

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

### **Humanity Relief**

**By Rose Gruenwald**

Humanity Relief, located at 1020 W Bryn Mawr Ave. in Suite 202, serves homeless people, refugees, and survivors of domestic violence and trafficking all over the city of Chicago.

The founder of the organization, Ali Khan, went through transitional housing as a child. As an adult, he decided to help others the way he had been helped, and thus, Humanity Relief was born. Humanity Relief provides support in the form of care packages, tutoring and mentorship, and housing assistance to those in need.

Humanity Relief has two different programs: Hunger Relief and Skill Development. The Hunger Relief program is responsible for weekly mobile distributions, where staff and volunteers deliver care packages of clothing, hygiene products and meals to homeless people around the city. It also temporarily provides groceries to families of refugees and domestic violence/trafficking survivors enrolled in the Skill Development program. Grocery deliveries occur after resettling them by furnishing empty apartments and providing the basics.

The Skill Development program connects refugees and survivors with teachers and mentors who help them to develop English reading and writing skills, as well as improve their resumes and job interview skills. The program also provides printers, laptops and temporary internet connections to students who regularly attend classes.

There is a wide variety of volunteer opportunities with Humanity Relief. Mobile care package distributions take place every Saturday afternoon and rely on volunteers as well as staff. For those busy on Saturdays, or perhaps just not looking to travel all over the city, the organization takes volunteers to prepare and package meals for distribution. Approximately three to six times a week, Humanity Relief needs volunteers who are able to help furnish apartments for families.

For those looking for less physically active volunteer opportunities, Humanity Relief always is looking for people who can run remote skill development classes or volunteer their professional services. Remote skill development classes are weekly, one-to-two-hours long. Those interested should send their resume to [ali.khan@humrelief.org](mailto:ali.khan@humrelief.org). Professional services that the organization is looking for include accounting, legal knowledge, grant writing, and marketing, or other similar skills.

To get started volunteering with Humanity Relief, visit the website at <https://humrelief.org> and, under the "Volunteer" section, complete the form with your contact information. Simply fill it out, check "Receive Notifications," and volunteer opportunities will be sent straight to your inbox. The "Volunteer" section is located under the "About" section in the drop-down menu. Humanity Relief also can be contacted at (630) 914-0204.