



Safe and healthy relationships are proven to be turning points in a family's journey to stability. This program gives both volunteers and families the gift of connection and the opportunity to build impactful and nurturing relationships.



Catholic
Community
Services



St. Joseph
FAMILY SHELTER
MISSION BENEDICT & CASA ADELE



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About St. Joseph, Casa Adele and Mission Benedict

The Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel established St. Joseph Shelter in 1988. The Shelter was established as a ministry of hospitality in response to the Gospel message of caring for those in need and honoring St. Benedict's instruction to welcome all as Christ. The Shelter, Mission Benedict and Casa Adele witness to the dignity of each person by providing meals, housing, clothing, advocacy, referrals, emergency assistance and a supportive community. Following 30 years of loving care and service to homeless families and individuals in the Mt. Angel community, the Benedictine Sisters realized they could no longer sustain this vital ministry on their own. The Sisters called on CCS to assume responsibility for operation of the Shelter, and CCS called on its long-time partner the Exchange Club to help sustain and grow the impact of volunteer support for the Shelter and the families served there. The combined programs are now a collaborative endeavor, sustained by CCS, the Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel, St. Mary Parish, Mt. Angel Abbey, the Department of Human Services' Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families Program, the Exchange Club and many generous donors and volunteers.



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Parent Aide Volunteer



St. Joseph
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About the Program

The Parent Aide Program at St. Joseph Shelter is modeled after the nationally recognized Exchange Club model. Parent aides offer accompaniment and positive relationships to families in need of extra support. This program aims to provide volunteer-based support systems for our families seeking healthy relationships while working to stabilize their own housing, employment and family dynamics. Parent Aides offer weekly communication, outings for the parents and/or children, accompaniment, and other forms of support that seem important in the development of this relationship.



Volunteers achieve
their dreams by
helping others
achieve their dreams



- Anonymous



What We Offer Volunteers

It is important that we remind volunteers that they are part of a larger community within this program. We aim to offer support, encouragement and guidance in several different ways:

- Comprehensive Training prior to volunteering, and continued optional training.
- Regular check-ins regarding the Volunteer/Parent Relationship.
- Access to our resource and activities guides for ideas for family outings.

What the Volunteers Offer

While Parent Aides primarily focus on building a healthy, positive relationship with family, we do focus on a few ways in which those relationships can be achieved:

- Weekly Communications
- Socialization Opportunities
- Informal Resource Connection
- Accompaniment in certain goals

Key Characteristics of Volunteers

We are excited to welcome volunteers who bring their own experiences to the table! Some important characteristics that we hope to see in our volunteers are...

- Compassion
- Good Communication
- Empathy
- Patience
- Motivation