

Rahab's Sisters

Sts. Peter & Paul Episcopal Church ♦ 8147 SE Pine ♦ Portland, Oregon 97215

Thank you so much for your interest in Rahab's Sisters!

Rahab's Sisters is a ministry of presence and hospitality to women working in the sex industry on 82nd Avenue and other areas of Portland's east side where prostitution is common. We invite working women to take a break in a safe place where they can have a meal or a hot drink, and where they find non-judgmental conversation, support, and prayer if they request it. We provide clean underwear, condoms, and other health and hygiene products. We bring our ministry to the streets by walking in pairs along 82nd avenue, or by parking a vehicle in a busy parking lot and giving out information about who we are and what we have to offer.

We are named after Rahab the Harlot who in the book of Joshua gave “friendly welcome” to those who would otherwise be on the streets and in danger. We are a growing group of women—clergy and lay, Episcopal, Mennonite, and non-affiliated—who are committed to following Jesus by providing hospitality and friendship to women who are among the poorest and most marginalized in our city.

Like Rahab, we operate at the edge of the city. In our name we claim solidarity, not only with one another in providing this ministry, but also with all those on the street who bear the label “prostitute.” Our hope is that the light in our window will bring light into the lives of the women we serve.

In this ministry we hope to make as many supportive connections as we can with women who live violent, painful lives, women whose only relief from pain is the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol. We hear shocking stories and strive to respond in a manner that lets these women know they are welcome just as they are. We welcome volunteers who are able to listen without judgment, who are comfortable dealing with extremely marginalized, vulnerable people, and who don't have a need to “fix.”

With this letter you will find our volunteer application. Please complete it and mail it to Rahab's Sisters at the address above. Volunteers are screened via this application, references, and an interview with a member of the Rahab's Sisters leadership team. (The interview may on occasion be conducted over the telephone.) Volunteers are then invited to a training session.

We have found this ministry rewarding to us and meaningful to those we serve. We are on an exciting and important journey, and we hope you will be able to join us.

God's peace,

The Rahab's Sisters Leadership Team

A collaborative ministry of the Columba Center of Saints Peter & Paul Episcopal Church, and the parishes of St. Michael & All Angels and Grace Memorial

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

1. Name _____ Age _____
2. Address _____
3. Phone (home) _____; (work) _____; (cell) _____
4. Email address _____
5. Affiliation (church/synagogue/mosque/other) _____

6. Previous volunteer experience _____

7. References (must be over age 18, not family member, person has known you for at least 2 years):
 - a) name _____
address _____
phone _____
 - b) name _____
address _____
phone _____
 - c) name _____
address _____
phone _____
8. Previous employment experience _____

9. Please briefly state why you are interested in volunteering for this ministry.

10. We currently operate on the 1st, and 3rd Friday of each month, and the 5th Friday when applicable. We are there from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. Please let us know which Friday(s) you can commit to.

- First Friday Third Friday
 Fifth Friday (December 2004, and April, July, September, and December 2005)

11. Volunteer Orientation sessions are scheduled for all volunteers before participating in the ministry. You will be contacted to come on one of the Friday evenings before we begin serving the women.

12. Earliest date that you would be able to attend an Orientation session:

Because of the sensitive nature of the clientele, it is expected that all volunteers maintain confidentiality of the identity of those who use the services of this ministry. Therefore, it is important that you do not talk about specific persons, use their names or other identifiers with family, friends, religious members, and will not speak in public about specific recipients of this ministry.

Please sign your name indicating that you will honor the confidentiality agreement.

Signature

Date