

## Pillars Volunteer Spotlight

David Parks

Meal Coordinator for Appleton Gospel Church



**Q: Can you tell us a little about yourself?**

*"I am the lead Pastor of Appleton Gospel Church which started in 2011. I am married to Holly and we are raising three great teenagers on the east side of Appleton. Both Holly & I grew up in Appleton, so we have a huge heart for the people of the Fox Valley, but especially the people in our community who are struggling and in need of hope and help."*

**Q: What were you doing before you became a volunteer at Pillars?**

*"I had volunteer at various other nonprofits, but as an individual, not as a church leader."*

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

*"The same month we started at our church was the first month we served at what was then the Fox Valley Warming Shelter, now Pillars Adult Shelter. We have continued every month since 2011. For us, the impulse to serve people experiencing homelessness flow right out of our faith in the person and work of Jesus. He calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. So, our partnership with Pillars to serve our community is an expression of that love."*



**Q: What does your typical volunteer shift look like?**

*"We have multiple families buy/prepare food for anyone staying at the shelter. We then have multiple individuals serve the meal and clean-up after dinner. In the past we have done laundry, packed lunches, and whatever else was needed. Over the years, many different people have been involved in this work from Appleton Gospel Church."*

**Q: How has volunteering impacted you?**

*"We know that we will not solve the issue of homelessness as a church but have the ability to make a real impact for good in our community with great partners like Pillars."*

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

*"I've seen people in our church who were disconnected to or somewhat ambivalent about the issue of homelessness grow in their awareness, compassion, care, and love for those in need. This is a huge win for our community!"*

**Q: Is there one thing the world should know about you?**

*"My personal mission is to help people find stability and hope in this crazy world by sharing good news every week. Our partnership with Pillars is a tangible expression of this mission!"*

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

*"Deep meaning and purpose are created when you sacrifice something to serve someone else. You will find the old saying is true, "it's more blessed to give than to receive."*

**THANK YOU, DAVID &**  
**APPLETON GOSPEL CHURCH!**



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