

Volunteer Craftsman Fact Sheet

Thank you for your interest in learning more about serving as a **Volunteer Craftsman** at **The Pittsburgh Project**. In our neighborhood, and in others around Pittsburgh, senior citizens, shut-ins and disabled residents are often at most risk. For these neighbors, we see opportunity to build relationships and to repair their failing homes. Each year, we serve the home repair needs of over 150 homeowners through crews of volunteers, most of whom are students. Many of these homeowners could benefit from the occasional expertise of volunteers who are skilled in one or more areas of home repair or construction. Many of our volunteers insist that they receive so much more than they give from those whom they serve.

This fact sheet should provide you with answers to some frequently asked questions about volunteering your time and skill to one of our vulnerable urban homeowners. Please call *Ginny Giles*, *Volunteer Resources Manager* at 412-321-1678 ext. 134 or email her at vgiles@pittsburghproject.org for answers to any further questions. For more information about the vision and programs of **The Pittsburgh Project**, please visit our website at www.pittsburghproject.org.

What is the Vision and Purpose of The Pittsburgh Project?

Our **vision** statement reads, “That Pittsburgh will be called a City of Truth, where once again, men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets, each with cane in hand because of age, and where the city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there.” (adapted from Zechariah 8:4-5)

Our **purpose** statement reads, “We develop servant leaders and uphold the dignity of vulnerable homeowners.”

What does a Volunteer Craftsman do?

Volunteer Craftsmen (the title is not meant to be gender specific) commit to visit one or more homeowners served by The Pittsburgh Project and to provide services for a specific project based on the volunteers’ skills in one or more of the following areas of home construction/home repair: carpentry, roofing, plumbing, electrical or masonry. These services will be provided at no cost to either The Pittsburgh Project or the homeowner. A Volunteer Craftsman will *not* be expected to incur the cost of building materials nor supplies needed to complete the tasks.

Do I need to have special skills or training to volunteer in this area?

You will need a desire to care for vulnerable aging people within our community and a sincere respect for people of different backgrounds, races, faiths and cultural groups. You will need to complete a **Skills Inventory Form** to help us know a bit about your areas of expertise. Additional qualifications are detailed in the **Volunteer Craftsman Position Description**.

What is the time commitment?

The time commitment for each **Volunteer Craftsman** is flexible. Individual projects will vary as will the time needed to accomplish these projects. Volunteers will work out a schedule with our Director of Homeowner Services, Dave Herr. Volunteers may choose from a variety of commitments and availability schedules:

- **Summer Craftsman:** One whole week or one day a week for up to nine consecutive weeks
- **Weekday Craftsman:** Available to serve weekdays throughout the year (year-long commitment)
- **Weekend Craftsman:** Available to serve weekends (usually on scheduled work days) throughout the year (year-long commitment)
- **Craftsman Group Leader:** Willing to lead an independent group to complete projects throughout the year (year-long commitment)

What kind of training or orientation do I need?

New volunteers are required to attend one of our scheduled *Homeowner Care Orientations* and to meet with *Dave Herr*, the **Director of Homeowner Services** for an introduction to our work with homeowners. We recommend that new volunteers accompany our staff on scheduled Work Days or Service Retreats initially.

When I have concerns or questions in my volunteer service, who will support me?

We desire that our volunteers will feel cared for as they reach out to care for others. Volunteer Craftsmen should contact *Dave Herr* at 412-321-1678 ext. 149 with any concerns initially. You may also contact *Ginny Giles* or *Lauren Albert*, our *Homeowner Services Associate*, if needed.

How will I find The Pittsburgh Project?

Directions to our facility are located on our website: www.pittsburghproject.org. For further information, contact **Ginny Giles** at 412-321-1678 ext. 134 or by email: vgiles@pittsburghproject.org.

We hope you will consider joining our Volunteer Craftsman team. Your gifts of time, skill and compassion will have long term benefits in the lives of Pittsburgh's most vulnerable homeowners.