



City Serve

March 18, 2017

Church Participant Guide



Plan

your City Serve Day project or projects



Share

your project ideas on cityserveday.com



Serve

your community together on March 18th

5 C's of City Serve Day

1. **COMMIT** to serving where you're *already serving* on City Serve Day to show the collective impact of churches serving Evansville together.
2. **CREATE** one or more projects on www.cityserveday.com.
3. **CATALYZE** the congregation to participate in the project(s).
4. **CONTRIBUTE** to building a great city by serving on March 18th.
5. **CELEBRATE** with all churches by sharing the quick facts at the reporting page at cityserveday.com on your mobile device immediately following your city serve day project.

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Getting Started	3
Choosing Ministry Partners and Projects	4
Registration Options	5
Philosophy of Prioritizing Needs	5
Holistic Serving	6
The Spiritual Aspect	7
Why Collaborate?	8

OVERVIEW

What is City Serve Day?

City Serve Day began as a collaborative effort among Evansville churches who have a passion for making a positive impact in their communities by serving others. During the past three City Serve Days, these churches donated over 12,000 volunteer hours to the Evansville area, completing more than 100 projects.

This year the event is expanding to include groups and individuals from all different backgrounds who want to shape their communities through collaborative service. Creating a project in conjunction with City Serve Day could be a great opportunity for your group to exercise its community service ethic, develop stronger relationships within your group, collaborate with other groups in the city, and have a lot of fun in the process.

City Serve Day is not an organization and does not have paid staff. Pastors and non-profit leaders provide leadership.

Vision for City Serve Day

The vision of City Serve Day goes beyond a single day. This one-day event is a catalyst to mobilize churches to serve the community together out of the love Jesus has for us and to invite others to do the same not only on this day but also through ongoing community service throughout the year.

Why are we doing it?

Our hope is that this weekend will be a catalyst for long term, relational, intentional service - a way of life - for congregations and individual Christians; that the community will see that The Church cares about them and will work alongside them; and that seeing congregations work together will send a great message to the world around us who might believe we are divided by doctrinal or other differences and in competition for members and resources.

Coaching

If you would like to be coached through the constructing your project and/or the planning process of mobilizing your congregation to serve during *City Serve Day*, we'll be glad to assist you! For coaching or questions, contact us at connect@cityserveday.com.

GETTING STARTED

The following steps are suggestions to help your church in the process of coordinating service projects and mobilizing volunteers for *City Serve Day*.

1. Develop a plan for your congregation's involvement.
2. Consider partnering with another church in your service projects.
3. Recruit a *City Serve Day* Coordinator for your congregation.
4. Choose service projects for your congregation.
5. Cast vision of *City Serve Day* and projects to your congregation.
6. Recruit project leaders to oversee service projects.
7. Post projects online at www.cityserveday.com by March 1st.
8. Invite volunteers to sign up for service projects.
9. Cast vision for volunteers to continue serving throughout the year.

CHOOSING MINISTRY PARTNERS AND PROJECTS

If you already have an organization you work with to serve the community:

We would encourage you to try to serve alongside them for City Serve Day. Just remember: it might be best for your partner in the long-run for you to leave room for other congregations to serve alongside you so perhaps they can get involved there on an on-going basis.

If you are starting fresh or looking to expand your list of ministry partners:

Choose ministry partners that are close to your church location. This will also allow you to build a more robust long-term relationship with these ministry partners and the people they serve. If you are working in an area that's not close to your church, find out about a few churches in that area that you would feel comfortable referring your contacts to. Encourage those churches to serve with you. Or, even better, ask those churches if there's any way you can help them serve their community. Keep the passions of your congregation in mind when choosing ministry partners. Much like each person was created with individual abilities, passions, and experiences, God created each congregation uniquely as well. If you think through the SHAPE components in terms of your congregation, you will likely have a much easier time generating excitement and participation – especially for on-going work.

When thinking about specific projects:

Focus on projects that allow the people needing help to be involved in the work and that will build on their skills, intelligence, physical ability, and creativity. By including them in the planning and implementation, they will feel more valued.

REGISTRATION

We ask that all projects get posted using the City Serve Day website, regardless of the size of your church.

By having all of the projects listed in one central access point, potential volunteers and other churches can see the many varied projects being offered that weekend.

All churches welcome volunteers from any other churches. This is also a great way for a church, which may not be organizing their own projects, to have their congregation involved in serving that weekend through other church projects.

The following guidelines are proposed for those churches not planning on using the central website for project posting and volunteer registration.

Small Congregations and Congregations with 1-5 Projects:

We advise you to keep registration as simple as possible. Your best bet is to develop a form you can then print out, send in an email, and/or put on your church website. When the forms are returned, you should make a copy of each form and file the originals for safe-keeping. Then you can either just work from the paper copies or enter the data into an Excel Spreadsheet or Word Document for sharing with church leadership and project leaders.

Large Congregations and Congregations with 6 or More Projects:

We again advise you to keep registration as simple as you can, but the more projects and people you are organizing, the more complicated it will be. Here are some options:

1. Create a database (or make a copy of another church's) and put it on your church website.
2. Let your small groups find the projects and be responsible for staffing them.
3. Don't have people register in advance. Just put them on buses when they show up (e.g. families with children go on one bus; people not able to do strenuous work go on another bus; etc.).

PHILOSOPHY OF PRIORITIZING NEEDS

“The kingdom of which Christ spoke was one in which the poor, the sick, the grieving, cripples, slaves, women, children, widows, orphans, lepers, and aliens—the least of these (Matt. 25:40)—were to be lifted up and embraced by God. It was a world order in which justice was to become a reality, first in the hearts and minds of Jesus' followers, and then through the wider society through their influence. His was not intended to be a far-off and distant kingdom to be experienced only in the afterlife; no, Christ's proclamation of the kingdom of heaven was a call for a redeemed world order populated by redeemed people—now.”

The Hole in Our Gospel by Richard Stearns

Sample Scripture References

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of **injustice** and untie the cords*

of the yoke, to set the **oppressed** free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the **hungry** and to provide the poor **wanderer** with shelter—when you see the **naked**, to clothe him...? Isaiah 58:6-7

For I was **hungry** and you gave me something to eat, I was **thirsty** and you gave me something to drink, I was a **stranger** and you invited me in, I **needed clothes** and you clothed me, I was **sick** and you looked after me, I was **in prison** and you came to visit me. Matthew 25:35-26

The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to preach good news to the **poor**. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the **prisoners** and recovery of sight for the **blind**, to release the **oppressed**, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. Luke 4:18-19

Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for **orphans** and **widows** in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you. James 1:27

We encourage you to use an online concordance like www.biblegateway.com to look up all of the verses containing injustice, oppressed, prisoner, poor, naked, hungry, thirsty, sick, weak, widow, orphan, etc. You will be AMAZED to see God's heart for the "least of these."

HOLISTIC SERVING

Give Them a Fish, Teach Them to Fish, and Tear Down the Fence Around the Pond - from *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself* by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert

Addressing material poverty is complicated. It is made up of three basic parts:

1. **Relief:** urgent and temporary provision of emergency aid to reduce immediate suffering from a natural or man-made crisis – provided only while a person is unable to help himself. Too often, this is what the church's outreach efforts are because the results appear to be immediate. However, only a small percentage of the poor in your community or around the world require relief. These would include the severely disabled; some of the elderly; very young, orphaned children; the mentally ill homeless population; and victims of a natural disaster.
2. **Rehabilitation** seeks to restore people and their communities to the positive elements of their precrisis-conditions. This process should begin as soon as the critical situation is stabilized. The important feature of rehabilitation is that we should make sure we're working *with* the people we're helping. They must participate in their own recovery.
3. **Development:** an on-going process that ultimately allows the materially poor to support themselves and their families.

Guiding Principles:

Do not do things for people they can do themselves including providing:

1. resources which might otherwise be provided by local businesses;

2. knowledge and ideas which might not even translate into their context anyway;
3. free labor which undermines their calling to be stewards of their own time and talents and might also be taking jobs away from local people; and
4. planning & managing initiatives that if planned on their own might lead to more buy-in and sustainability.

Ensure participation of the affected population in the assessment, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the program.

Only respond when the needs of an affected population are unmet by local people or organization due to their inability or unwillingness to help. Whenever possible, the first responders to a crisis should be the victims' family members, whether or not those family members are local (1 Tim. 5:3-4).

Target assistance based on vulnerability and need, and provide it equitably and impartially. Flinging resources around undermines the development of individual and communal stewardship, responsibility, and capacity. Focus on the ASSETS of the community as opposed to the needs. Asking, —What gifts do you have? affirms people's dignity. Broken systems need to be addressed in many cases.

THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT

The social gospel divorced from personal salvation is like a body without a soul; the message of personal salvation without a social dimension is like a soul without a body. The former is a corpse, the latter is a ghost. *E. Stanley Jones, missionary to India*

Community transformation is not about Christendom—placing Christianity or the Church at the center of society or trying to reestablish the church as the center of the community. It is the Church that is sown into all parts of society and lived out in such a way so that people in every sector and domain know someone who knows and truly follows Jesus.

“Conversion is our ultimate motive but not our ulterior motive in loving and serving others. Ultimate motive means that we absolutely want every person on earth to be in a right relationship with God through Jesus. But ulterior motive means that we do acts of love and service towards others so that they become Christians (which could signify that if they don't become Christians we stop loving and serving). It is important to remember that we don't engage in the needs, dreams and pains of our communities so that they will become Christians; rather we engage the community because we are Christians.”

To Transform a City by Eric Swanson and Sam Williams

The government can and does provide services to the poor and oppressed – often with kindness and love. Just meeting the need isn't what sets us apart. Here are a few things to consider:

1. Prayer should permeate everything we do—before, during, and after.
2. Make sure everyone knows you represent THE CHURCH. Then make sure you represent Her well.

3. Look for ways to interject God into the conversation.
4. A person's worldview can cause and/or worsen their material poverty. It shapes the way they relate to God, themselves, others, and creation. Faulty worldviews can be a major cause of material poverty. For example, violence and crime are a result of the way a person views life and material possessions, teen sex is often a result of the way a young person sees him or herself, etc. (*When Helping Hurts*)
5. The goal of our work should be to help people—understand their identity as image bearers, to love their neighbors as themselves, to be stewards over God's creation, and to bring glory to God in all things. (*When Helping Hurts*)
6. Part of our job might be introducing the community to God and helping them see what He has been doing for them since the beginning of time (*When Helping Hurts*). Find out what good things have happened in the community and what gifts they have. Help them see that those are from God. And, help them understand that the whole Bible is about God's love for humanity and His relentless pursuit of a relationship with us.

Prepare Your Spirit

1. Come to serve, not to judge. Remember, you don't know the whole story, so you should never leap to conclusions about what people appear to have or not have.
2. Listen twice as much as you talk.
3. Remember that materially rich people often have a subtle and unconscious sense of superiority in which they believe that they have achieved their wealth through their own efforts and that they have been anointed to decide what is best for low-income people, whom they view as inferior to themselves. Remember that most of us also suffer from materialism. Pray against these things. Our relationship to the materially poor should be one in which we recognize that both of us are broken and that both of us need the blessing of reconciliation. Our perspective should be less about how we are going to fix the materially poor and more about how we can walk tighter, asking God to fix both of us. (*When Helping Hurts*)

WHY COLLABORATE?

1. God designed us to work in partnership.

He called the twelve disciples together and sent them out two by two. Matthew 6:6b
We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. Romans 12:5

2. It glorifies God by showing the world around us that we can work together despite our doctrinal differences. We can overcome territorialism.

Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. John 13:35

I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17:20-23

Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all. Ephesians 4:3-6

3. We can do more together than we can each do on our own.

4. It minimizes duplication of efforts.

5. We can discover gaps in ministry.

6. We gain credibility.

7. Complement each others' strengths and minimize each others' weaknesses.

Under his control all the different parts of the body fit together, so the whole body grows and builds itself up through love. Ephesians 4:16

...we are partners working together for God, and you are God's field. You are also God's building. Using the gift that God gave me, I did the work of an expert builder and laid the foundation and another man is building on it. 1 Corinthians 3:9-10

8. Each member of the partnership can do what they do best rather than spreading themselves too thin.

9. We can learn from each other by sharing best practices.

10. It provides accountability. We can ask each other: "Are we really doing anything that is truly transformational?"

11. We receive refreshment and encouragement.

A rope made of three cords is hard to break. Ecclesiastes 4:12