovations, and has provided tools and construction equipment through the Gifting Tree. Westminster also provides funds from our Outreach Commission.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Help with renovation projects, painting and repair work

<http://openhandpgh.org>

PRISM

PRISM (Pittsburgh Region International Student Ministries) is a program for international students and visiting scholars. PRISM exists to serve the needs of International students who come to Pittsburgh, and to make their stay in Pittsburgh an unforgettable positive experience. Based in Bellefield Presbyterian Church in Oakland, PRISM offers English classes, cooking classes, Bible studies, a friendship partner program, a garage giveaway program, and a holiday hosting program.

Westminster partners with PRISM by providing volunteers that help in various ways: by donating furniture for the graduate students, collecting donated furniture, and by attending dinners and events. The Outreach Commission provides funds to PRISM as well.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Help serve a Sunday night dinner and meet with international students
- Host a student (single or with family) for a holiday (or non-holiday) meal or get-together
- Become a friendship partner and periodically meet and talk with an international student

www.prismpgh.org

Produce To People

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank created a program called Produce to People (P2P) that operates in several locations across the Pittsburgh area. P2P distributes produce and other food to low income people once a month. One of the sites providing food on Pittsburgh's north side is a collaboration between the Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, and it is provided at the Martin Luther King Elementary School by Allegheny Center. P2P at this location started in August 2009 and provides food to over 400 families per month. Volunteers from a number of congregations within the Presbytery participate in the distributions. Westminster provides about 45 volunteers to totally staff the Martin Luther King School P2P distribution three times a year.

Other Produce to People program sites distributing produce and other grocery items to at-need families monthly include neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, Braddock, Homewood, McKeesport, and on the South Side.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Join us on Westminster's assigned Saturday morning food distribution dates in October, February, and June; or help at one of the other Pittsburgh area distribution dates available every Saturday.

www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh's (RTP) primary program delivers no-cost home repairs to low-income homeowners, with special focus on seniors, veterans and disabled individuals in Allegheny County. Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh and over 25,500 volunteers have completed nearly 2,300 rebuild projects in Allegheny County. RTP's work is critical in the Pittsburgh area in repairing homes, improving lives, and in stabilizing communities.

The newer programs that RTP has are Rehab-for-Resale and Jobs First. RTP works closely with other nonprofits in each community served. When these partners acquire vacant homes, RTP completely rehabilitates them and creates a safe and healthy home in their Rehab-for-Resale program. The community partner then sells the home, thereby reducing neighborhood blight and providing a low- to moderate-income family the chance to become a homeowner. Jobs First program provides community residents with valuable work experience while contributing to the repair and renovation of homes for low-income homeowners in their own community.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Volunteer to repair a house on an "open" monthly RTP volunteer day, or volunteer with fellow church members on a house rehab done once a year, usually in the fall

www.rtpittsburgh.org

SHIM

South Hills Interfaith Movement (SHIM) is a non-profit social service agency providing family and children services to the suburban poor and to refugee and immigrant families. SHIM primarily serves the communities of Baldwin-Whitehall, Bethel Park, Castle Shannon, Keystone Oaks, Mt. Lebanon, South Park, and Upper St. Clair.

SHIM initially meets emergency needs of the suburban poor with the goal of assisting individuals and families to bridge toward self-sufficiency. SHIM focuses on two primary groups within South Hill's communities: families and individuals challenged by poverty, and refugees settled into the Baldwin-Whitehall and Castle Shannon neighborhoods. Since 1968 this interfaith organization has been engaged in interfaith dialog and programs such as the Interfaith Thanksgiving service and the annual Holocaust Remembrance. People from all faiths or without faith are welcomed at SHIM, and all faiths are honored as SHIM endeavors to serve the poor.

SHIM provides a number of programs to help struggling families: a food pantry, financial counseling, back-to-school and holiday gift programs, energy assistance, and support services through a case manager to help bridge the individual/family to self-sufficiency. SHIM's core programs for refugees include:

- Prospect Park Family Center
- Early Childhood Program
- Kaleidoscope Klub after-school program
- Kamp Kaleidoscope/Kaleidoscope Kids summer camp

Westminster Presbyterian Church was a founding congregation of SHIM's 48 years ago and partners with SHIM in many ways. Volunteers sort and stock food; work with clients on pantry days, and collect and transport food for the Pantry. One member of Westminster is on the Board of Directors. Funds are provided from the Outreach Commission to support SHIM's activities. Through a two year start up grant from WPC's New Cornfield campaign, SHIM was able to add a Family Services Coordinator who works extensively with families to set goals, enhance daily living skills, and work toward self-sufficiency.

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Donate food for the SHIM pantry (SHIM bins are located in the prime entryways of Westminster) or take food to the pantry
- Hold food drives in organizations, businesses and elsewhere
- Stock pantry shelves
- Staff or provide gift cards for the Angel Emporium (gifts provided for parents to give to kids and also for kids to give to their parents at Christmas)
- Provide school supplies to give to children for the Back-To-School event in August
- Tutor in the After-School program at Prospect Park or in the mentoring program
- Help at SHIM fundraisers such as Celebrate with SHIM, the Angel Emporium and other events.
- Act as an usher at or drive Holocaust survivors to the annual Holocaust Observance

www.shimcares.org

International Opportunities

Westminster Church sends mission groups to and provides ongoing support for projects in Haiti, India, and Malawi. Typically there are two trips per year to Haiti, yearly, bi-yearly trips to Sangli and Miraj India, as well as visits to Malawi, Africa. Your expertise and input are always welcome, and of course, come along!

<http://www.westminster-church.org/mission/international-mission>

If none of these opportunities resonates with you, how would you create a better, more just, and loving world? What ideas do you have to follow Christ's teachings and to serve others?



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