



## DINNER WITH FRIENDS

**Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the Doorways for Women and Families monthly Dinner with Friends program!**

### **About Doorways**

We envision a community where all people live free of violence and have safe and stable housing.

We see a future without homelessness - or domestic violence. And it's why we offer safe shelter and housing. Life-changing support services. And community advocacy.

### **Summary**

Dinner with Friends is a monthly dinner where families from Doorways' residential programs and the HomeStart Supportive Housing Program come together for a meal and an educational program.

### **Date & Time**

Second Thursday of every month

**Dinner:** 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm (dinner served at 6:15pm)

**Program:** 7:00- 8:00 pm

**Location:** TBA

### **Volunteer Group Responsibilities**

- Please bring no more than 5-7 volunteers.
- Please inform your volunteers about the mission of Doorways and the purpose of their service.
- Please ask volunteers not to bring their children. **All volunteers must be at least 18** as many of our children attend Arlington County schools and this may jeopardize the confidentiality of our clients
- The volunteer group sets up dinner between 6-6:15; dinner is served at 6:15 and then cleanup of dinners is also performed by the volunteers from 7-7:30.
- Provide and prepare all food and beverage for the event for 65-80 participants. (Final numbers will be confirmed the week of the event.)
- Provide all paper products (napkins, plates, etc) and plastic utensils needed for dinner – including cups and to-go containers/aluminum foil for leftovers.
  - We encourage you to be festive and bring decorative tablecloths or other seasonal fun items!

- Arrive by 6 pm to set up and serve meals by 6:15 pm.
- Provide adequate volunteers for setting up, serving, and cleaning up the dinner.
- Clean up the kitchen and any other dinner-related areas before leaving, including the bagging of all dinner trash.
- Report the number of volunteers, volunteer hours and in-kind value of food donation to Doorways on day on the reporting form that was provided and submit to the Community Resources Manager.

### **Additional Notes:**

- Out of respect for the diverse faith traditions of our clients, no grace will be said before dinner and no religious materials should be distributed.
- **Dinner group volunteers are not expected to engage in activities beyond providing dinner.** The dinner group is welcome to eat at the dinner but we ask that they not sit with clients. Please remember that volunteers should not offer advice or opinions about client experiences – we leave that to the professionals! Supportive listening, encouragement and focusing on the positive should be the goal in all conversations, and any questions or requests for advice should be referred to staff.
- To preserve the confidentiality and safe space guidelines for our clients we ask that dinner volunteers not be present for the program portion of the dinner, instead the Community Education and Outreach Manager or Volunteer Coordinator will assist with any clean-up necessary and can facilitate the closing of the dinner portion.
- Any client inquiries regarding Doorways programs, services, needed items, travel, etc. should be directed to a staff member.
- If you have suggestions on how to improve this volunteer activity or want to sign for an alternate month, contact Simone Schonenberger at 703.522.8858 x 33 or [sschonenberger@doorwaysva.org](mailto:sschonenberger@doorwaysva.org)

### **Meal Planning Suggestions:**

- **Always ensure that there is enough youth-friendly food for the abundance of youth and children at Doorways.**
- **At least one vegetarian option is encouraged.**
- **Comfort foods are best! Suggestions:**
  - Pasta: Spaghetti, lasagna, etc
  - Baked/Fried Chicken and/or Chicken Nuggets
  - Mac and cheese
  - Pizza and/or Wraps
  - Salad - green and simple w/iceberg lettuce, tomato, egg, cucumber (not specialty greens like frisee)
  - Biscuits, rolls, garlic bread
  - Sides: pasta salad, potato salad, vegetables
  - Fruit (salad, sliced, etc)
  - Desserts – any

### **Doorways Staff Contact for Questions:**

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