



VIC-HOP and Rising Hope

Hypothermia Prevention Program Volunteer Information Virtual Meeting Recap – October 7, 2025

About the Program:

VIC-HOP is a collaborative effort to minimize the risk of crises and death for individuals experiencing homelessness as a result of cold temperatures. Rising Hope's has operated as VIC-HOP's **centralized location** for guests experiencing homelessness in Region 1 during the **Hypothermia Prevention Season (November 15 – April 1)**. For nearly 20 years, Rising Hope has provided warmth, safety, and dignity to those in need during the coldest months, through this partnership.

Volunteer Opportunities

Rising Hope is, once again, inviting **faith communities, local organization, and community members** to join this year's Hypothermia Prevention Program. Volunteers play a vital role in creating a **welcoming, respectful, and hope-filled environment** for guests.

Volunteer Focus:

- The top priority is **guest interaction** — being present, compassionate, and supportive.
- Volunteers are encouraged to **be creative** — plan activities, offer fellowship, or spend time having conversations with guests.

Volunteer Shifts (Flexible Options)

We have flexible hours for volunteers, including early morning shifts for those that are early risers or have time to volunteer before work.

- **Evening Shift:** 6:00PM–9:00 PM (Dinner service & clean-up)
 - Ideally: Stay until **10–11 PM** if able.
- **Morning Shift:** 5:30AM–7:30 AM (Breakfast support)



- **Overnight shifts** are also available; volunteers typically have rest accommodations.

Volunteers are especially needed **during hours guests are awake** to build community and connection.

Seasonal Employment

Rising Hope also has **paid seasonal positions** available.

If you're **retired, seeking temporary work, or want extra income**, inquire about joining our Hypothermia staff team.

How to Get Involved

If you or your church would like to volunteer or learn more:

Contact: Lori Smith, Community Engagement Coordinator

✉ lsmith@risinghopeumc.org

Lori will follow up with **training dates and next steps**.

Frequently Asked Questions

When is Hypothermia Season?

→ November 15 – April 1

Are overnight volunteers awake all night?

→ No. Volunteers typically have sleeping accommodations during overnight shifts.

What about meals and nutrition?

→ Rising Hope emphasizes **nutritious, balanced meals** and coordinates with our Food & Nutrition Manager.

Is there an age requirement?

→ Volunteers must be **18 or older**.

→ **Youth groups** can participate by preparing **breakfast bags** for morning volunteers to distribute.