

Volunteering at Good News Community Kitchen

Website: www.gnck.org (lots of good stuff on here)

Arrival time – 4:30

Location: 7649 North Paulina Street, Chicago, IL

Parking – You can park right in front on the street – make sure to use the new Chicago parking meter system because you have to pay on Sundays.

There will most likely be a line of people waiting to go into GNCK for dinner. Walk right up to the door and either go in or let whoever is manning the door know that you are volunteering and they will let you in.

Once in the building, walk toward the kitchen area in the back. You will most likely be met by one of the full time workers – Jim or Milton. They will welcome you, ask you what group you are with and tell you to go in back and do the following:

1. Sign In – the sign in sheet is by the microwave
2. Put your coat and belongings in a storage area
3. Put on a black apron
4. Wash your hands
5. Put on a hair net
6. Put on sanitary gloves

Between 4:30 and 5:00, the following preparation will occur:

1. Rolling plastic forks into napkins which will be used for dinner – Jim or Milt will show you how to do this.
2. Jim or Milton will assign you a job to do during dinner service which could be the following:
 - a. Behind the counter placing food on a dish
 - b. Behind the counter filling up drinks
 - c. Delivering food to the patrons
 - d. Helping Jim with the drink cart which has milk, water and coffee (with cream and sugar option). Note that there are no seconds on coffee and only seconds on water and milk once it is determined that there will be enough.
 - e. Busing and reseating tables. Note that a table may turn 2 or 3 times during the one hour dinner, so they will need to be cleaned and prepared for new patrons.
3. Jim or Milton will explain the order in which food and drink is served (table 1, 2, 3, etc)
4. At about 4:45, the patrons are let in the Kitchen and begin to take their seats.

At 5:00 pm Jim starts the meal with announcements and asks one of the volunteers to say a short prayer.

From 5:00 to 6:00 dinner and drinks are served. Sometime after 5:30, preliminary clean-up takes place in areas where the patrons are not still eating. This includes removing tables clothes, placemats and a table number signs from each table no longer in use, placing chairs upside down on the tables and sweeping the floor in that area.

At 6:00 pm the doors are locked and no other patrons are allowed in the Kitchen. We finish cleaning up GNCK (sweeping, mopping the floor, etc..).

Expect to leave GNCK between 6:15 and 6:30.

Note that some of these procedures are modified slightly by GNCK based upon number of volunteers and other conditions so volunteers should be flexible.