

Happy New Year, dear friends!

Over the past year, the Pay-It-Forward House\*s mission to serve families in need of a place to call home during a medical emergency has been fulfilled beyond our expectations, with above average occupancy. We look forward to 2009 with great optimism and gratitude to be able to serve so many guests during these challenging times. What a blessing to our community to be able to help our guests feel welcome!

Thank you everyone who has been so generous and supported our "Adopt-A-Day" fundraising campaign! The calendar is filling up fast, however there are still some days available for \*adoption\*. Just mail your \$100 contributions and the date you want to adopt to:  
The Pay-It-Forward House, 719 Somonauk St.,  
Sycamore, IL 60178.

Looking forward to the new year, we still need your help in many ways. We are looking for additional volunteers in the following areas:

- 1) Friendly Faces, at the House. Shifts are 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 pm Monday through Thursday. We can be flexible with the beginning of each shift if the start time is problematic for you.
- 2) A person to take over our bookkeeping. Previous accounting/bookkeeping experience is necessary.
- 3) A person to do data entry of our in-kind donations once a month. Knowledge of Excel and access to a computer is required. This job can be done via mail and/or email if you are not in Sycamore on a regular basis.
- 4) People to help with outdoor spring cleanup and indoor spring cleaning in March and April.
- 5) Gardeners to get the House ready for the DeKalb County Garden Walk in July. (Yes, our Garden/Beautification Committee has done such a fabulous job in the past 3.5 years that we have been asked to show off the results of their efforts in 2009!!! This is wonderful news, thank you all for the marvelous Serenity Garden out back!

If you have any interest in these opportunities, please contact Mary Lou at 815-762-4882 or [marylouebanks@cs.com](mailto:marylouebanks@cs.com)

Mark your calendars for our \*Caring and Sharing\* party on the afternoon of Sunday, February 1st (exact time and details will follow). This will be a time for us to show how much we value and care for you, our volunteers and supporters, and for you to \*share\* your joys of volunteering with one another and your friends. Invite them to come and learn more about the Pay-It-Forward House.

Looking forward with hope and happiness in 2009!

Joyce Mathey

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