

Volunteer Opportunities

Premise Volunteers

What are Premise Volunteers?

When we have someone in sanctuary we are required to have a US citizen in the building at all times.

What are the requirements for Premise Volunteers?

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be 18 years of age
- Must pass a criminal background check
- Must have a reference from your pastor or other responsible person who knows you
- Must take a training class on legal aspects of sanctuary and an orientation tour of the UU Church of Manchester's facilities

What are the duties of Premise Volunteers?

They are responsible for the comfort and well-being of our guest. They respond to whatever situations arise while you are on duty (for example, heating or plumbing problems, issues with groups that rent our facilities, or issues with our sanctuary guest. In most cases, "responding" would consist of calling an emergency number you will be given.

It is extremely unlikely that you will have to respond to an ICE raid. They have a formal policy against raids on churches, and to our knowledge none have occurred. You will be trained on what to do if ICE does show up.

You will have a place to relax (or sleep if you are on an overnight shift).

You are not required to interact with our guest, but we hope you will decide to converse, eat a meal together, watch TV, or play a game when the opportunity presents itself.

How are shifts assigned?

Nobody will assign you to shifts. You will sign yourself up on our on-line calendar, iVolunteer. Each month there will be a sign-up period when you can select your shifts for the next month.

We hope you will sign up for at least two shifts per month.

If there are shifts without a volunteer, the Volunteer Coordinators will seek volunteers for the uncovered shifts. Ideally, we will have two volunteers on duty at all times. We encourage you to sign up for your shifts with a companion.

There are three 4-hour shifts and one 12-hour overnight shift:

7 am – 11 am ● 11 am – 3 pm ● 3 pm to 7 pm ● 7 pm – 7am (overnight)

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Support Volunteers

There are a number of ways for support volunteers to help. Exactly what they are will vary according to the needs and preferences of the guest we take in.

We will need volunteers to:

- Provide food
- Provide transportation
- Provide laundry service
- Offer entertainment (games or movies)
- Provide emotional support
- Provide medical support
- Raise funds (We have a Go Fund Me account. If our guest is the only bread winner for a family we may need to provide funds for the family.)
- Provide a gift card
- Provide translation
- Provide ESL tutoring
- Other ideas?

Support volunteers do not need the same training or background checks as premise volunteers, but they will need to be sensitive and tactful in their interactions with our guest.