

## Redford Interfaith Refuge

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Redford Interfaith Refuge holds a special place in the hearts of Madonna University students.

The goal of R.I.R is to provide people with the resources to have a successful future. They do not turn anyone in need away, only requesting simple documentation prior to giving aid.

“You get to know the people, and their needs,” Sue Pherson explained. “A lot of people have different needs and are here for various reasons including; death, serious illness, difficulty at work or unemployment.”



Pherson, the current director of R.I.R, has seen the benefits of aid from the community members. Redford Interfaith Refuge has only two employees; Pherson and her assistant. The rest of the workers are volunteers.

The need has continued to grow in Redford and with that Pherson has seen an increase in clients. With an influx of people, the potentiality of pandemonium is raised. Madonna students Alex Colton and Hannah Micallef are working to help R.I.R maintain control and order when servicing all in need.



“We've been in direct contact with the director Sue Pherson who is asking us to create a code of conducts for her. She told us that she has problems with some of the people who are looking for help. I can only imagine what it is like for people who have lost so much and how their behavior changes in those situations,” described Alex Colton. “We're attempting to help her create a code of conduct for her that helps her prevent poor behavior or disagreements at R.I.R.”

A technical writing major at Madonna, Colton has enjoyed seeing the way writing can be used to directly benefit people. Colton and Micallef are students in Francis Fitzgerald's advanced writing class. For Fitzgerald, service-learning is an important element in education. Her students agree.

“We're not stuck simply learning about what the real world will be like by reading a book or doing projects,” explained Colton. “We're getting to use what we've learned in this class and our previous class that we had with Francis in a real world

setting. Not only is this an educational project, but it feels good to help out people who are really working hard to help other people.”