



Serving the hungry,
homeless and addicted
of coastal Fairfield
County since 1993

1088 Fairfield Avenue | Bridgeport, CT 06605 | 203 333 4087 | BridgeportRescueMission.org

Bridgeport Rescue Mission Volunteer Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Bridgeport Rescue Mission! We want to ensure your experience is rewarding. To help make your time with us the best it can be for you, our residents and guests, and BRM staff, we ask that you follow these guidelines.

General Information

Age Requirement: Volunteers must be 18 years of age. *Any exceptions to this restriction must be approved by the appropriate department director.*

Check-in: Volunteers serving at Main Campus enter and exit through the front entrance, sign in, and take a nametag. Please sign out before leaving and return your tag.

Mobiles and Smoking: Mobile phones are allowed, but please limit your calls while serving. Smoking is not permitted on Mission property or around the Mobile Kitchens.

Photos/Videos: Only BRM Development staff may take pictures or videos of guests and residents. When BRM posts to social media, volunteers are encouraged to share and like our posts.

Dress Code: Please dress comfortably and appropriately. Certain volunteer roles require special consideration to help you better perform your tasks.

Shoes: Food handlers and Donation Center volunteers must wear closed-toe shoes (no flip flops or opened-toe shoes).

Women: Please wear modest, loose-fitting tops (no crop-tops, halters, spaghetti straps, or tight-fitting shirts) and avoid wearing revealing shorts or skirts. Jeans, capris, and skirts below the knee are recommended.

All Volunteers: Please wear clothing without references to drugs, alcohol, sex, profanity, or violence.

Safety: Your safety is important to us. If you are injured while volunteering, please notify BRM staff and complete an "Injury and Accident Report" for insurance purposes. BRM does not tolerate violence on or around its premises; any incident (verbal/physical intimidation, threats, or contact) should be reported promptly to BRM staff.

Theft: Please leave valuable personal items at home or locked in your trunk; the Mission is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Report theft promptly to BRM staff.

Substance Abuse: The Mission is a substance-free environment. The possession, use, purchase, consumption, transfer, or sale of alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or illegal drugs at the Mission or while representing the Mission is prohibited. We reserve the right to take criminal, civil, or disciplinary action against offenders. Volunteering under the influence of alcohol or controlled/illegal drugs will result in dismissal from service.

Interaction with Residents and Guests

When interacting with BRM residents and community guests, please exercise wisdom and caution. Displays of affection and concern can easily be misinterpreted. Maintain your personal space and keep a comfortable distance, physically and emotionally. **We do not permit hugging, dating, flirting, or romantic relationships between residents/community guests and volunteers. Private conversations – including prayer – between opposite sexes must include a third party.**

Do not attempt to meet a resident's personal needs (e.g., loan money offer rides or babysitting, arrange to meet outside of the Mission, give material or financial gifts). Do not hold or maintain personal property for a resident or guest. Please refer requests of this nature to BRM staff. Program Staff address residents' needs and concerns. Any gifts you wish to give students must be approved by the Program Director prior to speaking with the student.

BRM staff is responsible for disciplining a resident or guest, if necessary. If you have a conflict with a resident or guest or need intervention, locate staff immediately. Our staff enforces the Mission's policies using their experienced judgment. If a resident or guest approaches you with a question about policy, please refer them to a staff member.

Your confidentiality and the confidentiality of our residents are of utmost importance. Do not share with residents your personal details (last name, phone number, email or home address). Please keep confidential all information you obtain about our residents during your volunteer service at the Mission, including their names and other personal information. Do not promise confidentiality or indicate that you will withhold information from staff on a resident's behalf, and inform staff of any such exchanges. **If something you hear or learn seems inappropriate or of concern, please inform our staff.**

Bridgeport Rescue Mission Contact

Please contact either of the following staff members with any questions regarding these guidelines:

Jack Bradley, Compassion Ministries Coordinator, at 203-333-4087 ext. 110 or
JBradley@BridgeportRescueMission.org

Patti Law, Community Relations Manager, at 203-333-4087 ext. 118 or
PLaw@BridgeportRescueMission.org

Thank you for partnering with us to serve our neighbors in need!