

Reviews from Great Nonprofits

I lived for years never knowing where my son was. He would call once in a while from a shelter just like this one. A safe place, a warm bed, a caring community. I can never give back enough to those special people who shared a bit of their life to make my son's life a little better. I was able to sleep for a night. Bring a smile to someone, listen to their story, make them feel cared for. Humanity at its best, this shelter is run so very well. I am proud to be a small part of it. Great people, great staff, and caring, concerned, community leaders!!!

-Ellie

Safe Harbor of West Chester provides a clean, well maintained facility with reasonable regulations for both homeless men and women. The staff are friendly, welcoming and helpful to the volunteers. I started volunteering there this year and I am impressed with every aspect of the facility. The original facility was open only to men; however, an addition was conceived and constructed to provide shelter for women as well. They have done a marvelous job and it is a privilege to help them meet the needs of the less fortunate in our area.

-Rosie

I have been a volunteer at Safe Harbor for 13 years, and it has been a fine experience for me to get familiar with people who have different life experiences than I do. I have seen Safe Harbor grow from a sparse 1- story building (formerly a car repair shop) to a thriving 2-story building for 20 men (lower floor) and 20 women (second floor). The Executive Director, staff members, and board members are dedicated, creative people who are in tune with the concepts of properly running a non-profit organization (NPO). I know because I have taken coursework regarding NPOs, and the Safe Harbor personnel have done a stellar, admirable job of keeping this NPO thriving. The residents of Safe Harbor have bettered themselves and have thrived with the help of the services at Safe Harbor. It has been a pleasure to see the residents get the help they need! This organization is truly worthwhile in our community!

-Angie P.

I have been volunteering with Safe Harbor for the last 2 years and I am continuously amazed by the generosity of the community in supporting this organization. The amount of donations is most helpful whether is be monetarily or clothing/food items. The residents have access to so many resources through Safe Harbor such as Building Bridges and drug/alcohol counseling just to name a few. They also have a lunch program that continues to grow to provide for those in need.

-Erin

I have been volunteering at Safe Harbor for about a year. I have been very impressed with the new women's facilities. I think the women's area creates an atmosphere that encourages fellowship and support from staff and fellow residents. It is also cheerful and has a quiet room. When I volunteered a couple weeks ago, I enjoyed visiting with and serving the women so much that it didn't feel at all like work! I am also impressed with the way the community contributes with donations, their time, and prepared meals. The coordinator of volunteers has always been very professional and organized in my experience with her. Overall, I am happy that those in need of temporary shelter can find a safe place to rest and rejuvenate as they seek more permanent housing.

-Creekwalker

I'm a retired executive from a large corporation. My wife and I have often supported charities with donations over the years, but since retiring have looked for those we can get personally involved with. For the last 7 years I have been helping serve community lunch several times per month to the 40 – 60 people who come in each day. In addition, my wife and I provide and serve dinner to the overnight residents several times per year. Safe Harbor is a well run, cost conscious operation. There are controls on supplies and other expense items to prevent waste. Careful records are kept of the number of people served in order to accurately report on the services delivered to funding organizations. Quality of the food is important, especially to make it taste good and look appealing. The number of people that take advantage of the services provided is a testament to both the quality of what they receive as well as the sad fact that so many are in need. In my experience, people treat others the way they are treated. It is obvious the residents and those who come for lunch are treated with respect and dignity, because they treat each other, the staff and volunteers the same way. This has been a learning experience in many ways. I have learned a lot about who is hungry and homeless in America today. I had one image, based upon media stories and politicians' descriptions slanted by the particular view they were promoting. What I found is that these extreme views fit few of the hungry and homeless. Many have jobs, but don't earn enough for a roof over their heads. Some have been injured in accidents, and have lost everything to medical bills. There are retirees whose Social Security doesn't cover their expenses any more. And there are those who made bad choices, and have paid heavily for it. The great majority is trying hard to improve their situation, and is thankful for the help they get from Safe Harbor. Everyone that succeeds is a testament to his or her personal strength and an inspiration to the rest. We give our time and money, but we receive so much in return. We interact with those we help, we get to know them. Their thanks and blessings are sincere and heartfelt, and humbling. We have developed a much greater appreciation for what we have. Safe Harbor benefits those it helps, and those that volunteer to help it.

-Bill Wallis