



Serving the hungry,
homeless and addicted
of coastal Fairfield
County since 1993

1088 Fairfield Avenue | Bridgeport, CT 06605 | 203 333 4087 | BridgeportRescueMission.org

Volunteer Guidelines & Code of Conduct

Our Goal

Bridgeport Rescue Mission seeks to provide compassionate care and life transformation for those who are homeless, hungry, and addicted in Coastal Connecticut. With the help of hundreds of volunteers each year, we work toward that goal every day.

Age Restrictions

All Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Volunteers between the ages of 14 and 17 (serving at designated areas) must be accompanied by a parent or guardian accompanied, with a ratio of one chaperone for every four minors. Chaperones are responsible for the safety of minors while on-site.

Dress Code

Volunteers must arrive dressed appropriately for the work they will be performing. Our dress code exists to protect volunteer safety, follow safety standards, and show respect to our clients. Volunteers arriving dressed inappropriately may not take part in activities unless suitable accommodations can be made.

Our Kitchen dress code ensures the safety of our volunteers and preserves the quality of the food. Volunteers *must* wear:

- Closed-toed shoes
- Clothing that completely covers chest, shoulders, underarms, torso and knees
- Hairnets, when needed (provided by BRM)
- Gloves and aprons (provided by BRM)
- Clothing must not portray themes related to alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, sex or violence

In our Men's and Women's Residential Programs, casual business attire is appropriate. Clothing must not portray themes related to alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, sex, or violence.

Relationships

Volunteers are encouraged to maintain a high standard of integrity and professionalism when relating with program residents* and community guests.**

- Please do not get alone with residents or guests. Stay in the sight of others and maintain a comfortable distance, physically and emotionally.

- Please do not to engage in a private transaction involving gifts, services, or money with a resident or guest. Any gifts should be directed to or channeled through the Mission. You may not accept money or gifts from residents or guests for services rendered. Do not lend your phone to or make calls for residents or guests.
- Please do not make arrangements to meet off-site with current residents.

Information

- Please do not share personal contact details (home or email address, phone numbers, or social media information) with residents or guests while volunteering or on their return home.
- Do not participate in any social media with residents or guests.
- Please maintain strict confidentiality of all personal information about residents or guests, except when the resident/guest shares information about matters with legal consequences, such as someone being in danger or endangering others. In this case, you must immediately report the information to the staff person in charge.
- Please do share your personal experience at the Mission via social media, but NOT photos or names of residents or guests.

Conduct

- Our programs are violence-free, alcohol-free and drug-free environments. Volunteers are not to smoke, drink, use drugs or carry any type of weapons on site.
- Volunteers are to engage in gracious and edifying conversation and are to avoid swearing or cursing on site.
- As Bridgeport Rescue Mission is a faith-based organization, volunteers are asked not to present or promote a worldview that is in opposition to the Judeo-Christian worldview that is the very fabric of our ministry.
- Harassment of any kind is not permitted and subject to disciplinary action by BRM.
- BRM is not responsible for the personal property of volunteers.

Outside Activities

- We do not authorize the use of BRM phones, stationery, supplies or equipment for purposes not specifically related to your volunteer opportunity.
- We do not authorize you to identify yourself with BRM or attempt to use your volunteer position to gain credibility for political purposes or illicit gain.

Legal/Photo Release

Before volunteering with us, we ask you to sign a release form acknowledging the activities and conditions of volunteering with Bridgeport Rescue Mission. For more questions, please contact volunteer@BridgeportRescueMission.org.

* Residents are men, women, and children who are in BRM programs and reside in our facilities.

** Guests are any persons who benefit from any programs or services that Bridgeport Rescue Mission provides.