



1111 Joseph Avenue - Rochester,NY 14621

INFO@BETHANYHOUSEROCNY.ORG

(585) 454-4197

**Board Member at Bethany House**

Bethany House is a Catholic Worker House of Hospitality in Rochester, NY, serving homeless women and their children since 1977. Many of our guests come from abusive homes, addiction and incarceration. Bethany House can accommodate up to 8 to 10 women at any one time, depending on the number of children a woman may have with her, and she would typically stay for 45 days. Bethany House also operates a food pantry three days a week.

**OUR MISSION**

Bethany House proudly provides temporary housing, assistance and support to women and children in Rochester, NY afflicted with homelessness and instability from domestic violence, incarceration, addiction, mental health, physical illness, or poverty. We promote peace, equality, and compassion through the dignity of persons, solidarity of community and inclusivity of all.

Our services are FREE and open to women in the community. We do not restrict by age, race, income, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**CATHOLIC WORKER**

The Catholic Worker Movement began simply enough on May 1, 1933, when a journalist named Dorothy Day and a philosopher named Peter Maurin teamed up to publish and distribute a newspaper called "The Catholic Worker." This radical paper promoted the biblical promise of justice and mercy.

Grounded in a firm belief in the God-given dignity of every human person, their movement was committed to nonviolence, voluntary poverty, and the Works of Mercy as a way of life. It wasn't long before Dorothy and Peter were putting their beliefs into action, opening a "house of hospitality" where the homeless, the hungry, and the forsaken would always be welcome.

Over many decades the movement has protested injustice, war, and violence of all forms. Today there are some 228 Catholic Worker communities in the United States and in countries around the world.

<https://www.catholicworker.org/hundred-forty-words.html>

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**DUTIES:**

* Attend MOST board and committee meetings and functions, such as special events.
* Be informed about the organization’s mission, services, policies, and programs.
* Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
* Serve on committees or task forces and offer to take on special assignments.
* Make a personal financial OR TIME contribution to the organization.
* Inform others about the organization. Advocate for the organization.
* Suggest possible nominees to the board who can make significant contributions to the work of the board and the organization.
* Keep up-to-date on developments in the organization’s field.
* Follow conflict-of-interest and confidentiality policies.
* Refrain from making special requests of the staff.
* Assist the board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the organization’s financial statements.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Duty of Care

The duty of care describes the level of competence that is expected of a board member and is commonly expressed as the duty of “care that an ordinarily prudent person would exercise in a like position and under similar circumstances.” This means that a board member owes the duty to exercise reasonable care when he or she makes a decision as a steward of the organization.

Duty of Loyalty

The duty of loyalty is a standard of faithfulness; a board member must give undivided allegiance when making decisions affecting the organization. This means that a board member can never use information obtained as a member for personal gain, but must act in the best interests of the organization.

Duty of Obedience

The duty of obedience requires board members to be faithful to the organization’s mission. They are not permitted to act in a way that is inconsistent with the central goals of the organization. A basis for this rule lies in the public’s trust that the organization will manage donated funds to fulfill the organization’s mission. This duty also requires board members to obey the law and the organization’s internal rules and regulations.

**ATTRIBUTES:**

* Ability to listen, analyze, think clearly and creatively, and work well with people individually and in a group.
* Willingness to prepare for and actively participate in board and committee meetings, ask questions, take responsibility and follow through on a given assignment, contribute personal and financial resources in a generous way according to circumstances, open doors in the community, advocate for the organization, and evaluate oneself.
* Interest in developing certain skills that you may not possess, such as in cultivating and soliciting funds, cultivating and recruiting board members and other volunteers, reading and understanding financial statements, and learning more about the substantive program area of the organization.
* Possession of honesty, sensitivity to and tolerance of differing views, community-building skills, personal integrity and sense of values, and concern for your nonprofit’s development.

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Email resume and answers to [anne@bethanyhouserocny.org](mailto:anne@bethanyhouserocny.org).

Please answer the following and include any additional information we should consider:

1. Why are you interested in our organization?
2. Why are you interested in serving on a board?
3. Do you have any previous board service, leadership, or volunteer experience? Are you presently serving on any boards?
4. What kinds of skills or expertise can you offer? How will the organization benefit from your participation? How do you think we could best take advantage of your expertise?
5. What kind of time and financial commitment will you be able to make? Are you willing to serve on committees and task forces? Can we expect you to come to board meetings regularly? Would you be able to make a personal contribution?
6. What are you most passionate about?