

## Volunteer: Here's what you can do to help...

Throwing a few extra things in your grocery cart or volunteering a few hours a month can be a big help to a homeless child or family.

Here are a few ideas to help area homeless:



- **YWCA** domestic violence shelter needs new towels and pillows. “When our shelter is full,” says Executive Director Kerri Parker, “we can house 33 people, and often they come with nothing.” During cold and flu season, facial tissues are always needed. Volunteers are also always needed for their Help Line.
- **Edgerton Community Outreach** needs items for people moving into the transitional living program – totes full of items needed to set up a home:
  - gently used or new pots, pans, dishes, cooking/baking utensils, oven mitts, new towels. Call them at 884-9593.
- **House of Mercy shelter** needs volunteers to help between eight and twelve hours per month – shifts from 8AM to noon, noon to 4PM, 4PM to 7PM and overnight volunteers to sleep over, 7PM to 7AM. Child care volunteers are needed for Wednesday night resident meetings, 5:15 to 6:30PM. Facial tissue and toilet paper donations are also needed. Ron Del Ciello, House of Mercy Director, said that last year 300 people were served, over half of whom were children under age 16. Call them at 754-0045.
- **School District of Janesville:**
  - **Mentor** a homeless Edison Middle School student. Call Gayle Hotchkiss for details,
  - **Tutor** a homeless elementary school child. Call Ann Forbeck for details, 743-6490
  - **Transportation** is a big need for homeless families. While a family is actively homeless, the school district must provide transportation; once they get housing, the family has to find their own transportation. Buy bus tokens, bus passes or gas cards for a homeless family. Call Ann Forbeck for details, 743-6490.
  - **Donate clothing:** Especially socks and underwear are needed for homeless students in the Janesville area. Call Ann Forbeck for details, 743-6490.
  - **Milk money:** Homeless students receive free school lunch, however milk money is not paid. Sponsoring a child's milk for the rest of this school year is a small investment of \$39.60. (It's \$59.80 for entire school year.) Call Ann Forbeck for details, 743-6490.