

Job Description: Outreach Center Overnight Shelter Resident Assistant (RA)

Supervisor: Jocelyn Brisson, Shelter Manager

Essential Skills: Clear communication, situational awareness, dependability, & flexibility

Shift Schedule: One night per month, 7pm to 7am

Volunteer Support:

The RA comes to the shelter any time between 7 and 8 pm. Arriving after residents have checked in and been given the chance to eat dinner, the RA assists the evening staff with oversight of activities in the lower shelter. In addition, the RA locks the shelter at the arranged time, sets the alarm, and is present overnight in case any unforeseen issues arise. The RA is able to sleep in a private room, and then, at 5 am, oversees residents as they begin their day while also receiving new guests from outside. The RA remains on site as the volunteer breakfast crew arrives (any time from 5:00-6:00 am), and as the morning staff person arrives (during the 6 o'clock hour).

Purpose of Role:

Watered Gardens strives to make the RA experience a positive one, because the RA is an essential relational role in the ministry's overall effort to make a long-term impact on those served. In addition to a private room and the option of eating dinner and breakfast, RAs are connected with each other. Several men and a few couples who currently serve make for great resources to new RAs who are able to shadow them while "learning the ropes." RAs are also connected via the GroupMe app, allowing group collaboration with the shelter manager to communicate, encourage, answer questions, and fill occasional vacancies.

Volunteer Testimony:

"I was having some major health problems and was having trouble with depression. I prayed and felt God basically say, 'Get up, I have work for you to do.' I thought of Watered Gardens and came down to see what was needed. I started serving as an overnight RA, and it has changed my life. I have been building relationships with the residents and feel like God is using me to bless them. My health has improved some, but God has shown me he is strong in my weakness. I feel like this job saved my life."

If you are interested in volunteering as a Resident Assistant, contact:

Alicia Archer, Volunteer Coordinator

Watered Gardens Ministries

531 Kentucky Ave | Joplin, MO 64801

alicia@wateredgardens.org

417-623-6030 ext.131

"We exist to serve the church in its mission to help the homeless and poor"