



Agape Community Center
MINISTRY HEALTH CARE

**AGAPE COMMUNITY
CENTER**

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Milwaukee, WI 53209

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AGAPE COMMUNITY CENTER

Volunteer Guide



**In the spirit of compassion and social justice,
Agape Community Center is committed to
building community within Northwest
Milwaukee neighborhoods so everyone can
thrive.**

Vibrant neighborhoods where people want to live

History

A Foundation of Service

The Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother (SSM) grew from the efforts of a small group of women in Germany in the late 1800s. Led by Amelia Streitel (Mother Frances), these strong, dedicated women banded together to express their devotion to God and commitment to the example of Christ through service to the poor. Limited resources and serving the poor soon drained the new community financially. Mother Frances sent two Sisters to the United States to seek much needed funds, but the Sisters soon found that the need in the United States (U.S.) was just as great. The Bishop of Wichita, Kansas asked the Sister to stay and run the area's hospital and orphanage. This was the beginning of the Sisters' work in the U.S. Across the country, they opened hospitals, schools, and homes for children and the aged. In the 1890s, the Sisters came to Wisconsin and opened a number of hospitals, forming the beginnings of the Sister's health care network in the region.

Humble Beginnings

Having found a permanent home in Wisconsin, the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother established a provincial office and Motherhouse on the north side of Milwaukee. During the mid-1980s, the Sisters' Social Concerns Committee identified the need for a neighborhood center in the vicinity of the Motherhouse due to increasing poverty in the area. The Committee was determined and joined with two area churches, Florist Avenue Lutheran Church and North Presbyterian Church, to bring the idea to fruition. Agape Community Center was dedicated on November 18, 1986 and the first family-style community meal was served that evening to 54 guests. From the very start, the Center flourished with an increasing number of children, families, and seniors taking part in the community meal. Soon, additional needs including adult literacy, after school care, and family support became apparent and again the Center responded by adding programming to address these needs.

Volunteer Rules

- * Possession of firearms, alcohol, or illegal drugs on the premise is prohibited.
- * Harassment or bullying of any kind is not tolerated and should be reported.
- * Smoking is prohibited anywhere on the property.
- * Always follow the Golden Rule—treat others as you would like to be treated.
- * Familiarize yourself with locations of emergency equipment such as first aid kits, fire extinguishers, exits and telephones.
- * Be honest.
- * Dress appropriately for your work area.
- * All information regarding participants or Agape staff is to remain confidential.
- * Ask questions if you need help.
- * Swearing, horseplay and fighting are not tolerated.
- * Injuries should immediately be reported to your supervisor.
- * Unsafe conditions or acts should be reported to your supervisor.
- * Call 911 in any life threatening emergency.

Volunteer Requirements/Expectations

- ◇ Some volunteer opportunities may require a background check or training prior to start. Your supervisor will inform you if these are required for the volunteer position you are interested in.
- ◇ Your safety and the safety of our participants and associates is important to us. We will properly inform you of your volunteer duties and to provide task specific training to keep you and others safe.
- ◇ Keep in mind that if Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) are closed due to weather, Agape Community Center will also be closed. Please watch or listen to WISN-12, FOX 6, or TMJ 4 for closing.
- ◇ Sign in and out at the reception desk and again in your respective work area. Notify your supervisor of your arrival and departure.
- ◇ Notify your supervisor immediately if unable to attend at your assigned time.
- ◇ Demonstrate a desire and willingness to assist where you are needed.
- ◇ Be kind and patient.
- ◇ Support the mission and values of the organization.

Agape Community Center

As Agape Community Center's programs grew, space within the partner churches' facilities became very tight, so the Center began looking for a larger site. Not finding an existing building in the area that was suitable, land in the middle of the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee's Berryland Development was acquired for construction of a new building. The groundbreaking ceremony was held November 1999 and the new 18,000 square foot facility was dedicated in September 2000. Today, Agape Community Center is a dynamic place with over 1,500 youth, families, and seniors participating annually in a wide range of programs and activities including youth programs, intergenerational activities, food programs, family support services, literacy and job skills education, and neighborhood revitalization.

Our Name

Agape, the name of our community center could not be more appropriate. Reflective of our core values of Service, Justice, Presence, and Vision, the term agape was used by early Christians to refer to the special love for God and God's love for humanity, as well as the self-sacrificing love they believed all should have for each other. Additionally, in its plural form, agape is used Biblically to describe a meal eaten by early Christians (Jude 1:12 and 2 Peter 2:13). It is believed to either be related to the Eucharist, or another term used for the Eucharist. Still guided by the original vision and values of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, the Agape Community Center will continue to serve this neighborhood and community by fulfilling our values and mission on a daily basis.

Our Values



Service of the Poor—Generosity of spirit, especially for persons most in need

Reverence—Respect and compassion for the dignity and diversity of life

Integrity—Inspiring trust through personal leadership

Wisdom—Integrating excellence and stewardship

Creativity—Courageous innovation

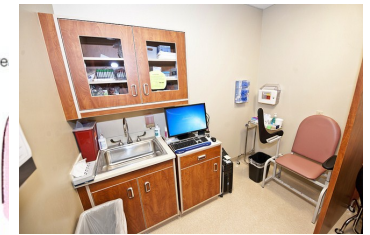
Dedication—Affirming the hope and joy of our ministry

Our Program Areas

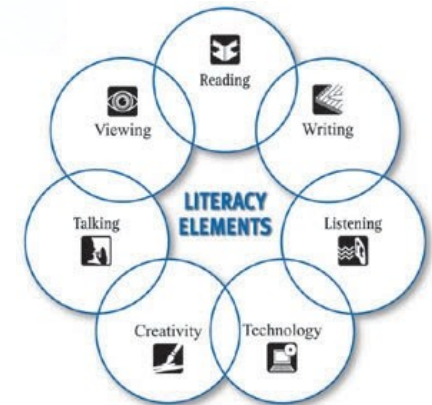
FOOD



HEALTH



EDUCATION



NEIGHBORHOOD

