



Stewardship Reflection

The McGrew Family

Volunteerism has always been important to us and we have been fortunate throughout the years to have assisted our communities in a variety of ways. We wanted to pass that sense of service on to our children and St. James has certainly helped us encourage that responsibility. From the time they entered St James School, our stewardship efforts were focused there. Our family has served at SJS in a variety of ways including altar serving, room parent, the spirit store, library, Black & White Knight, and Field Day and we have appreciated the opportunity to help a cause that was so near and dear to us.

A few years ago, we needed something different. With our oldest in high school, we wanted something that allowed us to work together. After encouragement from friends, we decided as a family to serve at Room in the Inn and volunteered to help set up and socialize with the guests. It's only 3 nights a year, but it offers a very personal stewardship experience. Our girls have been taught to lend a hand from an early age, but this was probably the first time they had such a direct interaction with people who needed a different kind of help. It has opened all of our eyes to the plight of people who are homeless, often through no fault of their own. We have gotten to know their personalities, share stories with them, and laugh at each other's jokes. We have also enjoyed getting to work alongside our fellow volunteers--church family whom we simply didn't have the opportunity to interact with before. In all honesty, sometimes it's difficult to be excited about going, especially in December when there are often more festive events occurring. However, after every evening spent there, it never fails that on the ride home, one of us says "I'm glad we could be there tonight." If you've ever considered Room in the Inn, but have just been a little hesitant, we encourage you to try it out. There is always something that needs to be done and as Sister Michael Marie always said. "Many hands make light work."

Jason, Kristy, Katie, & Delaney McGrew

