



THE GRACE PERIOD

Business and Organization Sponsorship Guide

The Grace Period is a complete, faith-based program that includes providing long-term transitional housing to displaced residents of St. Charles County. The Grace Period serves both families and single adults. The state of our economy and lack of affordable housing in St. Charles County is causing a rapid rise in the rate of homelessness. When a member of the St. Charles County community needs services beyond existing programs, The Grace Period can provide assistance.

The Grace Period supports families and/or individuals by assisting them in moving toward self-sufficiency. We provide up to four 90-day periods in which residents can live in a home that is initially rent-free, provided with utilities and furnished. Residents are also required to take an active role in a comprehensive program that equips them to become independent and sustain their independence. As residents progress through the program, they begin to assume some of the cost and responsibility of living in the home.

Why our community?

The population of displaced single St. Charles County residents between the ages of 18 and 24 has increased 57% over six years. The population of displaced married adults between the ages 18-24 has increased 87% over six years. Of those who are displaced in St. Charles County, 38% are children. These individuals represent all ages, races, religions and genders. Homelessness does not discriminate.

The Grace Period's Mission We aim to move adults and families who cannot currently afford stable housing into self-sufficiency by providing transitional housing, a comprehensive, faith based program that focuses on personal growth and life management skills, and assistance with education and career goals set by the residents.

The Grace Period Housing Sponsorship

One important factor in making The Grace Period successful is a 90-day sponsorship of a family by a business, church or other organization. Participation in sponsorship involves both a financial commitment to the resident(s) and a hands-on opportunity to serve. Many groups find it rewarding to put their faith into action and be the hands and feet of Christ to hurting families in St. Charles County.

Below are details regarding what a sponsorship entails.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Your sponsorship commitment might include:

- Support The Grace Period with prayer.
- Provide \$5,000 in financial support to a family.
- Attend the annual dinner and auction, fill two tables with attendees, and donate baskets and/or other items for auction.* (See page 5 for additional information.)
- Take time to get to know the family you are sponsoring. Suggestions include praying with them, inviting them to your church of choice, and/or inviting them on an outing. Please keep in mind that our families are on a strict weekly budget they must manage wisely. If you choose an outing, help them maintain their dignity by avoiding a difficult financial situation. You may contact The Grace Period for information about the family you are investing in. We ask that you do not share their information. Maintaining confidentiality and respecting their privacy is required.
- If a family is feeling discouraged or overwhelmed about any part of the program, please show compassion while also maintaining the high expectations of The Grace Period.
- If any needs arise for the family, they will be communicated to you by a representative of The Grace Period to see if you or any of your contacts are able to meet these needs. **We ask that you please contact The Grace Period prior to taking any action to ensure the**

protocol is being followed. It is imperative that we teach self-sufficiency and accountability while supporting our residents.

- Attend graduation events for the individual or family when the adult development program is complete. Provide a cake or small graduation gift to your graduate. You could even host a party!
- Provide a one-week supply of food and essentials just prior to moving into the home. (See page 6 for details.)
- Provide new apartment inventory just prior to the new resident(s) moving in. (See pages 7 and 8 for details.)
- Provide a “welcome” meal to your family when they move into the home. A homemade meal is encouraged, but we understand the need you may have to purchase.
- Feel free to leave the family a note welcoming them to the program and letting them know you are praying for them.

*This is a requirement of all sponsors.

How your \$5,000 sponsorship fee is used:

- Rent, utilities and additional furniture for your family
- Salary for the family’s or individual's case manager
- Budget counseling
- Materials needed for the comprehensive twelve-week courses
- Childcare, professional counseling, emergency auto repair, and tax preparation fees if needed
- Work related expenses including clothing, application fees, work-related equipment, etc.
- GED training and tuition for educational programs
- Tutoring, mentoring, summer camps, and community programs for children to supplement their education

The Grace Period will contact you with the date and time your sponsored family and/or individual is scheduled to move in at least two weeks in advance to provide you with the

appropriate amount of time to prepare for their arrival. This might include providing the first week of groceries, new apartment inventory and a welcome meal. Please keep in mind that there are situations beyond our control and a two-week notice isn't possible.

Feel free to recruit others with a heart for serving to help you with your sponsorship. This could allow you to meet all of the commitments suggested above! If you choose to do this, you will be the point-person who communicates with the director of The Grace Period. You can then recruit others to help with any of the suggested commitments listed on pages two and three.

Sponsor responsibility for the annual dinner and auction:

- Each sponsor will make gift baskets to be auctioned. We ask smaller sponsors/churches to provide at least two gift baskets and fill two tables with attendees while larger sponsors/churches provide at least four gift baskets and fill four to five tables with attendees.
- Provide services, gift certificates, travel vouchers, original artwork, and tickets to live events to be auctioned.

The annual dinner includes a steak or chicken meal with sides and dessert, silent and live auctions, and music and entertainment. The evening includes an inspirational testimony from one of our participating or graduating families.

Food Suggestions

(Please call TGP for information about potential food allergies prior to purchasing food items.)

peanut butter and jelly

hamburger meat

pancake mix and syrup

mac & cheese

hotdogs

cream of wheat

oil

chicken nuggets

sausage

canned soup

tuna

bacon

sloppy joe mix

frozen pizzas

pasta and pasta sauce

salt & pepper

ice cream

canned chili

potatoes

canned fruit and veggies*

butter

rice

milk

eggs

crackers

orange juice

sliced bread

sugar

oatmeal

hot dog buns

flour

cereal

lunch meat

cheese

*can be fresh

baked beans

Essentials Suggestions:

shampoo

conditioner

body wash/soap

Q-tips

toothpaste

toothbrush

mouthwash

toilet paper

paper towels

Food and essentials suggestions for families with children:

diapers

wipes

diaper cream

school supplies

after school snacks

Fruit snacks

juice/juice boxes

yogurt/Gogurt

pudding packs

Housing inventory suggestions:

Kitchen Items

crook pot

toaster

coffee maker

blender

mixing bowls

silverware

silverware tray

storage containers w/lids

plates

bowls

glasses

mugs

can opener

measuring cups & spoons

colander

cutting board

knife block w/knives

plastic cups

pitcher

spatulas

serving spoons

tongs

pot holder

hand held mixer

dish towels

sponge/dish cloths

skillet

pots & pans (variety)

cake pan

muffin tin

cookie sheets

casserole dish 9x13

serving platters

Bath Items

bath towels

bath mat

wash cloths

hand towels

toothbrush holder

shower caddy

Cleaning Supplies

mop

bucket

broom

dust pan

vacuum

shower caddy

plunger

glass cleaner

vacuum

multi surface cleaner

rags & Magic Eraser

tile & bath cleaner

kitchen trash can

bathroom trash can

Furniture

(Please call TGP regarding which items are still needed.)

kitchen table and chairs

highchair

end tables

coffee table

sofa

loveseat

side chair

night stand

queen bed frame & mattress

full bed frame & mattress

twin bed frame & mattress

crib

Miscellaneous

bed sheets

pillow cases

comforters/blankets

pillows

mattress cover (waterproof)

laundry basket

TV

DVD player

alarm clock (if needed)

Please consider items such as a pack 'n play, changing table, carseat, stroller, toys, books, etc. if your family has babies or children.