

# Helping Hands for Forgotten Feet (HHFF) Program Guide

## **Cause for Action:**

- In 2015, 350 people slept in emergency shelters on an average night
- 51% of individuals entering shelter have a disability of some kind
- Eighty six percent of all people who sought shelter left in less than 30 days
- Among the most common health concerns for the homeless population:
  - > 80% have at least 1 chronic condition
  - > 50% have mental health condition
  - 40-60% with substance abuse
  - 30-60% with HTN

## **Where is the program?**

The program is held at the Kiesewetter Shelter located on the campus of the [Syracuse Rescue Mission](#) at 122 Dickerson St. Syracuse, NY 13202. The Rescue Mission (RM) provides meals, housing, employment and education resources, and outreach to people that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

## **What does the HHFF Program do?**

The program is located within the emergency shelter for homeless individuals, and provides the residents with health screening, especially as it relates to the health of their feet, health education, and referrals, under the supervision of attending physicians.

## **Who does the HHFF Program serve?**

The program serves any resident (males and females) of the Kiesewetter Shelter requesting to be screened. Residents sign up while Upstate students are on site at the shelter.

## **How does the program provide for this population?**

The program is able to provide residents of the RM with regular foot care, health education and referrals to primary or specialty care.

## **What would I do as a student?**

The primary role of the student will be to provide patient navigation under the supervision of two attending physicians. Patient navigation may include aiding in patient intake, history taking and assessment, providing health education, and referrals for patients to primary care providers for further treatment and/or follow-up. Students may also help manage patient flow during open clinic hours.

## **How often would I serve?**

The Foot Clinic opens to residents of the RM once a month for 2 hours, however, students must arrive early (around 5:30 pm) and leave late (around 9 pm) to set up the space and put away supplies. Carpooling is strongly recommended.

## **What are the community impacts?**

The Foot Clinic aims to educate Rescue Mission residents about foot care, provide temporary relief for basic foot ailments, and empower patients to seek appropriate, ongoing care from a primary care physician.