

Volunteer Programs & Opportunities



Thank you for your interest in volunteering with us at Upward Bound House as we work to eliminate homelessness among families with children. If you would like to become a volunteer for any of the opportunities below, please contact Krystle Ruiz, Development & Volunteer Coordinator at kruiz@upwardboundhouse.org.

Do you have experience in education or childcare? Have any fun ideas for enrichment activities for children? Consider volunteering for Kids' Night!

KIDS' NIGHT ASSISTANT

Mondays and Tuesdays 6-7pm

Description: We strive to provide structured activities for our children in residence while their parents participate in Life Skills classes at Family Place in Santa Monica on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6-7pm. Our children in residence varies anywhere between 2 years old – 18 years old. Volunteers will assist the kids during various activities such as arts & crafts, yoga, games and movie nights. We encourage our volunteers to develop his or her own activities if they would like to “teach” a class. Being a Kids' Night is a great way to work directly with our families that we serve!

Please note: attendance among the children varies each night. Our families schedules are sometimes unpredictable and we can expect anywhere between two to ten children at a time. We appreciate your flexibility!

Do you work in Finance, Human Resources or have a special skill that can help our families? Consider volunteering as an instructor for Life Skills!

LIFE SKILLS INSTRUCTOR

Mondays 6-7pm

Description: As part of our program at Upward Bound House, our clients are asked to attend Life Skills classes where they are given the opportunity to acquire tools to be self-sufficient and successful throughout their program and when they move into permanent housing after UBH. Life Skills takes place on Mondays from 6-7pm and instructors are encouraged to create a lesson plan to help us develop a class curriculum. We also have a financial literacy curriculum available if volunteers choose to be given a prepared lesson plan. Life Skills typically consists of a class session followed by an open discussion with Q&A. Life Skills instructors can expect anywhere from 2-15 clients to attend.

Do you have experience in Food Service or Retail? Interested in organizing and assisting our families with the Food Pantry & Hidden Treasures thrift shop?

FOOD PANTRY & HIDDEN TREASURES ASSISTANT – Santa Monica

Thursdays 3-6pm

Description: Upward Bound House operates a food pantry at our transitional housing in Santa Monica (Family Place) for families to access the necessary items to cook nutritious food. Families in residence as well as recent graduates of Family Place can “shop” twice a week for the groceries they need at no cost. We receive donations from the local community, grocery stores and the Westside Food Bank.

UBH also operates a small thrift store at Family Place where families can “shop” at no cost to them to acquire things they need. Hidden Treasures is stocked from daily donations of clothes, shoes, toys & various household items from the surrounding community. The Hidden Treasures Assistant works to maintain a well organized space where families can easily identify and access the items they need.

The Food Pantry & Hidden Treasures assistant helps to organize the food items in the Pantry as well as assists in accepting, organizing and sorting through donations. They will help to ensure that all items are displayed properly on the shelves and make sure that items are not expired. Volunteers will also assist clients as they gather their needs when the Food Pantry & Hidden Treasures are open and help to maintain a sanitary environment.

Do you have experience in Food Service? Help prepare meals for our families at Family Shelter!

FOOD SERVER – Culver City

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 3-6:30pm

Description: Upward Bound House runs a food service program at the emergency shelter in Culver City (Family Shelter). Families do not have kitchens in their units at Family Shelter therefore Upward Bound House prepares and serves hot meals to the families three times per week. Volunteers in this position will help to serve meals on weekday evenings to our families. Food servers assist in setup and preparation for food to be distributed, serves food to clients, assists residents in packaging food to take home, and help with cleanup.

If you are under 18 years old, looking for a group opportunity or would like to get involved with Upward Bound House, but don't have time in your schedule to volunteer, consider Hosting a Drive or Donation Party!

During our families' stay at Upward Bound House, we provide basic necessities to help reduce their cost of living expenses. Volunteers organize and hold community "food and household item" drives for items that our families need most. This is an opportunity to help families at UBH on a schedule that volunteers can control. This opportunity is available to individuals under 18 and is a great way to expose youth to the importance of ending family homelessness. It is also a great group bonding opportunity for teenagers, schools, businesses, Churches, Temples, and clubs! Spearhead a drive, collect items and drop off items at our facility.

Current Drive Needs:

- "Breakfast to Go" Items (granola bars, individual cereal boxes/oatmeal containers, fruit snacks, juice boxes, etc.)
- New bedding and linens (twin and full size sheet sets, comforters and blankets)
- New Towels
- Kitchen items (utensils, pots/pans, dish sets, cooking utensils, cups, etc.)
- Toiletry items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo/conditioner, etc.)

Ask us about our Adopt Program or how to register/fundraise for our 2nd annual Home Run for Kids on Sunday, May 4th.

Individuals must be 18 years of age or older to volunteer. Please contact our Development & Volunteer Coordinator directly to set up a time to obtain a volunteer application and talk about what opportunity is right for you or your group. We look forward to hearing from you!

CONTACT INFO:

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