

## **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
- Adoption services
- Advocacy program
- Alcohol program
- Baby care class
- Bible study group
- Big brother/sister
- Blind camp
- Blind services
- Board member
- Branch Sabbath School
- Camping for children
- Child care
- Children's story hour

Clothing/bedding program  
Community cupboard  
Community surveys  
Cooking school  
Counseling services  
Craft class  
Deaf services  
Disaster Response  
Divorce recovery seminar  
Domestic violence program  
Door-to-door contacts  
Drug abuse detox  
Drug abuse prevention  
Drug abuse rehabilitation  
Families of prisoners  
Family camping  
Family counseling  
Family finance seminar  
Family life workshop  
Field trips  
Financial counseling  
First aid class  
Follow-up contacts  
Food bank/pantry  
Food distribution  
Foster child care  
Foster grandparenting  
Free clinics  
Fund raising  
Furniture program  
Grantsmanship  
Grief recovery seminar  
Handicapped services  
Health appraisals  
Health education  
Health screening  
Home nursing  
Home nursing class  
Homeless shelter  
Homemaker services  
Immigration program  
Information and referral service  
Inner city program  
Intake desk  
Inter-agency liaison  
Interviewing clients

Job-finding service  
Job training program  
Layettes  
Legal aid  
Literacy tutoring  
Literature rack  
Marriage seminar  
Meals on Wheels  
Migrant ministry  
Newcomer ministry  
Operation Overcoat  
Operation Paintbrush  
Parenting seminar  
Pathfinder Club  
Preparing for baby class  
Prison ministry  
Public relations  
Receptionist  
Refugee ministry  
Runaway shelter  
Self-help groups  
Senior citizen group  
Senior citizen lunches  
Sewing class  
Shoes for Little Shavers  
Smoking cessation program  
Soup kitchen  
Stress seminar  
Suicide prevention  
Support group  
Tax assistance  
Telephone friend program  
Transients aid  
Transportation assistance  
Tutoring  
Vacation Bible School  
Van ministry  
Videos, educational  
Visiting the aged  
Visiting the sick  
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](http://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](http://www.plusline.org).