



Rainbow Village, Inc.

*Breaking the cycles of homelessness,  
poverty and domestic violence*

# VOLUNTEER HANDBOOK

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The mission of Rainbow Village is to provide families in domestic or economic crisis a healing environment to rebuild their lives through a community based transitional housing program that promotes self-sufficiency.



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## What is Rainbow Village?

- 🏠 The mission of Rainbow Village is to provide families in domestic or economic crisis a healing environment to rebuild their lives through a community based transitional housing program that promotes self-sufficiency.
- 🏠 Rainbow Village serves families with children in north metro Atlanta that are homeless due to family break-ups, domestic violence, evictions, loss of income and/or medical problems, among others.
- 🏠 Rainbow Village began as the “Rainbow House” ministry at Christ Episcopal Church in 1991 and grew into a nonprofit corporation in 1995 and has served over 200 families.
- 🏠 Rainbow Village homes are located in the cities of Norcross & Duluth.

***Families enter into a covenant relationship with Rainbow Village based on initiative and accountability.***

## What are the responsibilities of Rainbow Village families?

- 🏠 Families residing at Rainbow Village follow a self-sufficiency plan and are expected to reach realistic goals within one year.
- 🏠 All adults must be employed and have transportation.
- 🏠 Families are held accountable for maintaining a savings account and paying a rental fee.













# Character Building

The children and youth character building program on Thursday nights recognizes that positive development practices are highly effective for our children and youth. The classes and play activities are vital to motivate them to achieve success not only in school but also in their personal lives. The programs consist of building self-esteem, personal safety, physical fitness, technologic and sound economic advise from the experts in our community.



## Life Skills Classes

Rainbow Village provides Life Skills Classes for adults. The program director coordinates the mandatory classes for the weekly life skills training. Classes include:

-  Financial Management
-  Credit repair
-  Home / rural loans
-  First Time Home Buyers Program
-  Parenting
-  Nutrition
-  Time management
-  Healthy lifestyles
-  Grief
-  Stress
-  HIV/AIDS
-  Personal coaching...among others

All classes are mandatory and meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

# Programs at Rainbow Village

## After School Program



An after school program provides academic and emotional support for twenty or more children. This program is mandatory for residents and open to graduates of Rainbow Village. We believe children will break the cycle of homelessness. A holistic approach is taken to support each family.

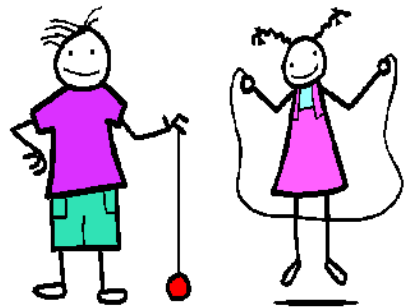
The children function as a large family supporting and helping each other.

## Big Recess Program

An evening program for the children of Rainbow Village is held weekly at Christ Episcopal Church. This is a fun time for the children while their parent(s) are attending life skills classes. Meals provided by volunteers are enjoyed by all.

Volunteers provide supper for the children and offer a variety of games and activities. This is an evening of fun and games and the chance for kids to just be kids and have a good time.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring their own children to share in a great evening of fellowship and fun for all.



- 🏠 Monthly financial reports/budgets are required.
- 🏠 All families are responsible for the upkeep of their homes.
- 🏠 All school age children attend the Rainbow Village after school program.
- 🏠 Adults must attend life skills classes and support programs.

## What does Rainbow Village offer families?

- 🏠 Fully furnished homes in safe communities
- 🏠 Supportive Services
- 🏠 An opportunity to become self-sufficient and return to the mainstream.
- 🏠 Hope for a promising future breaking the cycles of homelessness, poverty and domestic violence.

## Why do Rainbow Village families succeed?

- 🏠 The success of Rainbow Village families is based on **initiative and accountability** required by the program.
- 🏠 Families live, **not in isolation**, but in a **caring and supportive community**.
- 🏠 A dedicated staff and the community **offer support** to assist families in making a successful transition.
- 🏠 **Financial management** and accountability enable families to **save** in order to **acquire homes of their own, reduce their debt, improve their credit rating**, and continue to maintain a **savings account**.
- 🏠 A case manager assists families in obtaining realistic goals.
- 🏠 Life skills classes equip families with “tools” for becoming and remaining self-sufficient.
- 🏠 The after school program assists children in excelling academically, socially and emotionally.

- 🏠 All families are **encouraged** to continue participation in the Rainbow Village programs **to ensure family stability** after they move into homes of their own. “Graduate” families become mentors for others in the program.
- 🏠 Rainbow Village becomes **an anchor for families** and offers **ongoing support** enabling them to become and remain **self sufficient**.

## How is Rainbow Village funded?

- 🏠 Individuals (like YOU!) Thank you for your support!
- 🏠 Churches
- 🏠 Corporations
- 🏠 Foundations
- 🏠 Federal, State and County funds

## How can you make a difference?

### **Rainbow Village is dependent on volunteer support to**

- 🏠 Assist with the after school program and Children’s Programs.
- 🏠 Provide meals for evening classes.
- 🏠 Offer assistance with the maintenance of homes and grounds.
- 🏠 Offer in-kind donations of home furnishings, working autos, supplies and more.

**Rainbow Village is dependent on community support. Please consider a tax deductible donation by visiting our website at [www.rainbowvillage.org](http://www.rainbowvillage.org) or, sending your check to:**

Rainbow Village, Inc.  
3160 Main Street, Suite 100  
Duluth, GA 30096

# Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways in which volunteers can offer their time and talent. Rainbow Village is dependent upon community support for financial and in-kind assistance. Volunteers from churches, corporations, service organizations, community groups, and schools are crucial to the success of Rainbow Village.









You can make a difference by assisting with:

-  **Home and Grounds Maintenance**
-  **Children's Evening programs**
-  **After School Program**
-  **Office Assistance**
-  **Special Events**
-  **Fundraising**
-  **Grant Writing**
-  **Auto Repairs/Donations**
-  **Clerical**
-  **Meals for evening classes twice weekly**
-  **Holiday Sponsor**
-  **Life skills training**

# Policies

**Rainbow Village is dependent upon volunteers to support its program. We are grateful for the service of others.**

**Please note the following policies relating to working with our children.**

-  Rainbow Village offers safe and secure environments for children and all family members at all times.
-  Please consider making an ongoing commitment of volunteer service to our children. The ongoing support of caring people is so important to the development and well being of our children. They need to know that others are willing to devote precious time to them.
-  Please respect the families at all times by not divulging personal information that may be shared with you during your volunteer time at Rainbow Village. A confidentiality agreement will be expected of all volunteers working with children at Rainbow Village in order to insure the safety of our children at all times.
-  All volunteers will be supervised by Rainbow Village staff and will not be allowed to spend time with children privately or outside a Rainbow Village facility.
-  Group activities involving children leaving the Rainbow Village facilities will be chaperoned by an adult resident or staff member and only with written consent from the parent.
-  All volunteers working with children on an ongoing basis will be expected to comply with a request for a criminal history background check.









**Rainbow Village is appreciative of your support in offering families a promising future.**

# Rainbow Village Staff

Nancy Yancey	CEO
John Dawson	Operations Manager
Vally Sharpe	Director of Marketing & PR
Mike Corkum	Accountant
Mary Jane LaBonte	Senior Case Manager
Lynnette Ward	Adult Program Director
Sondra Blue	Children and Youth Program Director
Johnny Jones	Maintenance Supervisor
Amy Anderson	Administrative Assistant

# Volunteer Bill of Rights

Every volunteer has the right to:

-  *be treated as a co-worker.*
-  *a suitable assignment, with consideration for personal preference, temperament, experience, education and employment background.*
-  *know as much about the program as possible, its policies, its people, and its programs.*
-  *training for a job, thoughtfully planned and effectively presented.*
-  *continuing education on the job, and training for greater responsibility.*
-  *a variety of experiences through advancement of assignments, transfer or special assignments.*
-  *be heard, feel free to make suggestions.*
-  *recognition in the form of awards and expressions of appreciation.*

***Thank you for your service to Rainbow Village!***