

# NORTH

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

ALOHA · BEAVERTON  
FOREST GROVE · HILLSBORO  
KING CITY · LAKE OSWEGO  
MARYLHURST · NORTH PORTLAND  
NW PORTLAND · SW PORTLAND  
TIGARD · SCAPPOOSE · ST. HELENS

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 SEPTEMBER, 2010

# North 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 WASHINGTON 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

Washington County Office · 503-641-5240 · bbbsnorthwest.org

# Bridgetown Ministries

NORTH & EAST - PORTLAND

## MISSION

Bridgetown Ministries is a raw and simple movement of ordinary people dedicated to loving people because people matter. Bridgetown Ministries strives to engage people from all walks of life into the community, not as a charity, but as a lifestyle. We move to seek and utilize all available resources to relieve needs, build intentional relationships, and propel love into action. The mission of Bridgetown Ministries is simple. Loving people, because people matter.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### NIGHT STRIKE

Gather under the Burnside Bridge every Thursday night and love people because people matter. It's an opportunity for members of Portland's homeless community to hang out, enjoy a hot meal, receive a free hair cut, shave, have their feet washed and have their old shoes/clothes/sleeping bags replaced. It is also a chance for you to help serve the needs of the homeless in our community and invest in lives and build relationships with the people you meet.

### BTOWN KIDS

This exciting environment engages children in the North Portland area.

### MANNA TRUCK/ HOME VISITS

The Manna truck helps with many of the basic household items needed by the working poor. The Manna truck and team go into apartment complexes in the North Portland area to help provide relief.

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups welcome

## TIME

Nightstrike - Thursday evenings; Btown Kids - Saturdays June-August;  
Manna Truck - once/month winter, weekly in summer

## CONTACT

Bridgetown Ministries

info@bridgetownministries.com · bridgetownministries.com

# Family Bridge

NORTH - HILLSBORO

## MISSION

Serves homeless families by providing them with shelter, meals, help and hope so that they may achieve stability and self-sufficiency.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

They welcome and encourage both individuals or groups to get involved at Family Bridge.

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups welcome.

## TIME

Our greatest need for volunteers is weekdays (especially Tuesday and Friday) mornings from 7:00 - 9:00 AM.

## CONTACT

JoAnn Eden · 503-844-2919 · [familybridgevolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:familybridgevolunteer@gmail.com) · [family-bridge.org](http://family-bridge.org)

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

# Good Neighbor Center

NORTH - TIGARD

## MISSION

Good Neighbor Center is more than a place for families to sleep and eat. It is a place of transformation. Good Neighbor Center implements a program of self-empowerment. When clients arrive at the shelter, staff members work with them to identify barriers to long-term stability and set up a work plan that will help them get on the track to self-sufficiency.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

### OVERNIGHT HOSTS

Volunteers are important to our success, especially at night. Our overnight hosts offer reassurance to our families, serving the Good Neighbor Center on-site in case of emergencies.

### MEAL HOST

Create a menu, pick up ingredients and prepare dinner for our families any night of the week you're available. It's an evening both our families and our hosts look forward to.

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

Arrange a special project with the volunteer coordinator.

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups welcome.

## TIME

Overnight Hosts · 10 PM-6 AM

## CONTACT

503-443-6084 · [staff@goodneighborcenter.org](mailto:staff@goodneighborcenter.org) · [goodneighborcenter.org](http://goodneighborcenter.org)

# Goose Hollow Family Shelter

NORTH - SW PORTLAND

## MISSION

Goose Hollow's mission is to provide a temporary safe haven for homeless families, access to transitional services, and advocacy for social change that eliminates homelessness. They are one of the few shelters in the Portland metropolitan area that allows homeless families to stay together while living in temporary shelter.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

KID TIME HOST · 6:30-9:30 PM

Provide structured kid-friendly play, crafts, or story time. A fun way to engage the children after dinner and give parents a bit of a break.

MEAL PROVIDER · 6:30-8 PM

Provide a nutritious dinner each evening. Volunteers who bring our dinner meal find this is a fun way to interact with parents and children. You are invited to come eat with our families.

OVERNIGHT HOST · 7:30 PM-7:30 AM

Greet parents and children, assist families with personal needs, spend the night, and then wake them in the morning for a continental breakfast.

HELPING HAND · 6:30-9:30 PM

Help facilitate a welcoming atmosphere for families as you accompany guests while doing laundry, helping to organize donations and assist with special projects.

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups welcome.

## TIME

Daily

## CONTACT

Allie Brucculeri · 503-915-8307 · [allie@pdxhfs.org](mailto:allie@pdxhfs.org) · [goosehollowfamilyshelter.org](http://goosehollowfamilyshelter.org)

# Habitat for Humanity

NORTH - PORTLAND, HILLSBORO, BEAVERTON, LAKE OSWEGO. TIGARD

## 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 make them uncomfortable.

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

## TIME

Varies

## CONTACT

Portland · 503-287-9529 · [info@habitatportlandmetro.org](mailto:info@habitatportlandmetro.org) · [habitatportlandmetro.org](http://habitatportlandmetro.org)  
Willamette West (Beaverton, LO, Tigard, Hillsboro) · Natalia Kay · 503-844-7606  
[nataliakay@habitatwest.org](mailto:nataliakay@habitatwest.org) · [habitatwest.org](http://habitatwest.org)

# Home Plate Youth Drop-in Center

NORTH - HILLSBORO

## MISSION

Offer young people who are unstably housed or homeless in Washington County a place to eat a hot meal, take a shower, watch a movie, be listened to and get resources.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Prepare and serve dinner for 40-45 people which includes your group and other volunteers. Provide a main dish, vegetable or salad, drinks, bread/dessert. You may cook your meal at the church or prepare it at home.

Volunteers are always welcome any Thursday to help with art, monitor the game room and showers, or just to hang out and visit with the guests.

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

## TIME

Every Thursday from 6-8:30 PM. (5:30 PM if cooking at site, dinner is served at 6:00 PM). An orientation meeting is required for first time groups.

## CONTACT

Bernie Bosnjak · 503-648-1418 · [hfc.office@verizon.net](mailto:hfc.office@verizon.net)

Bridget Daniel · 503-867-7762 · [HomePlateBridget@gmail.com](mailto:HomePlateBridget@gmail.com)  
[homeplateyouth.com](http://homeplateyouth.com)

# Loaves & Fishes Centers

## NORTH - MULTNOMAH AND WASHINGTON 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 1 PM

#### 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. 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

# Neighborhood House

NORTH - SW PORTLAND

## MISSION

Neighborhood House has been bringing the community together to help neighbors in need since 1905. We're here for families facing hunger and homelessness, vulnerable seniors and children who need help in school. Our programs help low-income, recent-immigrant and other vulnerable people overcome challenges so they can achieve success, stability and independence.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

After school programs, mentoring and Head Start prekindergarten.

### SENIORS

Program support, senior support and transportation.

### FAMILIES

Emergency food box program

### HELP AROUND THE HOUSE

Projects around the house (painting, yard, etc.).

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

## TIME

Varies

## CONTACT

503-246-1663 x117 · [volunteers@nhweb.org](mailto:volunteers@nhweb.org) · [nhpdx.org](http://nhpdx.org)

# 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](mailto:lsbch@verizon.net) ·  
[northwestchildrensoutreach.org](http://northwestchildrensoutreach.org)

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

# The Pearl at Kruseway

NORTH - LAKE OSWEGO

## 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 memory care residence provides care for those dealing with memory illness.

## 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 Thursday of each month.

TRAIN RECOVERY RESIDENTS

in educational and life skills

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals and Groups

## TIME

Thursdays, 10 am – 11 am

## CONTACT

David Compton · daveclyn@comcast.net · 503-997-6976

# Portland Rescue Mission

NORTH - SW PORTLAND

## MISSION

Portland Rescue Mission is a faith-based organization expressing the love of Jesus Christ by offering compassion, hope and healing to homeless and addicted people. We value a culture of ministry that is highly relational, cultivates intimacy with Christ and openly expresses God's love for all.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

TRAIN RECOVERY RESIDENTS

in educational and life skills

ANSWER PHONES AND WELCOME HOMELESS GUESTS

at the Burnside Shelter

SERVE BREAKFAST OR DINNER

to homeless men, women and children

KEEP ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS LOW

by assisting with office tasks

HELP IMPROVE OUR GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

SORT DONATED CLOTHING AND FOOD

at our warehouse

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals and Groups

## TIME

Varies

## CONTACT

503-MISSION (647-7466) · [partnership@pdxmission.org](mailto:partnership@pdxmission.org) · [portlandrescuemission.org](http://portlandrescuemission.org)

# 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](mailto:randall.romine@raymondjames.com)  
[www.rollinghills.org/cold-weather-shelter](http://www.rollinghills.org/cold-weather-shelter)

# SMART

## NORTH - MULTNOMAH AND WASHINGTON 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

Multnomah County · Lynette Yasuda · [lyasuda@getsmartoregon.org](mailto:lyasuda@getsmartoregon.org) · 971-634-1609

Washington County · Stacy Goodwin · [sgoodwin@getsmartoregon.org](mailto:sgoodwin@getsmartoregon.org) · 971-634-1618

[getsmartoregon.org](http://getsmartoregon.org)

# Sunshine Pantry

NORTH - BEAVERTON

## MISSION

Sunshine Pantry is a non-profit pantry offering food, clothing, household items, toys and toiletries to families in need in Beaverton, Oregon. The Pantry spreads warmth, happiness and love to everyone who comes through their doors in trying times.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help load and unload supplies, stock shelves and other activities. If you have language skills or other special skills they'd also love to have your help. They always need happy people who want to make a difference in someone's lives.

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

## TIME

Monday-Friday, 11 AM-2:00 PM

## CONTACT

Sharon Straus · 971-506-7827 · [sunshinepantry.org](http://sunshinepantry.org)

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

# 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](mailto:tracy@schoolhousepantry.org)  
[schoolhousepantry.org](http://schoolhousepantry.org)

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

# Union Gospel Mission

NORTH - HILLSBORO

## MISSION

Since 1927, Union Gospel Mission has been “Feeding the hungry, restoring the addict and loving our neighbor...” Union Gospel Mission was founded by 40 area churches to assist the needy and hurting in Portland. Today, Union Gospel Mission remains true to that vision through offering meals and Christian outreach to the homeless and needy and providing addiction recovery in the LifeChange community.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### HOMELESS MINISTRY

Serve an evening meal, preach God’s Word at an evening meal, handout clothes & blankets and many other items in our day time clothing room and other possibilities.

### LIFECCHANGE ADDICTION RECOVERY COMMUNITY

Help men and women transform their lives by coming alongside in support, teaching, or working at the thrift store with LifeChange residents.

### KEEP ADMINISTRATION COSTS LOW

Partner with us in office projects and organization.

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or groups

## TIME

## CONTACT

Heidi Hege · 503-274-4483 · heidih@ugmportland.org · ugmportland.org

# Virginia Garcia Health Clinic

NORTH - WASHINGTON COUNTY

## MISSION

To provide high-quality, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate primary health care to the communities of Washington and Yamhill Counties with a special emphasis on migrant and seasonal farmworkers and others with barriers to receiving healthcare.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Provide healthcare to patients, fundraising events, cleaning and maintenance. Clinics in Beaverton, Hillsboro, Cornelius, McMinnville, Tigard and Forest Grove.

## NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS

Individuals or Groups

## TIME

Varies

## CONTACT

Teresa Conroy · [tconroy@vgmhc.org](mailto:tconroy@vgmhc.org) · [viriniagarcia.org](http://viriniagarcia.org)

# 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](http://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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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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*







