

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 Volunteer

Have you been asked to serve your local church as a Community Services Volunteer? Or perhaps you serve on a church nominating committee and wonder what a Community Services Volunteer 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 Volunteer

Adventist Community Services functions on the commitment of volunteers. These volunteers help the poor, comfort the abused, shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, care for victims of disaster and stand up for the oppressed.

- A **volunteer** gives of themselves - energy, abilities, knowledge, time and heart! Volunteers include students, retirees, mothers, professionals, labourers, managers, pastors and church officers. They do many different tasks but they all work under the supervision of a centre director or a project coordinator.
- **Supervisors** are often volunteers themselves with some training in leadership, but their primary qualification is compassion and motivation to serve.
- **Directors** answer to centre boards and project committees and receive support and information from a network of coordinators that serve at conference, union and division levels.

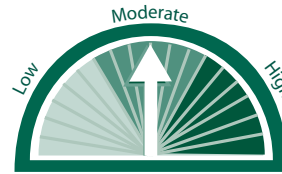
Community Services seeks to find the most effective thing that can be done to make a difference. It avoids political, ethnic, cultural and religious conflicts where possible.

Responsible to

The director of a community centre or ADRA.

Time Commitment

- The time that each individual can give varies due to circumstances. An important aspect of volunteering is commitment and reliability.
- Volunteering can involve one hour a week or whole days.



Identification

An Adventist Community Services identification card is issued to those working on projects or in a centre. The director will also arrange a name badge. It makes service more personal.

Training

It is most likely that volunteers are asked to serve in a capacity that relates to existing life skills, vocation and education. The director will also provide coaching and training sessions to build confidence and clarify the role when required.

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 Volunteer.

- **Compassion and Mercy:** is a loving response to the poor and suffering. A highly developed sense of concern 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.

Adventist Community Services is simply a network of people who want to channel the gift of compassion to the place where it can do the most good—in their own city and around the world.

