

*Adventist Community Services  
Love and Care Week  
September 30 - October 8, 2017*



*“Touch the Lives of 50,000 Ontarians  
Come Join Us”*



For more information please contact:  
Rose@rdunn@adventistontario.org or 905.571.1022 ext 109

## **Community Services Department**

### ***Week of Love and Care September 30 - October 8, 2017***

There exist a great deal of human need and suffering in your community. If unemployment and homelessness are not present in large numbers, there is divorce, domestic violence, disease, and loneliness.

In October 1995, social assistance benefits were cut by 21.6% across the province of Ontario, causing immense hardship for families already struggling to make ends meet. The cuts to benefits had an immediate, staggering effect on the ability of households receiving social assistance to pay for shelter. A single parent with one child receiving social assistance would potentially have had to pay 73% of her income on rent in Toronto, 56% in Hamilton, 65% in Ottawa and 60% in Windsor.

In all likelihood, the numbers described above actually under-estimate the severity of the affordability problems facing low income households, both employed and in receipt of public assistance, in Ontario.

The crisis of homelessness in Ontario is far more than what you see on the streets. Women and children are by far the largest groups affected by the cuts and by the erosion of income.

To get a truer sense of the hardship faced by people receiving social assistance it is important to isolate the impact of rent increases on the money which is left over for non-shelter items such as food, clothing and transportation.

The Community Services Department is once again challenging every member of the church to do something positive for his/her neighbour in 2016. We would like to let Ontario know, we are willing to make a difference.

The people of Ontario must know that we are indeed the people of God by our love.

We have chosen the week of September 30 - October 8 as our Community Services Week of Love and Care. Our Grand Finale will be Sunday October 8, 2017.

This is a week in which we would like to show love and care to at least 50,000 disadvantaged individuals across Ontario. How are we going to do this? Get a good map of your area and draw a circle on it to define the area where you are most likely to find your target group.

Acquire a map which shows the Postal Code boundaries.

Using the location of your church or ministry as the center point, draw a circle based either on the following guideline.

1. If your church is located in an urban neighbourhood, draw a circle 5 Kilometers out from the center.
2. If your church is located in a suburban community, draw a circle 10 kilometers out from the center.
3. If your church is located in a small town or rural area, draw a circle 24 Kilometers out from the center

We would like to encourage every member to participate in a conference-wide community services initiative called "A Week of Love and Care." The dates chosen are **Sunday, September 30 to Sunday, October 8, 2017** with the **Grand Finale being Sunday, October 8, 2017.**

By mobilizing our members to volunteer their time; using their skills, to minister to the community, would allow each member to help in areas where they are most comfortable and competent.

Some of the programs we can do at this time may include, but not limited to the following:

- Visit the sick and shut-in
- Resume clinic
- Dental check
- Food preparation
- Feed the homeless
- Distribute clothing/bedding
- Community surveys
- Street Ministry
- Sewing class
- First aid class
- Senior citizen lunches
- Hairdressing
- Barbering
- Health check
- Gardening
- Harvesting
- Driving
- Packaging
- Other(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Our first order of business is to prepare the church and then the community.

## ***The Church***

1. Survey your church to get a sense of its areas of strength.
2. Analyse the information from the survey to determine what your church perceive to be some of the major needs in the community.
3. The survey will show you the skills your members are willing to use to help with the community outreach programs.
4. You will know from the survey the number of volunteer hours your members are willing to give to the programs.
5. Use the information collected to develop outreach programs that will harness the skills of your members for such programs.
6. Ask each member to donate in cash the equivalent of one or two meals. That should be at least \$5.00-\$10.00 from each member.
7. Prepare a financial plan (a budget, if you like), for the program.
8. Submit your budget to the Conference Community Services Director for some financial help by or before **15 July 2017**.

## ***The Community***

1. Get to know the needs of your community through research.
2. Survey the community to establish what some of their major needs are.
3. Know where the disadvantaged people can be found in and around your community.
4. Tell the community ahead of time about the program(s) your church would be bringing to them in September.
5. Set the stage for a smooth and well coordinated program.

## ***The Plan***

### **January-February**

Discuss the program with your Community Services team first. Secondly, take it to the Personal Ministries Council. Thirdly, take the whole program to the Church Board to be voted as an action. Once it has been voted by the Church Board, present the program to the church.

### **February-March**

#### *Survey the Church*

“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power

of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit." The Ministry Of Healing, Pages 143-144

### **March-April**

*Survey the Community*

"Jesus saw in every soul one to whom must be given the call to His kingdom. He reached the hearts of the people by going among them as one who desired their good. He sought them in the public streets, in private houses, on the boats, in the synagogue, by the shores of the lake, and at the marriage feast. He met them at their daily vocations, and manifested an interest in their secular affairs." The Desire of Ages, page 151

### **April-May**

Study the data you gathered from the Church and the Community. Choose the programs that will best utilize the skills of the majority of your members.

Add up the total number of volunteer hours your members are willing to commit to the Week of Love and Care.

### **May-June**

Start working to establish the programs your church will be running in September.

Ascertain the level of support from your church.

If additional funds are required, work with your Pastor, Treasurer and church board to determine how the funding can be obtained.

### **July-August**

Send the following to the Community Services Department:

1. The number of volunteers from your church.
2. The number of volunteer hours promised.
3. The amount of funds budgeted for the program.

The Community Services Department recognize that: (1) there is a role for every member of the church to play helping our neighbour. We cannot all do everything, but we can all do something. (2) We are to share our faith with the rich and the poor, the high and the low. We must treat every individual, regardless of their status, as potential candidates for the kingdom of God. Jesus accepted the hospitality of all classes, visiting the homes of the

rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, and seeking to elevate their thoughts from questions of commonplace life to those things that are spiritual and eternal.

### **August-September**

Recheck all potential programs to see if there are any deficiencies and to take corrective action to remedy them.

Work with your pastor(s) and the Communications leader to prepare a statement or Press release to be given to your local newspaper(s) and Radio Station(s). The statement should include the number of volunteer hours your church would be giving to the community on September 3-11, 2016.

**Fax a copy of the Press Release to the Community services Department of Ontario Conference at Fax Number: 905-571-5995 or e-mail it to Rose at rdunn@adventistontario.org.**

### **September 30-October 8, 2017 Conference-wide Week of Love and Care.**

“Our aim is to minister to 50,000 disadvantaged individuals in this province.”

We should do no less than that which our Master modeled for us. Jesus went to where the people were. He mingled with them.

God speaks loudest when we are ministering.  
Let us work together to make it happen.

The purpose of the Adventist Community Services network is: To serve the poor and hurting in Christ's name.

### ***Benefits to you of Community Service***

*Below are some of the most important benefits of volunteering:*

- Gives you a way to help others
- Helps improve your community
- Can help strengthen your resume and college applications
- Can be a way to meet new friends
- Often results in personal growth
- Gives you a way to gain work experience and learn more about certain jobs

## ***Ideas for Holiday Ministry (ACS)***

How does your church reach out to the community during the holiday season? Here are some ideas you could use this year.

**Out of the cold.** Offer your church facility as a shelter during the cold nights for those who are homeless in the community.

**Coat collection.** Most people have at least a couple of extra coats, plus accessories such as gloves, scarves, and hats sitting in the closet. Why not connect with a community organization and partner in their annual coat drive? You could even make your church a drop-off site.

**Caroling.** On Friday night or Sabbath afternoon, send groups from your church caroling in the surrounding neighborhoods. Consider distributing home baked treats and invitations to your church's Christmas and New Year's Eve programs.

**Food baskets.** Find creative ways to contribute to a local food pantry. You could go door-to-door can collecting or even hold a contest to see which Sabbath school class could donate the most food. Make it something the whole church can get excited about.

**Holiday meals.** Your church could host a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal for people who might not be able to prepare their own or who don't have anyone to spend the holiday with. Many of your church's families might also enjoy the chance to celebrate Thanksgiving together.

**Soup kitchen.** Recruit church members to serve a holiday meal at a soup kitchen. You could also distribute warm clothing and provide games for the children.

**Community-friendly service.** Plan a candlelight Christmas Eve service with lots of favorite Christmas songs followed by a reception with treats and hot drinks. You could also feature a nativity play. Be sure to invite the community. You could also plan a family-friendly New Year's Eve party with plenty of activities for children, teens, and adults.

**Gifts that last a lifetime.** Instead of getting gifts for all your friends at church, you could choose something from ADRA's Useful Gift Catalog to give in their honor. Visit [www.adra.ca](http://www.adra.ca) for ideas.

**Snow Cleaning.** Offer to clean the snow for those in your community who need the help.

**Promote your activities.** Be sure to include information about holiday programs on the church website. People in the community would be interested. Also be sure to have your plans listed on community calendars with the local newspaper and radio and television stations.

*Let the love of continue to shine through as you fellowship  
with all of God's children.*

## ***General Ideas for Ministry***

Organize a community blood drive  
Send cards to soldiers serving overseas  
For your next birthday, ask for charitable donations instead of gifts  
Hold a bake sale for your favorite charity  
Read books or letters to a person who is visually impaired  
Organize a wheelchair basketball team  
Participate in a charity race  
Organize an event or parade for Memorial Day  
Volunteer to help at a charity auction  
Participate in National Youth Service Day in April  
Contact a tree farm about donating Christmas trees to nursing homes, hospitals, or to families who can't afford to buy their own  
Collect unused makeup and perfume to donate to a center for abused women  
Help register people to vote  
Organize a car wash and donate the profits to charity  
Help deliver meals and gifts to patients at a local hospital  
Write articles/give speeches advocating financial literacy. First you should learn about the topics themselves, like calculating housing costs, or understanding personal loans, and then give presentations on these topics.

### **Helping Children and Schools:**

Tutor children during or after school  
Donate stuffed animals to children in hospitals  
Organize games and activities for children in hospitals or who are visiting hospitalized relatives  
Knit or crochet baby blankets to be donated to hospitals or homeless shelters  
Collect baby clothes and supplies to donate to new parents  
Organize a Special Olympics event for children and teenagers  
Sponsor a bike-a-thon and give away bike safety gear, like helmets and knee pads, as prizes  
Collect used sports equipment to donate to families and after-school programs  
Volunteer at a summer camp for children who have lost a parent  
Sponsor a child living in a foreign country, either on your own or as part of a group  
Coach a youth sports team  
Put on performances for children in hospitals  
Give free music lessons to schoolchildren  
Become a volunteer teen crisis counselor



- Organize a summer reading program to encourage kids to read
- Organize an Easter egg hunt for neighborhood children
- Create a new game for children to play
- Organize events to help new students make friends
- Babysit children during a PTA meeting
- Organize a reading hour for children at a local school or library
- Donate used children's books to a school library
- Work with the local health department to set up an immunization day or clinic to immunize children against childhood diseases
- Volunteer to help with Vacation Bible School or other religious camps

**Helping Senior Citizens:**

- Read to residents at a nursing home
- Deliver groceries and meals to elderly neighbors
- Teach computer skills to the elderly
- Drive seniors to doctor appointments
- Mow an elderly neighbor's lawn
- Host a bingo night for nursing home residents
- Host a holiday meal for senior citizens
- Make birthday cards for the elderly
- Donate and decorate a Christmas tree at a nursing home
- Organize a family day for residents of a retirement home and relatives to play games together
- Ask residents of a retirement home to tell you about their lives
- Pick up medicine for an elderly neighbor
- Perform a concert or play at a senior center
- Help elderly neighbors clean their homes and organize their belongings
- Rake leaves, shovel snow, or wash windows for a senior citizen
- Deliver cookies to a homebound senior citizen

**Helping Animals and the Environment:**

- Take care of cats and dogs at an animal shelter
- Clean up a local park
- Raise money to provide a bulletproof vest for a police dog
- Plant a tree for Arbor Day
- Place a bird feeder and bird fountain in your backyard
- Start a butterfly garden in your community
- Sponsor a recycling contest
- Grow flowers in your backyard then give bouquets to hospital patients or people who are housebound
- Help create a new walking trail at a nature center or park
- Update the signs along a nature trail
- Adopt an acre of rainforest
- Help train service dogs
- Participate in the cleanup of a local river, pond, or lake
- Foster animals that shelters don't have space for
- Organize a spay and neuter your pet program
- Care for a neighbor's pet while they are away
- Sponsor an animal at your local zoo

Train your pet to be a therapy animal and bring it to hospitals or nursing homes  
Build and set up a bird house  
Organize a carpool to reduce car emissions  
Campaign for more bike lanes in your town  
Volunteer at a nature camp and teach kids about the environment  
Test the water quality of a lake or river near you  
Plant native flowers or plants along highways

**Helping the Hungry and/or Homeless:**

Build a house with Habitat for Humanity  
Donate your old clothes  
Volunteer at a soup kitchen  
Donate old eyeglasses to an organization that collects that and distributes them to people in need  
Donate non-perishable food to a food bank  
Donate blankets to a homeless shelter  
Host a Thanksgiving dinner for people who may not be able to afford their own  
Offer to babysit or nanny for a family in need  
Make "care kits" with shampoo, toothbrushes, combs, etc. to donate to homeless shelters  
Prepare a home-cooked meal for the residents of a nearby homeless shelter  
Collect grocery coupons to give to a local food bank  
Help repair or paint a local homeless shelter  
Donate art supplies to kids in a homeless shelter  
Help organize and sort donations at a homeless shelter  
Babysit children while their parents look for jobs  
Become a Big Buddy for children at a homeless shelter  
Take homeless children on outings  
Bake a batch of cookies or loaf of bread and deliver it to a soup kitchen  
Build flower boxes for Habitat for Humanity houses  
Organize a winter clothes drive to collect coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to be donated  
Make first aid kits for homeless shelters

**Reducing Crime and Promoting Safety:**

Volunteer at a police station or firehouse  
Become a certified lifeguard and volunteer at a local pool or beach  
Paint over graffiti in your neighborhood  
Organize a self-defense workshop  
Organize a drug-free campaign  
Sponsor a drug-free post-prom event  
Start or join a neighborhood watch program  
Create and distribute a list of hotlines for people who might need help  
Teach a home-alone safety class for children

Create a TV or radio public service announcement against drug and alcohol use

Become CPR certified

Volunteer as a crossing guard for an elementary school



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