

Trying to find a volunteer project for your group?

Sponsor a Saturday Morning Breakfast at Washington Street Mission

Are you looking for a practical, hands-on project to share the love of Jesus Christ with people in need in our community? Sponsoring a Saturday morning breakfast at Washington Street Mission may be just what you are looking for.

- It's manageable.
- It's meaningful.
- It's cutting edge ministry in the city.

Who can do it?

Preparing and serving a Saturday morning breakfast at the Mission is an ideal project for a Church youth group, Sunday School class, high school club, athletic team, or other organization. An ideal group size is eight to ten people who will actually participate in preparing and serving the breakfast. Anyone concerned about the needs of people in our community and interested in learning about sharing the love of Jesus Christ will benefit from this experience.

Why should we do it?

Sponsoring a Saturday morning breakfast at the Mission will give you an up-close and personal view of the needs of people in Springfield who are often called the least, the lonely, and the lost. It will show you how Washington Street Mission reaches out to these people in need and it will give you an opportunity to be part of that ministry. You will gain practical ministry experience in serving people in need.

How will the breakfast support the Mission's overall ministry?

Each weekday morning we serve coffee and doughnuts at Washington Street Mission. Between 55 and 65 people are served each day. Many of them are people who are without adequate shelter or resources. Offering occasional breakfasts on Saturday mornings extends this ministry and gives a special opportunity for these people to enjoy a free meal at a time when the Mission's coffee hall is usually closed. Providing an additional time to share the love of Jesus Christ in a relaxed, non-threatening, and comfortable environment is a vital part of the Mission's overall purpose.

Who will come and how will they be invited?

During the week before a Saturday morning breakfast is served at the Mission, we announce the upcoming breakfast to everyone who comes into the Mission for coffee and doughnuts. We hand out invitation cards to remind them that breakfast will be served. We also announce the breakfast to the seniors who live at nearby Sangamon Towers and Near North Village. Many of them regularly come to the Mission for coffee and doughnuts, volunteer at the Mission, or come to our women's Bible study group. They enjoy the occasional Saturday morning breakfasts.

How do we set up a date?

Just call Washington Street Mission at 544-9011 and discuss setting up a date with either Scott Brindley, Adult Ministries Director, or Ken Mitchell, Executive Director. They will be happy to answer any of your questions and help arrange a Saturday for your group to serve breakfast at the Mission. We do not have a regular schedule for Saturday morning breakfasts, but try to have at least one each month throughout the year.

When is the breakfast actually served?

Breakfast is actually served between 9:00 and 11:00 on Saturday morning. Although most people will come near the beginning of that time period, we try to continue serving throughout that time. Typically 80 to 90 people will come for the breakfast.

What time will we need to arrive?

We suggest that people preparing and serving the breakfast arrive at the Mission between 7:30 and 8:00 on the Saturday morning of the breakfast. Time is needed to prepare the food and get everything ready before the people begin to arrive.

What will we need to bring?

We ask each group to bring enough food to serve the breakfast. This will typically include milk, orange juice, eggs, pancake mix, oatmeal, syrup, butter and other items. Just think of serving a group of 80 to 90 people and plan the amount of food to bring accordingly. Asking each person in your group to bring specific items that will be needed usually works well. We will let you know if additional items are available at the Mission to supplement the food you supply.

What will we experience when we serve?

We can almost guarantee that you will have an experience at the Mission that you will talk about for a long time. You will not be standing behind a counter handing plates to anonymous people who pass by. You will serve and meet real people and get to hear their names and their stories. There will be some unusual individuals with some interesting stories. You will probably be able to sit with them and hear them tell you directly about the needs and difficulties they face. You may be able to share something about your own life story and your faith with them. As you allow the love of Jesus Christ to shine through you, you will not leave with the same heart or the same spirit that you brought with you.



Washington Street Mission
408 North Fourth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702
Phone: (217) 544-9011