



St. Patrick Center  
Building Permanent, Positive, Change.

OUR mission

St. Patrick Center provides opportunities for self-sufficiency and dignity to persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Individuals achieve permanent, positive changes in their lives through affordable housing, sound mental health, employment and financial stability.



## **MCMURPHY'S GRILL A St. Patrick Center Employment & Training Program**

McMurphy's Grill, located in the St. Louis downtown business district, offers opportunities for individuals struggling with homelessness and poverty to make permanent, positive changes in their lives. St. Patrick Center owns and operates McMurphy's to train clients in food industry skills.

Participants receive minimum wage during three months of specialized, concentrated training in which they work with our job coaches who understand client needs. McMurphy's training runs four days a week and at any given time, eight to 10 clients are in training.

McMurphy's provides a window into the agency's work, enabling patrons to help support trainees' learning activities through one-on-one interactions and food purchases. However, McMurphy's is more than a training program, a noontime eatery or even a public-relations success. This program addresses root causes of homelessness.

The majority of trainees men and women struggling with homelessness and have sporadic work histories; they also may have substance-abuse issues or mental illnesses. Therefore, in addition to helping trainees master 11 restaurant functions, which include "back" or kitchen duties and "front" or service functions, job coaches also prepare trainees to exhibit proper on-the-job conduct, such as respect, punctuality, regular attendance and good grooming. Furthermore, trainees meet regularly with their St. Patrick Center case managers to work on barriers they face, such as substance abuse or lack of housing.

Some trainees opt for training and certification through agency-provided Food Safety and Sanitation classes. Classes are taught onsite at St. Patrick Center by certified instructors. These three-week long classes result in certification that increases employability in the food industry and in healthcare settings.

Whether a McMurphy's trainee assists the chef in the kitchen or waits tables in the dining room, pride of accomplishment is evident. The structured training program and its supportive staff infuse stability into clients' formerly chaotic lives.

In Fiscal Year 2011, 68 clients participated in the McMurphy's Grill restaurant training program, and 28 of those clients found employment.

**Other St. Patrick Center Employment & Training Programs:** The BEGIN New Venture Center; The BEGIN Training & Education Center; Building Employment Skills for Tomorrow (BEST); General Employment; Homeless Employment Program (HEP); Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP); Job Experience Training (JET); Project HERO; Veterans GO! Green.

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