

## **Volunteer Opportunities In and Around Edgewater:**

### **Care for Friends**

**By Rose Gruenwald**

Care for Friends may be new to Edgewater, but it is certainly no stranger to helping those in its community! Located at 5749 N Kenmore Ave., Care for Friends is looking for both individuals and groups to volunteer in serving homeless and vulnerable people.

There are quite a few organizations around Chicago that serve homeless and vulnerable individuals, but what makes Care for Friends unique is its “no questions asked policy” and its dedication to building lasting relationships in the community.

While other organizations have identification requirements and other barriers to aid, Care for Friends is dedicated to providing food, clothing, healthcare programs and connections to medical care, job skill training, grocery support, and housing assistance -- no questions asked.

#### **Volunteer opportunities**

For individuals who want to volunteer, there is a variety of options available for service. On Community Days, which fall on Thursdays and 4th/5th Saturdays of each month, Care for Friends volunteers cook and serve hot meals to homeless and vulnerable community members. Preparation begins at 9 a.m., and the meal is served at 12 p.m.

Individuals also can volunteer in Care for Friends' additional programs, such as its Foot Care and Screening Clinics, its Clothing and Personal Care Item Initiatives, and Saturday Supporters. The Foot Care Clinic provides aid to those community members who wear the same socks and shoes for extended periods of time. The clinic takes place on the third Saturday and final Monday of every month.

The Screening Clinic provides basic check-ups on the second Saturday of every month. This program takes both clinical and non-clinical volunteers, and it requires orientation. On Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., volunteers can work on the Clothing Initiative. The Personal Care Item Initiative takes place on Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday Sup-porters volunteer on periodic Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., like the individuals who volunteer on Community Day Saturdays. Saturday Sup-porters, however, work in pairs to complete tasks in the activity center, tackle supplies and organization, socialize with guests, serve meals, and work on the clean-up crew. This program requires orientation.

For those who like to volunteer in groups, Care for Friends would love to have you. Group service is limited to Community Days, however.

Interested in volunteering with Care for Friends? To get started, visit the website at <https://www.careforfriends.org> and complete an interest form. The form for individuals is located under the “Contact” section, while the form for groups is located under the “Volunteer: As a Group” section. You can also reach the organization at (773) 932-1010.