

Community Services Volunteer

A ministry description for local church leaders

Introduction

For more than 100 years the Seventh-day Adventist Church has sponsored social work, disaster relief and public health services in North America and around the world. It views the church as a servant body. Created for service, Christ's followers serve the Lord in praise, serve one another in love, and serve the world in humility.

Christ modeled for us the life of service. He "went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed" (Acts 10:38).

Christ identified with the poor and oppressed. "He fed the hungry and healed the sick. By the good He accomplished, by His loving words and kindly deeds, He interpreted the Gospel to men," comments Ellen White. "Christ's work in behalf of man is not finished. It continues today. In like manner His ambassadors are to preach the gospel and to reveal His pitying love for lost and perishing souls. By an unselfish interest in those who need help they are to give a practical demonstration of the truth of the gospel" (*Welfare Ministry*, pages 56-57).

God calls every man and woman to service. Every believer is called to ministry, gifted by the Holy Spirit, and in baptism ordained for ministry. (Eph. 4:11-12) The church is a kingdom of priests set free to minister for Christ. Our priesthood is to each other within the church and to the world. A community services volunteer is a ministering servant of God.

Duties of a Community Services Volunteer

The program varies from place to place, based on local need. In about 500 cities and towns across the United States, Canada and Bermuda, Adventist Community Services (ACS) centers operate. In thousands of other locations ACS projects work out of church basements and borrowed facilities. The work of a community services volunteer might include any of the following activities:

Adopt a grandparent	Children's story hour	Drug abuse detox
Adoption services	Clothing/bedding program	Drug abuse prevention
Advocacy program	Community cupboard	Drug abuse rehabilitation
Alcohol program	Community surveys	Families of prisoners
Baby care class	Cooking school	Family camping
Bible study group	Counseling services	Family counseling
Big brother/sister	Craft class	Family finance seminar
Blind camp	Deaf services	Family life workshop
Blind services	Disaster Response	Field trips
Board member	Divorce recovery seminar	Financial counseling
Branch Sabbath School	Domestic violence program	First aid class
Camping for children	Door-to-door contacts	Follow-up contacts
Child care		Food bank/pantry

Food distribution	Interviewing clients	Self-help groups
Foster child care	Job-finding service	Senior citizen group
Foster grandparenting	Job training program	Senior citizen lunches
Free clinics	Layettes	Sewing class
Fund raising	Legal aid	Shoes for Little Shavers
Furniture program	Literacy tutoring	Smoking cessation program
Grantsmanship	Literature rack	Soup kitchen
Grief recovery seminar	Marriage seminar	Stress seminar
Handicapped services	Meals on Wheels	Suicide prevention
Health appraisals	Migrant ministry	Support group
Health education	Newcomer ministry	Tax assistance
Health screening	Operation Overcoat	Telephone friend program
Home nursing	Operation Paintbrush	Transients aid
Home nursing class	Parenting seminar	Transportation assistance
Homeless shelter	Pathfinder Club	Tutoring
Homemaker services	Preparing for baby class	Vacation Bible School
Immigration program	Prison ministry	Van ministry
Information and referral service	Public relations	Videos, educational
Inner city program	Receptionist	Visiting the aged
Intake desk	Refugee ministry	Visiting the sick
Inter-agency liaison	Runaway shelter	Weight control program

Resources

For a list of recommended resources, free downloads and websites visit MinistryKits.AdventSource.org

For a complete list of resources visit AdventSource.org, select the store tab and then your ministry.

You can call *AdventSource* at 402.486.8800 for additional information or if you have questions about ministry. For ministry-related articles, videos, and free downloads visit AdventSource.org.

Responsibilities in the Local Church. North American Division Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists. Copyright © 1997, Revised 2017. Permission to copy for local church use.