



# THE WING



SEPTEMBER EDITION

FOR GREAT VOLUNTEERS

*Thank you for helping to reduce the prevalence of homelessness among women, children, families, and individuals through creative strategies and community partnerships that result in lasting self-sufficiency.*

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - JUDY R. FROM OUR CARY NEST



“I have been volunteering for Home of the Sparrow for 25 years this March. My inspiration to volunteer came when I had just moved to Cary from Deerfield and saw an opportunity to volunteer in my church bulletin. As a volunteer, I price clothing at the store, and years ago, I represented the non-profit at the Cary Chamber meetings for 8 years. Volunteering with Home of the Sparrow has had a significant personal impact on me, especially since I was new to the area and was very happy to meet new friends.

I stay motivated to continue volunteering because I feel that my job is useful, and I know that by pricing merchandise at the store, I contribute to something very important. Pricing merchandise requires understanding the item's condition and brand to ensure it sells and is profitable for Home of the Sparrow. A fun fact about me is that when I was 7 years old, a group of boys threw plums at my friends and me. One boy, my brother's best friend, did not throw any at me. I told my mom I would marry him since he was so kind, and that boy became my husband. My favorite hobby is reading, though early in my marriage, I also enjoyed embroidery. Before I had children, I was a full-time nurse and worked part-time while raising my four children. My best vacation was a river cruise with my husband in 2007 from Budapest to Amsterdam. It was so much fun seeing all the sights and meeting new people.”

**INSPIRE OTHERS! SHARE YOUR VOLUNTEER STORY HERE!**

*Please consider sharing how you help the community through your volunteer service at Home of the Sparrow*

# VOLUNTEERS HELP HOS

Every day, Home of the Sparrow volunteers make a significant impact on the community. In the fiscal year 2024, **550** dedicated individuals contributed **55,244** hours to HOS's programs and operations, equating to a diversion of **\$1.86 million**. Volunteers are the heart of Home of the Sparrow and dedicate their time and talents to a variety of activities, including fundraiser events, administrative support, housing unit and shelter maintenance, yard work at the housing units, and staffing at Sparrow's Nest Thrift Stores and Community Threads across Northern Illinois.



HOPE

OPPORTUNITY

SUPPORT

## BACK TO SCHOOL RECIPES

Back-to-school recipes are perfect for busy mornings. These recipes make mornings easier and keep energy levels up throughout the day. E-mail [Kobrien@hosparrow](mailto:Kobrien@hosparrow) with your favorite recipe.

### **Peanut Butter Banana Protein Muffins**



[CLICK FOR RECIPE](#)

### **Strawberry Oatmeal Bars**



[CLICK FOR RECIPE](#)

### **Yogurt and Fruit Parfait**



[CLICK FOR RECIPE](#)



## Happy Birthday, Volunteers!

September 1st: Mary Ann H., Nathan K., Nancy Z.

September 2nd: Sandra G., Kaitlyn M., Clovey P., Kelly W.

September 3rd: Elizabeth B.

September 6th: Lucas D., Emily G., Susan M., Barabara W.

September 7th: Madalyn A.

September 8th: Kyle H., Neil H. Kathy L.

September 11th: Laurel S.

September 12th: Edie C., Cynthia M.

September 13th: Barb B., Erik R.

September 14th: Hollis B., Kenneth D., Heather K., Steven M., Tracy W.

September 15th: Nancy C., Beata M., Sarah T.

September 16th: Teena M., Gabriel S.

September 17th: Tina S.

September 18th: Keely G.

September 19th: Cathy S., Janet S.

September 20th: Sandhya G.

September 21st: Domonic D.

September 22nd: Autumn B., Rebecca S.

September 23rd: Sharon B.

September 24th: Christopher V.

September 25th: Selma A., Michael F., Judith M., Barbara W.

September 26th: Joellen G.

September 27th: Anita N., Paul W.

September 28th: Diane P.

September 29th: Kim O., Colleen T.

September 30th: Olga R.



# Volunteers in Action



## VOLUNTEER FAIR & FAMILY FUN DAY

The event featured exciting games, great food, and opportunities to win prizes for the whole family, all while learning more about how you could help those experiencing homelessness in our community. Attendees enjoyed the Touch-a-Truck with the Woodstock Fire Department, participated in arts and crafts, sampled food from the food truck, bounced in the inflatable, watched live entertainment, and engaged in fun-filled games and prizes.





# DID YOU KNOW...

## Home of the Sparrow has a Supported Employment Program (SEP)?

Home of the Sparrow's Supported Employment Program (SEP) improves financial independence for people experiencing homelessness. SEP focuses on providing employment opportunities and livable wages, which is crucial for improving overall family well-being and preventing homelessness recurrence. SEP supports clients aged 18 and above, enhancing their job readiness, skills, and job search efforts. Participants, including those in HOS's housing, Shelter, and outreach programs, receive personalized support whether they are employed and seeking advancement or preparing to enter the job market.

SEP's immediate impacts include refining resumes, practicing cover letters and interviews, and improving job search techniques. It addresses barriers like childcare, transportation, and health issues to facilitate employment. SEP assists clients with connections to certification, education, and other employment programs. It collaborates with local organizations like the McHenry County Workforce Development Network, McHenry County College, and employers/staffing agencies.



[READ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES HERE](#)



Home of the Sparrow is a 501 c 3 non-profit that provides Transitional Shelter, Housing, and Supportive Services to women, children, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Home of the Sparrow also operates seven thrift stores and donation centers. Please visit our website at [www.HOSparrow.org](http://www.HOSparrow.org) or "Home of the Sparrow" on Facebook for a list of services, store hours, and locations.

[Click HERE to Donate](#)