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Call for Volunteers - We Need Your Help!

During these challenging times, the support of our community has never been more critical. Dimitri House is issuing a heartfelt call for volunteers to aid in our mission to combat hunger and provide essential services to those in need here in our Rochester community.

Our Emergency Food Cupboard is one of our most utilized programs, in which we support individuals and families facing food insecurity to stock their fridges and pantries when their own resources fall short. We offer a variety of nutritious options, including meats, dairy, fresh produce, and shelf-stable essentials such as peanut butter. We rely on the dedication of volunteers to sort, pack, and distribute food that keeps those in our community from going to bed hungry. The operations of our Emergency Food Cupboard would not be possible without those who volunteer their time to make food accessible to those who need a helping hand in our community.

Our Drop-In Lunch Program is seen by many as the heart of our organization, as its roots are deeply embedded in our agency's history, back to its earliest days of serving dinners in the basements of local churches. Present-day Dimitri House is fortunate enough to have our very own kitchen and dining room, in which volunteers directly contribute to alleviating hunger in our community by preparing and serving hot, nutritious meals to children, adults, and seniors in our city that may otherwise go hungry.

Behind the scenes, Dimitri House serves as much more than just a food resource to Rochester. Through our partnerships with other local organizations, office volunteers are able to connect clients with agencies that provide access to free clothing, healthcare services such as vaccinations and STD testing, and case management services that empower individuals and families to navigate the difficult times that have led them to require the support of our programs. Our office volunteers play a crucial role in the coordination of these wrap around services and the management of our day-to-day operations, such as scheduling appointments for our Emergency Food Cupboard. Office volunteers are our first line of connection to those we serve and allow Dimitri House to run smoothly and efficiently.

We invite you to join our team and be a part of something truly special. Our volunteers make a meaningful impact on those in our community who are most in need. Your affiliation with Dimitri House is an opportunity to share your gifts and passion for helping others, right here in our own neighborhood. With your help, we can continue to combat hunger and make a difference that will be felt for generations to come. Submit an application online at <https://www.dimitri-house.org/volunteer>. Inside, you can find a small collection of photos showcasing some of those who make our work possible. We can't wait to add pictures of our new volunteers in newsletters to come!

MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

Honor and remember someone who has made a difference in your life with a memorial or tribute gift made to Dimitri House.

We acknowledge all memorial gifts and send out letters of recognition to those people you have chosen to honor.

HONORS

Ann Crerand

Don Potter

Terri Ference

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.”

- Sherry Anderson

Honoring Our Team

OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: LAURIE PRIZEL



When you hear the title “Executive Director,” you may think of an individual with many official and stately duties, one who spends their days behind a desk in a lavish office managing operations; in essence, the “bigwig” or CEO equivalent of a non-profit organization. While the vast and significant responsibilities are true of Dimitri House’s own, it is merely the tip of the iceberg in an agency as small and humble as our own.

Executive Director, Laurie Prizel, is answerable for all the formal functions you would expect her title implies – attending meetings, keeping records, networking

with other human services agencies, speaking to the media and local news networks. Simultaneously, on any given day, you can find Laurie in our kitchen preparing lunch for hundreds; in our bathrooms fixing and plunging toilets; stocking and heaving cases of canned goods onto the shelves of our food cupboard; providing one-on-one emotional support and crisis management to hundreds of our clients; across the street at Mamczur Place helping one of our ill tenants maintain his home and ensuring he attends his appointments.

The work done behind the scenes in an agency like our own is incredibly unique, and hardly what comes to mind when one thinks of someone with the title of Executive Director. Our agency could not be more fortunate than to have Laurie with her heart of gold, our jack of all trades, powerhouse, indispensable Executive Director.

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT: KATHY HERENDEEN

If you are familiar with Dimitri House, there’s no doubt that you have heard of Kathy. Our volunteer extraordinaire, the woman who always says, “YES!” or “What else can I do?” Her talents and dedication know no limits – whether it be tending to our flower boxes; painting the ENTIRE interior of our building; being the first to show up and the last to leave at our fundraising events; or flawlessly coordinating our Adopt a Family Thanksgiving program every single year. Our dearest Kathy - we are so incredibly thankful for you!



What's Happening at Dimitri House?

ADOPT A FAMILY THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

Thanksgiving is a time for gratitude, sharing, and togetherness. But many in our own Rochester community lack the means to enjoy this tradition of abundance and thanks surrounded by their loved ones. Over the years, Dimitri House has bridged this gap for thousands in our city, connecting those in need with those who have the means to share. This feat is something we could not accomplish without our selfless Dimitri House supporters.

In 2023 we are excited to return to the roots of our Adopt a Family Thanksgiving Program, in which our donors and contributors are connected directly with those in our community seeking help providing their family with a warm and nutritious holiday meal. Through this model, adopting a family is not only about food, but also fostering community and embodying the spirit and shared values of this beloved holiday of thanks.



If you are interested in aiding us to alleviate hunger and encourage togetherness in our Rochester community this holiday season by adopting a family for Thanksgiving, please call Dimitri House at (585) 325-1796.

VOLUNTEERS OVER THE YEARS - THE JOYS OF VOLUNTEERING

Please enjoy this collection of photos of Dimitri House volunteers doing what they do best - working together to serve our community!



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MEMORIALS

- Arthur Heveron
- Barbara Lamark
- Ellen Clouser
- Karen Lamark
- Lee Fleckenstein
- Lydia Komocki
- Mary Engels
- Sharon Barrett

Memorial & Tribute gifts made after July 31st, 2023 will be listed in the next issue.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.”

- Elizabeth Andrew



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Rochester, NY 14607

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We make a life by what we give.

Dimitri House's namesake, Dimitri Mamczur, was a homeless man with a kind and giving heart who helped his fellow homeless friends and everyone he met. Dimitri wanted to make the world a better place.

Yes, I want to help our neighbors
on their journey towards self-sufficiency.

- Donate:** By check in the **reply envelope** or **online at www.dimitri-house.org** (one time or monthly);
- Food drive:** Hold a neighborhood food drive with your family, place of worship, or business;
- Volunteer:** Call **585-325-1796** or go to **www.dimitrihouse.org**, click the **Online Volunteer Application** link on the homepage.

Every act of kindness and giving breathes new life into Dimitri's legacy. *\$40 buys a family of four at least 3 days of emergency food.* Thank you for all you do for Dimitri House.

ABOUT DIMITRI HOUSE

Dimitri House works within the Rochester, NY community to provide essential services to those coping with poverty and homelessness. We offer a drop-in lunch program, an emergency food cupboard, security deposit program (DASH), and apartments. Additionally we provide various case management and referral services.

Learn more:
www.dimitri-house.org

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