

EAST

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

BEAVERCREEK · BORING · CANBY

CLACKAMAS · DAMASCUS · EAGLE CREEK

ESTACADA · FAIRVIEW · GLADSTONE

GRESHAM · HAPPY VALLEY · MILWAUKIE

MOLALLA · MULINO · NE PORTLAND

OREGON CITY · SANDY · SE PORTLAND

TROUTDALE · VANCOUVER · WASHOUGAL

FIND SERVICE OPPS INSIDE!

Community Outreach Directory

The heart of Rolling Hills is to be people who grow in thinking and living like Jesus. We often ask, “What would Jesus do?,” but perhaps we should be asking, “How did Jesus think and what did he do?”

Acts 10 tells us: You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

This passage teaches that in the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus lived a life that proclaimed and demonstrated God’s love. He came to save the lost and serve the least. This was not a dualistic message, but rather an understanding that the needs of people; physical, spiritual and emotional, are inseparably linked.

As a body of believers, we are committed to taking Christ’s message of truth and grace beyond our church walls. This means we will need to step outside ourselves into the lives of others to be both salt and light. Often the magnitude of the problems that we encounter can leave us feeling helpless and wondering whether we can make a difference.

But the truth is we can! We are “hard-wired” to do so. The Bible says we are, “Christ’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10). We were designed to make a significant contribution to God’s purposes by bringing His love, truth, mercy and compassion to those who are hurting and do not know Jesus. When we enter into a community through love, service and blessing we become good news to the community. Doors open for us to share Jesus.

This directory has been developed to assist individuals, families, community groups and those in discipleship relationships with community service resources. Our hope is that it will be a helpful tool as you explore and engage in God’s mission for you.

May God bless you as you impact your community for Jesus.

The five principles below reflect our beliefs about the role of service and the impact we desire. The principles guide what we do, why we do it, and how we do it. While many of them are fundamental, we will remain open to amending them as we grow and learn more about our service.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR SERVICE

RELATIONAL

Meeting our mission, to effectively share Jesus, requires establishing relationships with those who do not know Him (Mark 12:28-31).

FOCUSED

While we encourage individuals to go where God is leading them, resources are limited. Therefore our focus is clear and will prioritize issues of poverty (Matthew 25:34-40; Galatians 2:10; James 2:1-13).

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with other churches, community organizations-both faith and non-faith based, creates common ground of concern and care and provides opportunity to work with unlikely partners to achieve something greater than we ourselves could do.

SUSTAINABLE

We seek sustainable environments and a holistic approach where the physical, emotional and spiritually are integrally linked (Luke 4:14-21).

TRANSFORMATIONAL

Our ultimate goal is the transformation of believers and non-believers into individuals who learn to think and live like Jesus (Romans 1:16).

REVISED OCTOBER, 2010

East Region Opportunities

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We encourage you to explore these opportunities or any doors of service that God may open for you.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

NORTH - MULTNOMAH AND CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MISSION

Big Brothers Big Sisters works to help boys and girls achieve their potential through positive adult relationships. Just by sharing experiences, celebrating accomplishments, and listening to a child's concerns, a Big Brother or Big Sister can make a difference to a child.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY-BASED BIG BROTHER AND BIG SISTER

The volunteer and the child meet out in the community for a few hours, a couple of times per month for at least one year.

COMMUNITY-BASED BIG COUPLE

A Big Couple is matched with a Little Brother or Little Sister and meet out in the community for a few hours, a couple of times per month for at least one year.

SCHOOL-BASED BIG BROTHER AND BIG SISTER

In this program, you meet with your Little Brother or Little Sister during the school year one day a week; for one hour at the child's school. Together, you and your Little Brother or Sister will have lunch and recess time together.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or Couples

TIME

Varies

CONTACT

BBBS Columbia Northwest (Multnomah County) · 503-249-4859
heath.berg@bbbs.org · bbbsnorthwest.org

Clackamas County Office · 742-2043 · bbbsnorthwest.org

The Canby Center

EAST - CANBY

MISSION

We exist to demonstrate God's love by meeting basic needs that improve the social, mental, physical and spiritual condition of people in the Canby area. We provide opportunities and a place for people to serve their community by helping others in tangible ways.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Demonstrate God's love by meeting basic needs that improve the social, mental, physical and spiritual condition of people in the Canby area. We provide opportunities and a place for people to serve their community by helping others in tangible ways.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

TIME

Varies

CONTACT

Linda Rasor · 503-266-2920 · lindar@thecanbycenter.org
thecanbycenter.org

Clackamas Service Center

EAST - CLACKAMAS

MISSION

Clackamas Service Center strives to overcome poverty by offering services that help individuals overcome their situation and begin to care for themselves. Services include groceries, clothing, meals and medical/dental care.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Prepare and serve meals, put together food boxes, help with deliveries, and special projects.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups.

TIME

Weekdays

CONTACT

Andy Catts · 503-799-3585 (Cell) · 503-771-7914 (CSC Main Line)
andycatts@cscoregon.org · cscoregon.org

Habitat for Humanity

EAST - PORTLAND/METRO EAST

MISSION

Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian housing ministry. Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to fostering home ownership and improving our community by building simple, decent, affordable housing with a neighborhood emphasis.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities take place on and off the construction site, and are available for individuals, corporate groups, faith groups, student and youth groups. All sorts of work takes place on a Habitat construction site. Please be prepared to assist in whatever the day's tasks may be and remember that every job helps to build homes! If you have special skills—don't be shy!—let construction staff know upon your arrival in case you can be of unique assistance. While tasks often include using power tools or working at heights, volunteers will not be expected to do any task that makes them uncomfortable.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

TIME

Varies

CONTACT

503-287-9529 · info@habitatportlandmetro.org · habitatportlandmetro.org

HOPE Food Pantry

EAST - OREGON CITY

MISSION

H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Eat) was founded in 1988, when several churches in Oregon City banded together to share in the work of feeding the hungry in the Oregon City, Gladstone, and West Linn areas. It's an all-volunteer organization, with 100% of donations going directly to food for our clients. Each church supports its own pantry, with some help from other churches and the community.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers do everything from packing food boxes to interviewing clients to picking up donated foods. Volunteers have the joy of working with a team of folks who are dedicated to serving the hungry, and they have the additional joy of seeing the faces of those who they are helping.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups.

TIME

6:30-8:30 PM, Monday, Nazarene Church

1-4 PM, Tuesday, Presbyterian Church

1-4 PM, Wednesday, Methodist Church

4-5 PM, Thursday, Catholic Church

1-4 PM, Friday, Baptist Church

CONTACT EACH INDIVIDUAL CHURCH

Nazarene · 503-656-6536

Presbyterian · 503-656-7444

Methodist · 503-656-3433

Catholic · 503-656-3474

Baptist · 503-656-3854

hopefoodpantry.com

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Impact Northwest

EAST - NE PORTLAND

MISSION

Impact Northwest's mission is to help people achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and to prevent and alleviate the effects of poverty.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Impact Northwest welcomes volunteers seeking enriching experiences benefiting the lives of low-income youth, families, seniors, and adults with disabilities. Opportunities are varied: from after-school activities club volunteer to youth mentors to office work.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

TIME

Varies

CONTACT

DANCING TREE FAMILY CENTER

E. Burnside · 503-988-600 · Housing & Safety Net Services ·

BRENTWOOD-DARLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTER

503-988-5961 · Early Childhood Family Services · Youth and Family Services

SE MULTICULTURAL SERVICE CENTER FOR SENIORS & ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

503-988-3660 · Transportation · Services for Seniors and Adults with Disabilities

Volunteer@ImpactNW.org

impactnw.org

Loaves & Fishes Centers

EAST - MULTNOMAH AND CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MISSION

Loaves & Fishes Centers is a nonprofit, secular organization that provides hot, nutritious meals to seniors 60 years and older. Hot noon meals are delivered by volunteers each weekday to homebound seniors. Loaves & Fishes Centers also serves a noon lunch to more active seniors at 35 meal centers throughout Multnomah, Washington and Clark counties.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MEALS-ON-WHEELS DRIVER

Make a senior smile! Deliver hot meals in your neighborhood on any day from Monday through Friday. Pick up meals at one of our 14 centers in the Portland metro area between 10:30 and 11 AM. Delivery takes about an hour and a half.

KITCHEN HELPER

Help to pack meals in coolers for Meals-On-Wheels drivers. Serve beverages to seniors as they come into the center, set tables, serve lunches, help clean up. Hours: Flexible shifts from 8 a.m. until 1PM

ADOPT-A-ROUTE

Perfect for corporate teams, church groups and service clubs that can commit to providing Meals-On-Wheels drivers for one route, one day a week for an entire year. Requirements: Two people weekly to deliver a regular Meals-On-Wheels route. Hours: 10:30 AM until noon.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

TIME

Varies with opportunity.

CONTACT

Director of Volunteer Services · Stacey Myhrvold · 503.953.8137 ·
volunteer.manager@lfcpx.org.
loavesandfishesonline.org

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Mentor Athletics

EAST - CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MISSION

To improve the lives of low-income youth by spending consistent quality time with Coaches.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

COACHES

Mentor Athletics is in need of mentors (we call Coaches) for our Individual Sports Program. Coaches are linked to a 7 to 13 year-old living in public housing in Oregon City. Coaches spend time with his/her mentee through:

One-on-one activities like playing or practicing a sport together or social activities like going to the mall.

Mentor Athletics large group programs like golf, tennis or track and field.

Small group activities with other coaches and his/her mentee. Activities might include golf, basketball, bowling, laser tag, etc. Golf is free at the Children's Course in Gladstone.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals on an ongoing basis.

TIME

Two times per month

CONTACT

Darren Gulbrandson · 503.997.1103 · dgulbrandson@mentorathletics.org
mentorathletics.org

Mountain View Rehab Center

EAST - OREGON CITY

MISSION

The rehabilitation health center facilitates the transition from hospital to home and community for older adults recovering from trauma, surgery or other major illness. The long-term nursing care encompasses physical and memory illnesses and end-of-life care too.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CO-WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY LEADER

SUBSTITUTE WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY LEADER,

MUSICIANS PLAYING ANY INSTRUMENT, SONG LEADER,
VOCALISTS

VISITATION

COMMUNION SERVERS

the first Sunday of each month.

TRAIN RECOVERY RESIDENTS

in educational and life skills

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals and Groups

TIME

Sundays, 9 - 10 AM

CONTACT

Aaron Olson · 971-409-8135 · aaron@atolson.com

Northwest Children's Outreach

ALL REGIONS

MISSION

Northwest Children's Outreach stands in the gap between poverty and caring agencies with resources to help children. It's helping to meet their needs and the needs of their families. They function as a collection and distribution center, collecting resources for these children and distributing the goods to local care providers who meet directly with and pre-screen the children.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Sort and pack orders for children; help with caseworkers; and sort, organize and stock items.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

TIME

Tuesday, 7-8:30 PM · Wednesday, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Rolling Hills Community Church

CONTACT

Brenda Hebard · 503-860-8986 · lsbch@verizon.net ·
northwestchildrensoutreach.org

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Oak Grove Food Bank

EAST - MILWAUKIE

MISSION

To eliminate hunger and its root causes ... because no one should be hungry.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are needed to help with registration and with stocking pantry shelves.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

TIME

Mondays - Thursdays and Saturdays

CONTACT

David Erwert · 503-367-7313

Oregon Food Bank

EAST - NE PORTLAND

MISSION

To eliminate hunger and its root causes ... because no one should be hungry.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We welcome individuals, families and small groups of friends to get involved as volunteers at Oregon Food Bank. From sorting canned food donations and office help, to leading nutrition education classes, our volunteers make a big difference in the community.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals, families or groups.

TIME

Varies

CONTACT

volunteer@oregonfoodbank.org · 503-972-2993 · oregonfoodbank.org

FAMILY FRIENDLY

ages 6 and up

Severe Weather Shelter

ALL REGIONS

MISSION

The mission of the Severe Weather Shelter is to extend the love of Christ by providing transportation, shelter, dinner and breakfast during severe weather to homeless singles in the Tualatin/Tigard area.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

MEAL PREPARATION/SERVER

Cook and serve dinner when the shelter is open.

OVERNIGHT HOST

Stay overnight and help overnight guests feel safe and comfortable at the Severe Weather Shelter.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

Transportation of guests in the church van to and from the Severe Weather Shelter.

LAUNDRY VOLUNTEER

Assist the Laundry Coordinator with washing blankets, towels, and other items after the shelter has been open.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

TIME

Varies (shelter is open in severe weather - cold or hot)

CONTACT

Randy Romine · 503-998-0195 · randall.romine@raymondjames.com
www.rollinghills.org/cold-weather-shelter

SMART

EAST - EAST MULTNOMAH AND CLACKAMAS COUNTY

MISSION

SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) gives thousands of K-3 Oregon children the one-on-one support they need to learn to read and build brighter futures.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SMART READER

Help kids discover the joy of reading. Read one-on-one with two different children for 30 minutes each (1 hour total) from October to May. If you are not able to commit to a weekly session, apply to be a substitute reader.

SMART SITE COORDINATOR

Lead in the coordination of SMART program delivery at one 200+ SMART sites. Schedule, train and monitor 10-100 volunteer readers (depending on the site), and submit monthly reports. This vital role provides the link between the teachers, volunteers and students.

SMART SITE TEAM MEMBERS

Lend a hand to Site Coordinators as part of a Site Team. Help with data entry, set up/tear down the SMART space, contact volunteer readers, oversee the program 1 session per week, etc.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals

TIME

One hour a week during school day, October-May for readers. Varies for other opportunities.

CONTACT

Michelle Gilmore · mgilmore@getsmartoregon.org · 971-634-1603

Tualatin School House Pantry

ALL REGIONS

MISSION

Tualatin School House Pantry provides emergency food, once a month, to qualified Tualatin households in a welcoming environment. As a part of the Oregon Food Bank, they share in the mission to eliminate hunger and its root causes because “no one should go hungry.”

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Shop with clients, stock shelves, pick-up and delivery of food items, and dental van.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

TIME

Monday, 3-8 PM · Wednesday, 10 AM - 3 PM · Friday, 10 AM - 3 PM

CONTACT

Tracy Smith · 503-783-0721 · tracy@schoolhousepantry.org
schoolhousepantry.org

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Well Being

EAST - NE PORTLAND

MISSION

Well Being is a group of people with a passion to serve the HIV/AIDS community by building relationships while enjoying a home-cooked meal, playing cards and board games, and sharing lively conversation.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Provide the food, cook and serve a meal one Sunday per month. Build relationships with the guests.

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

TIME

Sundays, 3-6 PM

CONTACT

Kari · 503-784-1491 · wellbeing1734@yahoo.com

Community Service Resource

This resource is meant to assist you as you look for and find a place to serve in your community. While it may be difficult to find a place, don't let that stop you. You will experience great joy as you invest in the lives of others, through service.

THINGS TO CONSIDER AS YOU SERVE

1. Pray
2. Select an agency or a place to serve
3. Create and maintain a positive relationship
4. Establish service dates and define tasks to be performed
5. Show up
6. Invite a guest
7. Be prepared to share the Good News
8. Take time to reflect

Each of these is explained in greater detail on the following pages.



“I want to make a distinction between the specific activity of *proclaiming the gospel* and the broader category of promoting *the gospel*. The former is properly called “evangelism,” a word that derives from the New Testament term *evangelizomai*, which only ever means “announcing (grand) news.” The wider category of promoting the gospel includes any and every activity that draws others to Christ (including, of course, evangelism). People sometimes use the words “mission,” “out-reach” or “witness” for this larger work. I prefer the expression “promoting the gospel” because it reminds us that at the heart of our mission to the world is the news about Christ, the gospel.”

John Dickson “Underestimating the Mission”

PRAY BELIEVING THAT:

- God will help you serve in a way that reflects His love.
- The Holy Spirit will give you compassionate eyes to see the needs of others and the opportunities to talk to them about Jesus.
- You will be a blessing to those whom you are serving.

SELECT AN AGENCY

This resource has developed for the region in which you live and includes descriptions of places to serve. Each region has a community service liaison who can also be of help. Their contact information is listed below. We are continually updating, so you may access new opportunities by going to the Rolling Hills website at www.rollinghills.org.

- North Community Outreach Regional Liaison-Ken Cassidy (503-793-1923)
- South Community Outreach Regional Liaison-Jean Hand (503-984-8653)
- East Community Outreach Regional Liaison-Aaron Olson (503-518-3077)
- West Community Outreach Regional Liaison-Steve Catts (503-678-1507)

While we are encouraging individuals and groups to go where God is leading, as a church, we are focusing many of our efforts on issues that surround poverty. Should you want to serve in this way, the following list indicates how people are impacted by poverty.

ISSUES SURROUNDING POVERTY IN OREGON

ECONOMIC

- Unemployment
- Wages behind national average
- Types of jobs available
- Lack of affordable housing
- Rising cost of health care and health insurance
- Transportation and energy costs

SOCIAL FACTORS

- Single parent
- Divorce/Separation
- Teen pregnancy
- Mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Disability
- Education

IMMIGRANTS WHO FACE

- Lack of health insurance
- Health problems
- Food shortage
- Limited English proficiency
- Crowded housing
- Less engagement with after-school activities

“I ask leaders, ‘If your church were to leave the community you’re in, what impact would you have? Would they miss you? Would they weep? You need to target the ill of your community. Identify the greatest need, then motivate your people to attack that need. You don’t need a building first, but a burden.” **Vaughn McLaughlin, Pastor of the Potter’s House Christian Fellowship**

CREATE AND MAINTAIN A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP

The first step is to contact your agency representative and meet with them to begin your understanding of their organization, their mission and their needs. We have discovered that some agencies are well staffed and organized while others are not. At times, you may feel that your time is being wasted because of poor organization. Your patience and flexibility during these times will demonstrate the heart and attitude of a servant who is always willing to put the needs of others above their own.

ESTABLISH SERVICE DATES AND DEFINE TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

As soon as possible determine the tasks that need to be performed and set dates. You may find that it’s best to schedule one day of service at a time rather than trying to schedule the entire year. Also determine what tools and supplies you will need and who will supply them.

SHOW UP

Your service extends Christ’s love into the community and His reputation, so it is important that you show up and serve well. Keep in mind that it is more important to finish your service than to leave something incomplete.



INVITE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR WHO DOES NOT YET KNOW JESUS TO SERVE WITH YOU

There are several reasons for inviting others:

In interacting with you as you serve, they may change their perception of what it means to love and follow Jesus.

As we serve together, it provides opportunities to talk with our guests about their own spiritual journey and hopefully share the Good News.

Our guests will experience joy as they, too, provide service to the community.

LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

When Jesus served others, His good deeds created goodwill among the people around Him. After observing the kindness, mercy, and love of Jesus, the Gospels tell us that people in the crowd were in awe or wondered or were astonished or marveled or held Jesus in high esteem. Good deeds almost always create good will with others. Good deeds get people's attention as few words can. Nevertheless, goodwill alone does not lead people to faith in Christ, so it is important that we not mistake goodwill for Good News. We must keep in mind that "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ (Romans 10:17). Good deeds may *verify* the Good News, but we need Good News to *clarify* the meaning of the good deeds.

As you serve, look for ways to move along the continuum from doing good deeds to sharing the Good News. Look for "God-moments" ... the time that God enters a conversation. God moments are characterized by

curiosity and questions. When a person asks questions like “*Who are you?*” and “*Why are you doing this?*” you can be certain that God has entered that conversation.

A second thing is to pray evangelistically. In Colossians 4 we read: *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

There are three things you can pray as you prepare to serve:

- Open the door
- Open hearts
- Open my mouth

We are all on a spiritual journey, so another way to influence those you are leading is to encourage people to initiate spiritual conversations. Exploring the spiritual journeys of others will often provide an opportunity to share the Good News. There are four ways that we can enter into another person’s spiritual journey.¹ The role you play at any given time depends on the relationship and spiritual journey of the person with whom you are sharing.

THE EXPLORER: DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

An explorer is one who journeys into unknown territory to learn and understand. Spiritually we enter into people’s lives (or into deeper levels of their lives) to learn and understand their spiritual journey. We explore primarily through listening and asking questions, with genuine interest and concern. Casual conversations are often sprinkled with “windows to the soul”, that is, statements that seem casual on the surface, but underneath they reveal deeper insights into the inner journey of one’s life. Listening enables the Explorer to hear unmet needs and traces of the Spirit’s work in their lives. Questions can help the Explorer discover where they have been spiritually, where they are at and where they are going.

1 <http://www.godsquad.com/evangelism/cojourners/introduction.htm>

THE GUIDE: SHOWING THE WAY TO JESUS

A guide is someone who shows the way on a journey. As we discover more about the spiritual journey of others, we desire the opportunity and privilege of showing them the way to Jesus. This implies a level of openness on their part and trust in us as a guide. Often the best context for us to help others journey toward Jesus is in connection to a worshipping community. But for many, this occurs initially in personal conversations. Our own spiritual journey can play an important role in spurring interest, establishing trust and revealing gospel truth. But the gospel itself is the most powerful means. The Guide must increasingly understand gospel truth, being able to communicate clearly its essence or share freely from its fullness, according to the need of the moment.

THE BUILDER: PROVIDING BRIDGES OVER SPIRITUAL OBSTACLES

When a person encounters an obstacle on a journey, they need a bridge to continue on. Spiritually, most people encounter obstacles that keep them from moving toward Christ. They, too, need bridges to continue on. The obstacles may be intellectual objections, emotional baggage, or host of other issues. Prayer is the most important tool of the Builder, as the issues are ultimately spiritual in nature. But the Builder will also come beside those who are stuck with understanding and affirmation, using gentle persuasion to provide a bridge beyond. (Note: Gentle persuasion implies a relationally safe person.) Among other things, the Builder can use their personal experience, insightful questions, meaningful stories and God's word to create the bridges beyond.

THE MENTOR: ENCOURAGING SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual journeys do not end when people come to Jesus. In fact, that is just the beginning. What do people need that have come to Jesus? Their two greatest needs are to connect with a community of believers (if they haven't already) that will help them grow and to learn the foundational truths of following Christ. A Mentor encourages, guides and instructs along the way.

If you desire additional resources on equipping your small group in sharing the Good News, please contact your Community Service Liaison.

TAKE TIME TO REFLECT

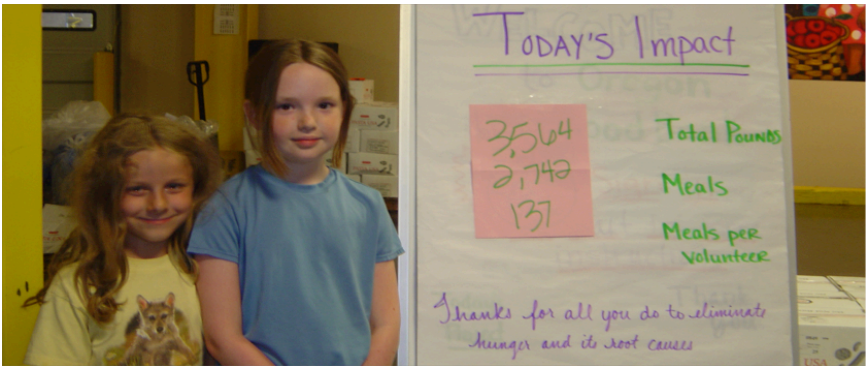
Reflection is a simple word, meaning, to look back, to see into, and to take a second look. Just as mirrors and shining surfaces reflect light, so do God's people reflect God's light in the works of service they perform. Many times we are busy moving from task to task, and we fail to slow down, take a look back, and see how and where God worked, and how He used us to accomplish His purposes. We have reflection reminders throughout the Bible, from Moses' encounter with the burning bush, recognizing that it was indeed God's voice, to Paul's reflection of his need to be "crucified with Christ, and know the fellowship of his sufferings." We see the reflection of Jonah, sitting with the stench of the inside of the fish, reflecting as the gourd vine grows. We see Mary, pondering "these things" in her heart. We see Jesus stealing away to the olive groves to be alone and talk with His Father. There is a distinct pattern in the New Testament of Jesus and the disciples being surrounded by the group, doing mighty miracles, and then retreating to the quiet and remembering, that is, reflecting on what had just happened. C.S. Lewis reminded us, "We can have the experience and miss the meaning." We can often be caught in that trap, of having experiences of God's work in our lives and through our lives and miss the meaning and the message because we were "busy picking the blackberries instead of hearing the voice in the bush." R. Browning

Reflection always asks two simple questions. "*So what?*" And "*Now what?*" It is just that simple—following service, following a mission trip, a service project or a Bible study, to take the time to ask these two simple questions. We know that folks will continue to serve faithfully when they can connect their acts of service to their belief systems, their theology, their church's mission—and when they can make the spiritual connection between those acts and what they are hearing and learning. God has always taught His children lessons through actions— and reflection allows His children to learn those lessons for them. Following a recent afternoon of doing a service project for an elderly couple, students were asked how they felt about the afternoon. They began with the usual of "I'm tired," and "it's a good tired—because I know we did something good." But when asked "so what?" they began to talk about becoming more like Jesus, developing a heart for the frail, the helpless, and the disadvantaged. They began to translate the service into their future plans, into their discipleship with the "now what?" question—and, I saw the service project become a lesson in the compassion of God, the kingdom of God, and God's tender mercies. Now, we could have

just gone home, had a shower and a meal and called it a day—but by insisting on the reflection, at the site of the service, we did a lot more than weed, hoe and water—we actually grew spiritually.

THANK YOU!

Your service models the ministry of Christ. As you serve the needs of your community, you are an ambassador of Christ’s love and compassion. May God bless you as you impact your community for Jesus.



“Now to Him Who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen”

Ephesians 3:20-21

SHINE

Expect to be used by God
Humbly depend upon the Holy Spirit
Recklessly share the Gospel
(courageously, not foolishly)
Authentically connect to others

