

Seventh-day Adventist Church  
WEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE



## **Community Services Department**

# **ACTION PLAN 2025**

**Theme: Holy Spirit Transformation  
For End-Time Proclamation**



**President & Community Services Director: Pastor Glen O. Samuels**  
**Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Kediesha Mowatt-Grant**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To glorify God by proclaiming the Everlasting Gospel, meeting human needs, and discipling every believer in West Jamaica Conference.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Every believer living in readiness for Christ's Second Coming.

## **STRATEGIC ISSUES**

1. Growth & Consolidation
2. Health & Family Wellness
3. Education & Training
4. Church in the Community

*The Community Services Department is the caring arm of the Church connecting with the community, utilizing various practical avenues, showing care and compassion to all classes of people.*

*All human beings have needs (Maslow's Theory). Our task is to discover and seek ways of ministering to these needs. Be sociable, sensitive, sympathetic, and caring.*

*Our task is to connect people with Christ, sharing His love through acts of kindness and genuine care.*

# INTRODUCTION

God has called every Seventh-day Adventist Church be a transforming agent in its community, following the method of Jesus to bring help and hope through ministries of compassion in His name. Through humanitarian acts, we make known the just, merciful, and loving character of God. To work with those in need is an expression of our love for God and a simple act of compassion on its own speaks volumes about God's love for human creation. The Community Services Ministry, although not a department, is the organized official caring arm and helping ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

## PROGRAMMES & SERVICES

Whether large or small, there are outreach opportunities in every community. The specific programmes to be offered by the Community Services Ministry should be determined by an assessment of your community's needs, and by God's calling. The following are suggested programmes and services that may be offered by the Community Services Ministry at the local level:

**Basic Social Services** – This is the essential service of providing food and clothing to the chronic poor, victims of disaster, or those in temporary crisis.

**Disaster Response** – Man-made and natural disasters, small and large, occur continuously. At such times, survivors need an outpouring of basic supplies and an influx of help to recover and rebuild. Disaster response activities can range from providing immediate food and shelter to distributing food, water, and other supplies, and helping people clean-up or rebuild their homes.

**Community Health** – Programmes that: screen people for health problems, provide doctor's referrals, and give health information- are needed in many communities. These initiatives, along with health classes or cooking classes, can increase the general wellness of a community.

**Tutoring and Mentoring** – Tutoring programmes include volunteers who work in schools or in after-school study centres established by the local Church to help students learn basic concepts and complete their assignments. Mentoring addresses growth opportunities as related to individual development.

**Job-Finding & Job Training** – Job-finding programmes involve trained volunteers who work one-on-one to guide people in finding places of employment, making application, preparing for an interview, and maintaining employment. These programmes teach people special skills needed for specific jobs, as well as general employment skills needed for success in any job.

**Family Life & Counselling** – Planning and executing programmes that help families deal with adversity. Family and counselling programmes should be offered in collaboration with the Adventist Church's Family Ministries Department as well as local family service organizations.

**Crisis Intervention** – Crisis intervention is a type of psychological first aid used to defuse emotional trauma for survivors of a disaster, assault, or other traumatic events. Trained Crisis Interveners should provide emotional intervention that allows for ventilation and validation of the traumatic experience to ease the transition back to normalcy. They will serve as a companion, making sure that victims receive the assistance that is made available after a traumatic event; and acting as advocates for victims who may be unable to speak for themselves.

**HIV/AIDS Programmes** – HIV/AIDS programmes include education for prevention of HIV/AIDS, home-based care for the sick, education programmes to combat discrimination and stigma, and income-generating projects designed to assist with poverty alleviation, such as beekeeping, dressmaking, etc.

**Elder Care** – Elder Care Ministries coordinate education and services related to aging, health, finance and social issues for seniors in the church and community in collaboration with community-based elder care programmes.

**Youth Programmes** – Teens and young adults may be trained in disaster response and other Community Services projects.

**Skill Association** – Skilled carpenters, plumbers, masons, etc. can respond to human needs by banding together to repair or construct buildings in their community.

**Adopt a family** – Encourage members to adopt a family in need by assisting with food, clothes, household items, furniture, transportation, or utility bills, etc.

**Child care** – Give single parents an evening to go out and have fun while you care for their child(ren).

**Provide Back-to-school supplies for a child.**

**Meals on wheels** – Provide free meals for seniors or the unwell within the community.

**Community gardens** – Teach the economically challenged how to grow and preserve food.

**Drug abuse prevention** – Educate disengaged, unattached or unemployed youth on the effects of drug abuse.

**Homeless initiatives** – Provide clothes, food, sporting activities, and utilize our Mobile Clinic.

### **Strategies for Witnessing Through Community Services**

The ministry of Community Services may provide an opportunity to discuss spiritual needs in the context of your care and concern for their physical or emotional needs. In attempting to meet the spiritual needs of those we serve, we have no better example than Jesus Christ Himself.

In the book **Ministry of Healing by Ellen G. White (page 143)**, we find this statement: '*Christ's method alone will bring true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "follow me."*'

***This passage suggests several important guidelines for addressing spiritual matters as opportunities arise:***

- 1. Pray.** Pray that God will prepare your heart to serve Him in this way. Pray for the persons to whom you are ministering, and when the right time comes you can pray with them to invite Jesus into their heart.
- 2. Timing is important.** Once a person's chief concerns have been heard and help is provided, they are much more interested in talking about spiritual things. If someone is hungry or sick or worried about something, they are unable to give much attention to other concerns, no matter how important. Discussions about spiritual matters, prayer, worship attendance, etc. should never be perceived as a requirement for service.
- 3. Spend time with people.** We cannot get to know someone without being with them and spending time with them. Discussions about matters of faith are best done between people who know each other.
- 4. Show sympathy.** Showing compassion in real and practical ways makes the concept that God loves lost souls so much that He sent Jesus to die for them feel believable and real. Consistent acts of compassion put our faith into action.
- 5. Meet the needs.** Listen so that you know a person's needs and do your best to meet those needs. Beyond what you can provide immediately, there are places you can refer someone to get the help they need.
- 6. Win confidence.** Time spent in genuine fellowship wins confidence.
- 7. Bid them follow Jesus.** As you get acquainted with people, and help them with their needs, you will know when the time is right to mention spiritual matters. The Holy Spirit will guide you. You can ask, "What are your spiritual resources for dealing with your situation?" or "Have you thought about centering your life on Christian values or focusing your life on faith in Christ?" You will be amazed at the responses which lead to opportunities for you to share from your faith and introduce them to Jesus.
- 8. Take it slow.** Ask questions. Allow for exploration. Introduce them to Jesus. Don't promise miracles. God works on His time.
- 9. Offer appropriate literature.** Well-placed and well-selected material can be a blessing to the people you serve. The best material is attractive, hopeful, and meaningful, focusing on the basics of salvation and hope for the future. Old Sabbath School Bible Study Guides (quarterlies), issues of Adventist Review, and union papers rarely serve this purpose well.

**10. Keep your purpose.** Always remember that your mission is to meet community needs. Witnessing can be a by-product of that. But even if people aren't ready for the spiritual part, meet their other needs ANYWAY.

**Week of Kindness, Civility and Compassion Initiative- *I Am My Brother's Keeper***  
**February 1-8, 2025**  
**Practical Community Service Ideas**

**1. SCHOOLS**

- Share your lunch with a fellow student who has none.
- Help a fellow student who is struggling with a particular subject or assignment.
- The school or selected classes visiting infirmary or hospital, etc.
- Run an errand for Teacher.
- Write notes of appreciation to teacher, kitchen staff, auxiliary worker, etc.
- Organize a club e.g. Pathfinder club and launch on this day by doing acts of kindness and compassion.

**2. HOME**

- Children and/or adolescents taking over home chores for the day to free their parents to have a relaxed day.
- Babysitting
- Helping significant other with mundane chores.
- Giving special attention to a mentally challenged person.
- Doing something special for the elderly.
- Appreciation party

**3. CHURCH**

- Provide lunch for poor.
- Visit shut-in/ retiree out of regular scheduled visit-time and take something special.
- Plan a project that will bring in funds on that day for a needy church project.
- Surprise get-together for the Pastor.
- Call a special prayer meeting to pray for a special need for someone, group, church or community.
- Prayer walk in the community- go on a march to identify with someone grieving, etc.
- Launch a Social, Human and Educational Fund (SHEF) to assist underprivileged children with these needs.
- Convene a special counselling (get experts) to assist with the need at hand.

#### 4. COMMUNITY

- Take food basket for poor.
- Invite neighbour over for dinner/supper.
- Provide for some special need for the sick/shut-in.
- Treat children to ice-cream.
- Volunteer to take care of an indigent for the day.
- Feed street people.
- Arrange for the bath of a person suffering from severe mental illness.
- Plan special treat for Post Office Staff, School teachers, Police Officers, etc.
- Plan a workday for indigent or community need.
- Visit orphanage, infirmary, etc. and fete them for a day; taking along gifts.
- Treat taxi drivers or any other service provider by giving Christian literature to them.
- Arrange a special programme.
- Uniformed Master Guides/ Pathfinders focusing on a kind deed of their choice in their respective community.
- Uniformed Community Services Group focusing on a kind deed of their choice in their respective community.

#### **The Importance of a Needs Assessment**

Unless good information has been gathered through a careful process, local leaders cannot really know what the needs of a community are and will not have the compelling vision and rationale necessary to organize an effective programme. A few question you may ask your Community Leaders in determining the needs of the community are:

1. What are the biggest assets in our community?
2. My church wants to help with some of the most important needs in our community; what needs do you see which would be good for us to focus on?
3. What could a church group do that would really be helpful in meeting the needs of the community? (*Go through the list one-by one and get as specific as possible on suggestions for each one if time allows.*)
4. Who are some of the influential leaders in the community we should interview with these questions? Do you have contact information for them? May I tell them you referred me?
5. What do you know about my church? What is your impression of our contribution to the community in the past?

## COMMUNITY SERVICES SURVEY

Dear Friend:

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in your area would like to get more involved in community life. We want to support you and your community by helping with your particular concerns. Please help us identify your specific needs. Please add anything not in the list. Thank you!

1. In which of the following services would you have an interest? Please check the appropriate items below:

- Nutrition and vegetarian cooking classes
- Weight control seminar
- Visiting and prayer for the sick
- Care for the elderly
- Clothing and food assistance
- Ministry in crisis (bereavement, grief, mid-life, other)
- Marriage enrichment seminar
- Parenting skills for children and adolescents
- Youth and peer pressure management
- Mentoring and counselling programme for youth
- Substance abuse
- Classes on the meaning of life/my relationship with God

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2. In your own words, identify the three most urgent needs in your neighbourhood.

(i) \_\_\_\_\_

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_

(iii) \_\_\_\_\_

3. If the services and activities you indicated were offered in your neighbourhood, would you participate?

Yes

No



# COMMUNITY SERVICES CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2025



## FEBRUARY

- 01 Community Services Day (GOS)
- 01-08 Week of Kindness, Civility, & Compassion Initiative- I Am My Brother's Keeper (GOS)
- 16 Community Services Mobile Intervention- St. James (GOS)

## MARCH

- 23 Strategic LEAD (ADMIN)

## APRIL

- 27 Strategic LEAD (ADMIN)

## MAY

- 03 Personal Ministries/Community Services Day/ APABLE Convention (DH, GOS)
- 04 Community Services & APABLE Expo (GOS)
- 18 Community Services Mobile Social Intervention- Westmoreland (GOS)
- 25 Strategic LEAD (ADMIN)

## JUNE

- 07 Strategic LEAD (ADMIN)

## AUGUST

- 02 Community Services Day (GOS)
- 10 Community Services Mobile Social Intervention- Hanover (GOS)

## OCTOBER

- 12 Community Services Mobile Social Intervention- St. Elizabeth (GOS)
- 26 Strategic LEAD (ADMIN)

## NOVEMBER

- 01 Personal Ministries /Bible Workers & Lay Preachers' Recognition Day/Community Services Day (DH, GOS)
- 30 Strategic LEAD (ADMIN)