

Meet The Team: Joe Fieck



Breakfast 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 yourself. Who is Joe Fieck?

"I am an 18-year-old transgender man. I am finishing my Senior year of high school this year and in the fall, I will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay as a nursing student. I hope to continue volunteering at Pillars in the future throughout my academic journey."

What were you doing before you became a Pillars volunteer?

"I was starting my Senior year with doubts of how I was going to be involved in my community amongst the COVID-19 pandemic. Most opportunities at my school and in my community were shut down for good reason and I felt a little aimless and without purpose."

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

"I started volunteering because aside from working as a CNA at a nursing home, I didn't feel like I was improving or bettering myself or others in my community. I wanted to wake up and do something that I felt was important and worth my time without having to be paid for it. I will continue to volunteer in the future because it is something that I have grown to love and have a true passion for."

What does your typical volunteer shift look like?

"I arrive to the shelter around six and say my 'Good Mornings' to the clients that are getting ready to leave for work and wish them a good day. Depending on what is set up, I tackle anything that needs to be done for there to be enough food and drink for the clients the rest of the breakfast shift. Some tasks include, but are not limited to, restocking fluids and breakfast essentials, washing and drying dishes, filling mops, giving out lunches and cleaning surfaces."

How has volunteering at Pillars impacted you?

"I have been able to make the acquaintance of some very kind and hardworking individuals who are trying to work towards their education or their own living space and it's really admirable. It also helps to be in the company of people who can make me laugh before my official day starts and I have to get serious about my schooling."

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

"I enjoy being in the company of so many individuals that have created a community in their difficult circumstances. They have found a family with each other because of it. It's a really beautiful thing to witness."

Is there one thing the world should know about you?

"I am an avid activist for understanding different people's circumstances and to not make quick judgements. I advocate for taking the time to get to know people that are not like you or that you do not see in your daily life because only then will we truly understand each other."

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

"A few years ago, the thought of volunteering and being around so many people I didn't know scared me. However, I realized that sometimes I must do things that are out of my comfort zone to experience and discover the beautiful things around me. All you must do is take that first hesitant step and like me, you'll be better for doing it."

More information about the Breakfast Host:

The Breakfast Host provides breakfast buffet services each morning for clients leaving the Adult Shelter for the day. The Breakfast Host can utilize donated items in shelter, such as produce, leftovers, eggs, cereals, oatmeal and pastries, or they can choose to provide & prepare a hot breakfast for clients. The Breakfast Host allows the Shelter Client Advocates freedom to provide individual case management to the 55+ clients in shelter and focus on other aspects of shelter operation in the early morning hours.

Key Responsibilities:

Prepare the cold breakfast buffet utilizing shelter donations

OR

- Provide & prepare their own hot meal for clients
- Ensure that the breakfast buffet is kept full throughout the morning
- Clean-up the kitchen area and run dishes through the dishwasher
- Train new volunteers as they are onboarded

The daily schedule for Breakfast Hosts is from 5:30-8am, Monday-Saturday; and Sunday from 6:30-8:30am.



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