



Eliot Day Center

A program of Eliot Presbyterian Church
273 Summer St., Lowell, Massachusetts

A Welcoming Community

of safety and support for unhoused neighbors and others in need

Open Weekdays, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Eliot Day Center is a hub where our unhoused neighbors can access spiritual care, person-centered support, and tangible resources for obtaining and maintaining safe and stable housing

A Day in the Center

Day Center staff arrive at 7:00 a.m. and begin to set up for the day. At 8:00 the doors open, and people come in, heading for the kitchen window, where coffee and breakfast are ready to be served.

Our guests take their coffee and food to the tables in Olney Hall; they eat and socialize, use the bathroom, charge their phones, and use the wifi.

Throughout the day, the staff tidy up the property and clean and sanitize spaces that are in use.

The closets on the stage are stocked with clothing and personal hygiene items; Day Center staff give these to anyone who asks, while supplies last.

Our Director of Social Services meets with any of our guests who desire to take steps toward becoming housed. This includes assistance with applications for low-income or supported housing, obtaining birth certificates and IDs to pave the way toward employment and housing, referrals to detox programs, and obtaining SNAP benefits.

On Wednesdays, the Day Center holds a worship service in the area outside the kitchen. Ruy and Heather lead, and communion is served.

Through the week there are other activities offered, including 12-step groups, a nurse and harm reduction specialist visit, bingo, birthday and holiday celebrations, and poetry sessions.

At 2:30 p.m. staff from St. Paul's Kitchen begin to arrive; Day Center staff clean up the hall and kitchen, close their offices, and leave for the day, while our guests may stay until supper has been served.

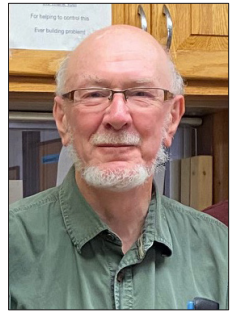


Eliot Day Center staff, left to right: Barbara, Heather, and Charly — photo by Lori

Facts about the Program

- In operation since May 2020
- Open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
- Averaging 73 guests per day as of May 2023
- Using the kitchen, Olney Hall, the Library, and offices on the first floor of Eliot Church
- Entrance through the side door on Favor Street (handicapped entry at the front door — ring the bell)
- Seven staff on Eliot's payroll (one full time and six part time)
- One staff on Bridgewell's payroll
- Seven volunteers who help out regularly
- 242 people in case management at the end of 2022
- Giving out clothing and healthcare products to about 50 guests each week
- \$240,000 annual budget

Thank you to our donors, including Greater Lowell Community Foundation, Greater Lowell Health Alliance, the City of Lowell, and Lowell Community Health Center



Day Center staff, left to right: Donnie, Garrett, Sau, and Ruy — photos by Lori

Staff Positions

- Director of Operations — full-time, oversees the program, orders supplies, takes care of the physical space, deals with anything that breaks
- Director of Social Services — 30 hours per week, manages the client case load, works one-to-one to assist each person toward their goals
- Assistant Manager — 20 hours per week, interacts with guests (encouraging everyone to be the best they can be), reaches out to people outdoors who may want to come in, supervises volunteers
- Caretaker — 20 hours per week, helps care for the property, serves food and beverages, assists with any tasks that may come up through the day
- Kitchen Assistant — 12 hours per week, prepares food for our guests and serves them with a smile
- Pastor / Director — 8 hours per week, oversees the program and staff, seeks funding sources, consults with Session, city officials, and other organizations
- Chaplain — 4 hours per week, is available for prayer and conversation about faith, leads worship services

Ways You Can Help

Prayer

- For the wellbeing of the staff and our guests
- For funding
- For the health and life of Eliot Church
- And pray *with* us at Wednesday worship, 10:30 a.m.

Funding (visit tinyurl.com/GiveEliot)

- Make a gift designated “Day Center Fund”
- Arrange for a matching gift from your employer

Supplies (for details, email DayCenter@eliotlowell.org)

- Clothing and hygiene items
- Paper goods and cleansers
- Homemade soup or baked goods
- A supply drive in your community

Time (to volunteer, email DayCenter@eliotlowell.org)

- Drive to pick up donations, e.g. from Panera
- Inventory supplies
- Come at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays and help tidy up
- Help with deep cleaning, indoors and out

Talent (to volunteer, email Pastor@eliotlowell.org)

- Help with administrative tasks
- Research grant opportunities
- Write or proofread grant applications
- Provide staff training
- Offer educational programs for clients