

W.H.O. St. Paul Volunteer Opportunities



WHO (Winter Hospitality Overflow) started in 2003 as an interfaith effort to help bridge the gap between limited shelter space and the increasingly evident need of unhoused individuals for warm, safe overnight accommodations during Vancouver's coldest months. Extending HOSPITALITY to people who are facing housing- and life-challenges was foundational to the program, and it continues to be the most valuable contribution that volunteers bring to people who are utilizing emergency shelters.

'Winter Hospitality Overflow' specifically refers to the period between November 1 and March 31, during which time volunteers from faith groups and other community organizations are particularly sought to assist and interact with guests of the WHO overnight shelters that are located at:

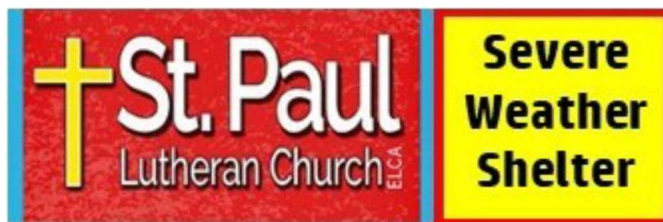
- St Paul Lutheran Church in downtown Vancouver with 25 beds for single men
- St Andrew Lutheran Church in Orchards with 50 beds for families

In April, 2020, St Paul made the bold move to dedicate the space that was used part-year into a year-round men's shelter. Arrangements were made with an organization called Outsiders Inn to operate the men's shelter, providing site management and peer mentoring to men who are offered the opportunity (by the Emergency Housing Hotline) to shelter at this location. Individuals reside onsite between 6:30 pm and 7:00 am Monday thru Friday, and 24 hours over weekends and holidays. The men's shelter at St Paul is also referred to as '**Outsiders Inn at St Paul.**'



Outsiders Inn at St Paul is located at
St Paul Lutheran Church
1309 Franklin St.
Vancouver WA 98660

*Volunteer entry is in the alleyway on the
14th St. / North-East side of the building →*



In addition to St Paul Men's Shelter housed on the first floor of the St Paul Education Building, St Paul opens a **Severe Weather Shelter (SWS)**. St Paul Severe Weather Shelter (SWS) is set up in the basement of the 1309 building

(enter by stairwell at SE corner of the building) when Council for the Homeless alerts the community that severe weather (extreme cold or hot weather or poor air quality) is expected. The SWS at St Paul is typically open from 11am until 6pm. Beverages and snacks are offered in addition to hospitality, restrooms and a place to rest.

Ways YOU can partner in the homeless sheltering programs at St Paul

There are numerous ways that individuals and groups can assist in the homeless ministries work being done at St Paul Lutheran Church.

1. Help at the Severe Weather Shelter in various ways:

- Volunteer on-site to extend hospitality (greet, offer food and drink as available socialize, maybe play a game or cards with guests, etc).
- Donate food, beverages, supplies as may be needed for days when the Severe Weather Shelter is open.
- Be a driver to transport other volunteers (not guests) to and from SWS when road conditions (particularly snow and/or ice) are challenging for some people willing to cover an SWS shift.

Severe weather is announced up to a week in advance. We cannot anticipate how often these will occur in the winter (or summer.) We are building a team of volunteers whom we will contact when sheltering is expected. We never know how many people may stop at the shelter, or how long they will stay.

We ask for participation for each incidence. Multiple volunteers are scheduled whenever the SWS is open. Volunteering at the SWS is an opportunity for individuals or small groups to interact with people seeking temporary respite. Indicate your interest in helping with the Severe Weather Shelter at St Paul – opportunities occur throughout the year -- by completing the form online at <https://bit.ly/helpstpaul>

2. Provide a meal at St Paul: volunteer thru 'MealTrain.com'

Dinner and weekend mid-day meals for 25 residents and staff (29 people) at Outsiders Inn at St Paul are scheduled using software called 'MealTrain'. St Paul Men's Shelter does not have a stove so meals need to be delivered warm and ready to serve.

- Signing up to bring a meal involves handing the meal over to staff, and then departing without entering the shelter (for a total of not more than 10 minutes at the door.)
- If you are interested in delivering AND SERVING the meal, please indicate this in the 'Notes' when you sign up; allow up to 1-1/2 hours to be on-site, and let the staff person who receives your food know that you hope to 'come in and serve' the meal.



Detailed information about dates needed, delivery, and a peek at what other people are serving can be found on the MealTrain sign-up <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/04435v>

Note that there are two other year-round shelters overseen by Outsiders Inn that also welcome meals provided by members of the community. The MealTrain signup to schedule at any of these can be found at: <https://www.mealtrain.com/groups/outsidersistinn>

3. Financial donations

At any time during the year, monetary contributions to sustain our shelter programs are needed and are welcomed:

- Donate directly at the WHO website: <https://whoprogram.org/donate/>
- Mail donations to Council for the Homeless, 2500 Main St. Vancouver WA 98660, with “WHO-St Paul” or “WHO program” in the memo line.
- Donate to St Paul Lutheran’s ministry to help people who are unhoused, or to other designated funds of this 122-year old congregation that continues to serve in downtown Vancouver at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YH0D/home>

4. In-kind donations

- To Outsiders Inn at St Paul: Donations of staple food and pantry items that can be distributed among all Outsiders Inn shelter locations are appreciated. So are towels and twin-sized bedding, socks, hats, gloves, underwear, belts, razors, cleaning supplies and paper products. To make a donation, or to find out what is particularly needed for a collection or donation that you coordinate, or to check if we can accept your gift, contact Outsiders Inn by voice/text/phone: (564)-227-6828, or email: waystohelp@outsidersistinn.org
- To Severe Weather Shelter at St Paul: Donations of bottled water, games that lend themselves to varying numbers of people, emergency weather supplies (handwarmers, space blankets or tarps, toiletries, etc), snacks like fruit cups, chips, bars, ‘instant’ meals, etc are appropriate for this shelter that opens when weather is dangerously hot, cold or smokey. To make a donation, or to find out what is particularly needed for a collection or donation that you coordinate, or to check if we can accept your gift, contact whostpaulvanc@gmail.com

5. Coordinate a special project for one of the St Paul shelters

Whether you’d like to serve a meal and host games, give out holiday bags to our guests, do some physical improvement to the site (yardwork, paint, provide more storage, etc), or you have other ideas to help our guests or our programs, contact our shelters:

- Outsiders Inn at St Paul: waystohelp@outsidersistinn.org or 360-909-9097
- St Paul Severe Weather Shelter: pastor@stpaulvancouver.com or whostpaulvanc@gmail.com

6. Become a recurring volunteer at an Outsiders Inn-staffed shelter

Volunteers provide extra hands for staff, and additional interactions for guests of the overnight shelters that are overseen by Outsiders Inn. Recurring shifts offer continuity in the volunteers’ schedule and also at each site. For more information about what this entails, contact Outsiders Inn Volunteer & Resources Coordinator at waystohelp@outsidersistinn.org or 360-909-9097.

Anyone interested in volunteering on an ongoing basis at any site overseen by Outsiders Inn, should apply online at <https://www.outsidersistinn.org/sws> to complete a volunteer

application, sign a confidentiality agreement and authorize a criminal background check that Outsiders Inn will complete.

Thank you for your interest in partnering with WHO St Paul

Questions? Ideas? Contact St Paul WHO Committee: whostpaulvanc@gmail.com

Signup on MealTrain to deliver (and serve, if you like) meals at Outsiders Inn at St Paul or another Outsider Inn-staffed shelter: <https://www.mealtrain.com/groups/outsidersistinn>

Signup to help with St Paul Severe Weather Shelter (winter or another time of year depending on weather): <https://bit.ly/helpstpaul>

