

Meet The Team: CJ Fisher



Dinner Host

It takes a **team** to provide shelter and low-income, affordable housing resources to people experiencing homelessness in our community. The Pillars team includes dedicated **staff**, selfless **volunteers**, and generous **donors** contributing to common goals:

SHELTER, SUPPORT, SOLUTIONS.

Tell us a little bit about CJ Fisher.

"I am a wound/trauma medical assistant and a public health master's student. My goal is to become a surgically trained physician assistant. When I'm not at school or work, I like to volunteer, hike with my dog, cook, read, and hang out with friends. I moved to Appleton, WI in August 2020, but I am originally from New Jersey."

What were you doing before you became a Pillars volunteer?

"Before Pillars I was working full time, going to graduate school full time, and trying to get settled in my new home in Appleton."

Why did you start volunteering at Pillars? What motivates you to continue volunteering?

"I started volunteering at Pillars (in November 2020), because I moved to the Fox Cities during the pandemic and desperately wanted to become more involved in my new community. I continue to volunteer because at Pillars I have found loving friends, a family, and a welcoming community."

What does your typical volunteer shift look like?

"My shift begins with prepping for dinner by getting serving utensils, drinks, and the buffet prepped for dinner. After prep is done, I like to chat with clients, volunteers, and staff and find out how everybody is doing. When dinner is ready to be served, I get in the service line at the dinner buffet and prepare to serve our clients. My favorite foods to serve are the desserts, because who doesn't LOVE dessert!?"

How has volunteering at Pillars impacted you?

"Every shift I volunteer, I am met with optimism, joy, and love. I feel at home with staff, clients, and volunteers. I am reminded of the perseverance and graciousness of the human spirit. Every single person at Pillars encourages me to be a better person and positively impact the lives of others."

What is the best thing that has happened to you or that you have seen while volunteering?

"Making meaningful connections with guests is the best part about volunteering at Pillars. You become so close with one another and get to know them personally. One client I became incredibly close with had the wonderful opportunity to move on from Pillars, as she had found a way to support herself and be able to live independently. It was a bittersweet goodbye her last night at the Pillars Adult Shelter, and we both cried. With our last embrace, we could both feel the genuine gratitude and admiration for one another that had developed over the past few months."

Is there one thing that the world should know about you?

"I truly believe I was placed on this earth to nurture others. I hope all those I come into contact with feel loved and truly valued."

For individuals interested in serving in your position at Pillars, what is one thing that they should know?

"Any potential volunteers should know that at Pillars Adult Shelter you are going to work hard to serve those in need, but you are going to have FUN and make wonderful connections while doing so. The ability to volunteer with Pillars is an invaluable experience."

More information about becoming a Meal Server:

Prepare dinner and the serving area for dinner service. Dinner will be provided by Pillars or dropped off by other volunteers. If Pillars is providing the meal you may be asked to help prepare.

Depending on which shelter you're serving at the shift times are as follows:

Adult Shelter: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Prepare from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Serve from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Clean-up from 6:45 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Adult & Family Shelter: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Prepare from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Serve from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Clean-up from 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.



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