

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	Door-to-door contacts	Health education
Adoption services	Drug abuse detox	Health screening
Advocacy program	Drug abuse prevention	Home nursing
Alcohol program	Drug abuse rehabilitation	Home nursing class
Baby care class	Families of prisoners	Homeless shelter
Bible study group	Family camping	Homemaker services
Big brother/sister	Family counseling	Immigration program
Blind camp	Family finance seminar	Information and referral service
Blind services	Family life workshop	Inner city program
Board member	Field trips	Intake desk
Branch Sabbath School	Financial counseling	Inter-agency liaison
Camping for children	First aid class	Interviewing clients
Child care	Follow-up contacts	Job-finding service
Children's story hour	Food bank/pantry	Job training program
Clothing/bedding program	Food distribution	Layettes
Community cupboard	Foster child care	Legal aid
Community surveys	Foster grandparenting	Literacy tutoring
Cooking school	Free clinics	Literature rack
Counseling services	Fund raising	Marriage seminar
Craft class	Furniture program	Meals on Wheels
Deaf services	Grantsmanship	Migrant ministry
Disaster Response	Grief recovery seminar	Newcomer ministry
Divorce recovery seminar	Handicapped services	Operation Overcoat
Domestic violence program	Health appraisals	

Operation Paintbrush	Senior citizen group	Telephone friend program
Parenting seminar	Senior citizen lunches	Transients aid
Pathfinder Club	Sewing class	Transportation assistance
Preparing for baby class	Shoes for Little Shavers	Tutoring
Prison ministry	Smoking cessation program	Vacation Bible School
Public relations	Soup kitchen	Van ministry
Receptionist	Stress seminar	Videos, educational
Refugee ministry	Suicide prevention	Visiting the aged
Runaway shelter	Support group	Visiting the sick
Self-help groups	Tax assistance	Weight control program

Resource Materials

The following resources are recommended for your ministry. You can purchase these by calling *AdventSource* (800-328-0525), the Adventist Book Center (800-765-6955) or your local Christian bookstore.

Adventist Mission in the 21st Century, ed. by Jon Dybdahl. Subtitled “Presenting Jesus to a Diverse World,” this book asks some serious questions: What have we accomplished? What challenges remain? What are we doing to finish the work? What works and what doesn’t?

Follow Me: How to Walk With Jesus, by Miraslov Kis. With sensitive sketches of people whose lives were transformed when they met Jesus, the author gives us new eyes, and then explores the implications of following Jesus.

Ministries of Compassion includes the guidelines and policies under which projects and centers associated with the Adventist Church are to be organized as well as a wealth of “how to” information. This new edition is specifically for North America.

The Ministry of Healing by Ellen G. White.

Welfare Ministry by Ellen G. White.

Who Are the Seventh-day Adventists? by John Seaman. This sharing booklet gives a brief sketch of Adventist history, beliefs, people, church, and mission.

Visit *AdventSource* On-Line at www.adventsource.org/cs for a complete list of the latest resources available for local church leaders. You can place an order or request a catalog by calling 1-800-328-0525.

For information about additional resources and answers to your questions call the Adventist Plusline at 1-800-732-7587 or visit them on-line at www.plusline.org.