

Great River Region Disciples Women Service Projects 2018

Global Project: Anti-Human Trafficking Program of the Diocese of Durgapur	Regional Project: Feeding America	
Arkansas: Emergency Duffle Bags for Foster Kids	Mississippi: Southern Christian Services for Children & Youth	Louisiana: <i>Room in the Inn, Lake Charles</i>

GRR DW Louisiana Service Project – Room at the Inn, Lake Charles



WHAT WE DO – The Room In The Inn - Lake Charles is a 501(c)3 nonprofit public charity that partners with local churches and organizations to help feed and shelter those experiencing homelessness in our community. Founded in 2016, we are modeled after the extremely successful Room In The Inn volunteer-driven sheltering program that is celebrating over 30 years of operation in Nashville, TN.

HOLY HOSPITALITY - HOW IT WORKS - Room in the Inn-Lake Charles recruits local communities of faith to open their doors to unsheltered neighbors during the coldest months of the year. The Room in the Inn staff selects & screens guests and hands out vouchers

for overnight stays at area churches. One night a week, a congregation sends a van to downtown Lake Charles to pick up 12-15 guests (who have been oriented to the program), take them back to their location, share an evening meal together and stay with them overnight. In the morning, the host church provides a quick breakfast and a snack bag, and then returns their guests to the same downtown location. During this experience, the guests and volunteers get to know a little about each other.

The Room in the Inn IS:

- a way for more people in every sector to understand the problems of the homeless by becoming directly involved with people who are experiencing homelessness.
- a means through which congregations open their facilities to welcome 12-15 homeless people as guests
- about changing people. It creates an environment and an opportunity for the guests to learn that there are people who care and for the hosts to come to understand that the faceless figure on the street corner is more than a statistic.
- about serving without prejudice or pride. It is about accepting everyone.
- about people of religion putting the tenets of their faith into practice.
- not about giving; it is about receiving. It is about everyone, both guests & hosts, receiving a blessing—an encounter with God in the midst of suffering, hardship, pain & grief.
- an opportunity, not an answer. It is an experience, not a solution.

In short, Room in the Inn is an opportunity to experience the presence of God in a different way.
<https://www.ritolakecharles.org/>