

The church is a community of people sharing a common purpose and fellowship. We are continually growing in faith and in the knowledge of Jesus, the Son of God.

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

“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.” “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, Ellen G White, pages 56-57)

God calls every man and woman to service. A community services volunteer is a servant of God, gifted by the Holy Spirit.

Activities and Events

The delivery of core services provided in all Adventist Community Services centres and projects involve interviewing (listening and needs assessment), referral, advocacy and spiritual counselling.

- **Social services** include free clothing, bedding, food, furniture and household items and job referral assistance.
- **Health services** include visiting the sick, home nursing, health screening.
- **Services for children** can include foster care, camps and day outings.
- **Christian Services for the Blind and Hearing Impaired** is an Adventist organization that helps sponsor camps for blind children and youth. Volunteer transport and audio aids are available.
- **Services for senior citizens** include telephone contact, home visits, transportation, “Meals on Wheels” and assistance with financial needs.
- **Services for the grieving and widowed** offer grief recovery seminars, telephone contact, visits, assistance with home maintenance and transport.
- **Inner City Programs** assist with shelters for the homeless, soup kitchens, education and other anti-poverty activities.
- **ADRA** (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) assists with awareness, education and disaster relief in Australia and overseas.



THE MINISTRY OF THE Community Services Leader

Have you been asked to serve your local church as a Community Services Leader? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and wonder what a Community Services Leader is expected to do. This guide has been designed to help you understand this role within your local church.

The Role of the Community Services Leader

The community services leader coordinates all the activities of Adventist Community Services sponsored by the local church. The focus of this ministry is people in need

The Community Services Leader is responsible for:

- **discovering** the needs of the community (assess through research and communication with local authorities)
- **mobilising** a response to specific concerns by motivating and informing church volunteers
- **communicating** current issues and needs to the church community through the bulletin, church newsletter and reports
- **organising** programs for education and relief (these include health screening, aid for the disadvantaged, literacy and employment assistance)
- **establishing** cooperation with other community organisations to prevent duplication and wasted resources

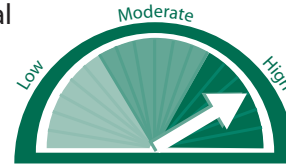
Becoming a Community Services Leader

The Community Services Leader is elected by the church nominating committee each year.

Responsible to the personal ministries leader. The Community Services Leader is a member of the church board and personal ministries committee.

Time Commitment

- This depends on the needs of the community, the human resources in the church, the financial resources available and the leader's background
- At least two or three hours a week with additional time required to build a larger program.



Term of Office

Two years

Skills and Spiritual Gifts

God has gifted each of us in different ways. The following gifts are valuable when considering the choice of members for the role of Community Services Leader.

- **Mercy:** is a loving response to the poor. A highly developed sense of compassion and willingness to minister to those in need. The Holy Spirit gives a heart for the poor and oppressed and a vision of what can be done for them.
- **Leadership:** The ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the church. This involves communicating goals in a way that encourages and motivates others to work together to achieve them. Leadership requires diligence and perseverance.
- **Extraordinary faith:** This gift provides the confidence to discern God's will in particular situations on behalf of the church.

When a church serves the world's needs, it is a visible expression of the love of Christ.

Christ identified with the poor and oppressed.

"He fed the hungry and healed the sick ... By His loving words and kindly deeds, he interpreted the gospel to men."

Welfare Ministry, Ellen G White, page 56



Community Services Leader