



lifegroups

Community

Serving Menu

Dear Life Group Members,

One of the characteristics of a healthy Life Group is that they actively participate in service. Because of this, we challenge each Life Group to serve together in three different ways:

1. Once a month at a weekend worship service.
2. Once each session in the community. (Session 1: Sept-Dec & Session 2: Feb-May)
3. Once a year with one of the missionaries our Church supports.

This booklet should help familiarize you with serving in the community.

Thanks for being a part of Life Groups at Real Life!

Brandon Beard
Life Groups @ RLC

***If you find any inaccurate information in these listings, please be sure to email Wendy @ wcarlson@reallifechurch.org so that we can keep this information as up to date as possible. Thanks for your help.**



Why God Wants Us to Serve

Serving is one of our six core practices and one of the things we believe is essential in developing a close relationship with Jesus. Here are a few reasons why serving is a foundational part of Life Groups!

- **Serving draws us closer to God.**

"Where your treasure is, there your heart is also." Matt. 6:21

- **Serving is the antidote to materialism.**

"not eager for money but eager to serve..." I Peter 5:2

- **Serving strengthens our faith.**

"Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus." I Timothy 3:13

- **Serving is an investment in eternity.**

"... Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity." I Tim 6:18-19 (LB)

- **Serving blesses us in return.**

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Proverbs. 11:25

- **Serving together really helps a group have fun and bond together.**

- **Serving brings balance to the Church.**

"Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it." I Corinthians 12 and 13

Typically 90% of the work in churches is done by 10% of the people. Our goal is to become a Church where 100% of the people in Life Groups do 75-85% of the work.

- **Serving creates a welcoming atmosphere for visitors.**

Besides serving, one of our other six core practices is Outreach. When we serve, it creates a welcoming atmosphere for people who have not been to Church in a while and for first-time visitors. Service projects provide a great venue to invite friends.

- **Serving gives us opportunities to share our faith with others.**

We want our Life Groups to be focused on helping others. While serving is our focus, we want to keep in mind that the most important need we can meet in people is to help them discover real life in Jesus Christ.

- **Serving together maximizes our Life Group's impact on the Church, the community, and the world.**

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: if one falls down, his friend can help him up. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10, & 12

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A man named Francis once said, "Share the gospel with everyone, use words if necessary." One of the most effective things we can do to share Jesus with others is to serve them. In the Santa Clarita Valley there are plenty of places your group can serve throughout the year. While serving, our focus should be on meeting needs. In the midst of planning serving projects in the community, keep in mind that a person's greatest need is not physical, not material, but spiritual. Here are a few places your group can meet needs throughout the Santa Clarita Valley.



Your community...

Be on the lookout for friends and neighbors that may need help. Once you identify a need, bring it up in your Life Group. If it is a financial need, have the group



Communicator contact the Community Team Leader who oversees your community and apply for assistance. Below are a just a few examples of programs and places you could serve with here in Santa Clarita.

Life Group Ideas: Meet all your neighbors! Invite them to serve in the community with you. Maybe even invite them to your Life Group!

Santa Clarita Valley Resource Center

20880 Centre Pointe Parkway
P.O. Box 802890
Santa Clarita, CA 91380-2890
Phone: (661) 250-3720
Website: www.scvrc.org
Email: info@scvrc.org

The mission of the SCV Resource Center is to build a strong and viable nonprofit sector and to engage businesses and individuals in active support, thereby "helping our community help itself." Programs include nonprofit training, mentoring, and networking and volunteer and philanthropy development.

Opportunities: Volunteers are always welcome at the SCV Resource Center. There is a need for professionals to provide short-term consulting for fund development, marketing, PR, and information technology projects. Check out the website for current projects and other volunteer opportunities.

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American Cancer Society

25020 W. Avenue Stanford, Unit 170
Valencia, CA 91355
Phone: (800) ACS-2345
Website: www.cancer.org

The American Cancer Society is a nation-wide community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

Opportunities: Volunteers help with public education, fundraising, special events, driving patients to and from treatment, support groups, and office work, etc. Events include Daffodil Days in March and Relay For Life in June.

American Red Cross

501 Shatto Place
Los Angeles, CA 90020
Phone: (310) 445-9900
Website: www.redcrossla.org
Email: info@redcrossla.org

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its congressional charter and the fundamental principles of the International Red Cross movement, provides relief to victims of disasters and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

Opportunities: The American Red Cross, SCV Service Center is always in need of volunteers to help with the day-to-day operations (reception and secretarial duties.) Additionally, the Board of Directors is striving to add new members to create more diversity and greater resources.

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ATEAM

P.O. Box 800277
Santa Clarita, CA 91380-0277
Phone: (661) 251-3733
Website: www.beriskfree.com
Email: ateam@beriskfree.com

ATEAM (Abstinence Through Education and Mentoring) is a nonprofit, faith-based community outreach program offering education, mentoring support, and encouragement to youth in the community. ATEAM's desire is to offer support and information in a non-judgmental manner regarding sexual abstinence and other healthy lifestyles.

Opportunities: ATEAM speaks generally during the school year. Administrative Helps are available throughout the year. Volunteers can participate on monthly prayer walks, small fundraisers, and clerical tasks.

Carousel Ranch

34289 Rocking Horse Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91390-3482
Phone: (661) 268-8010
Website: www.carouselranch.org
Email: info@carouselranch.org

Carousel Ranch is dedicated to providing therapeutic and recreational programs for disabled and disadvantaged children through horses.

Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to assist instructors as spotters/leaders during equestrian therapy lessons with disabled children. Volunteers are also needed for office help and grant writing. Special event volunteers play a vital role in planning and presenting our annual fundraisers.

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Children's Hunger Fund

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7085

Mission Hills, CA 91346-7085

Warehouse:

12820 Pierce Street

Pacoima, CA 91331

Phone: (818) 899-5122

Website: www.childrenshungerfund.org

Email: info@childrenshungerfund.org

Children's Hunger Fund utilizes an extensive network of generous ministries, companies and individuals who help transform children's lives from hunger to hope.

Opportunities: Volunteers are needed to help Children's Hunger Fund feed needy children and families in our neighborhoods and around the world. The ministry is in need of prayer support and of individuals and families willing to donate their time to help in Care Package and Gift Pack assembly.

Fred Jordan Missions

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 12345

Covina, CA 91722

Location Address:

445 Towne Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90013

Phone: (626) 915-1981 (Human Resources Department)

Website: <http://www.fjm.org>

The Fred Jordan Missions is a non-profit, religious organization dedicated to meeting the needs of hungry, homeless, and poverty stricken people, especially moms and children in the inner-cities of America and around the world.

Opportunities: Individual volunteers and groups are needed to sort, count and package product. Large numbers of both individual and group volunteers are needed to perform a wide range of duties for special events. Volunteers or interns may also assist with ongoing programs such as after-school programs, women's ministries, men's programs, custodial care, nutrition education and administration.

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Habitat for Humanity of SF/SCV

5950 Canoga Avenue, Suite 200

Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Phone: (818) 884-8808

Website: www.habitat.org

Email: hfhsfscv@yahoo.com

Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) mission is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Opportunities: Habitat invites people from all walks of life to work together in partnership to build houses with families in need. You do not need construction experience to volunteer. The only requirement is enthusiasm for the effort.

Help the Children – Santa Clarita

(Formerly Hunger Defense Fund)

25030 Avenue Tibbetts, Suite L

Valencia, CA 91355

Phone: (661) 299-9273

Website: www.helpthechildren.org

Contact: Wendi Lancy

Email: wendi@helpthechildren.org

Help the Children is a nonprofit humanitarian and disaster relief organization dedicated to help alleviate the suffering of children and their families throughout the United States and around the world. They provide disaster aid, clothing, medical and dental supplies, and food.

Opportunities: Donations of dry goods/can goods - Always looking for these types of food items. Rice and Beans are especially useful. Volunteer your time – Warehouse workers: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 1:00 pm and food distribution workers: Tuesday and Thursday evenings 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm and Saturday mornings 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. Contact Wendi Lancy for many other service opportunities.

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Hope Gardens Family Center

Attn: Donor Relations, Hope Gardens

Union Rescue Mission

545 S. San Pedro St.

Los Angeles, CA 90013

Phone: (213) 673-4888

Website: www.hopegardens.org

Email: hopegardens@urm.org

Join in supporting Hope Gardens Family Center, a ministry of Union Rescue Mission. On over 70-acres of land, Hope Gardens is a transitional living facility designed for up to 225 women and children to get away from the dangerous streets of Skid Row. Through a comprehensive program, women and families will progress from homelessness toward independent living in 12-36 months. At the end of this program, the goal is that heads of families will have a stable income and be moved into a home of their own, where they will successfully manage a household.

Opportunities: An abundance of volunteer opportunities exist, including teaching, fixing repairs, running a sports clinic, etc. Financial or product donations are welcome.

Los Angeles Mission

303 East 5th Street

Los Angeles, CA 90013

Phone: (213) 629-1227

Website: www.losangelesmission.org

Email: volunteers@lamission.net

The Los Angeles Mission is a nonprofit organization serving the homeless living on the streets of downtown's Hope Central (known as Skid Row). Faithfully, for over 50 years, they have saved many lives and have had a profound impact on thousands of others by providing compassionate, humanitarian services to those in desperate need.

Opportunities: Individuals are needed to serve meals, help with special events, tutor students, clerical/office projects, organize a canned drive or clothing drive, as well as numerous other serving opportunities.

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SCV Food Pantry

24133 Railroad Avenue

Newhall, CA 91321

Contact: *Belinda Crawford, Executive Director*

Phone: (661) 255-9078

Website: www.scvfoodpantry.org

Email: info@scvfoodpantry.org

The SCV Food Pantry is a non-sectarian, nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to providing supplemental food on a short-term basis to local residents in need. Our vision is that no child in our valley will go to bed hungry.

Opportunities: We have positions open for client contact, warehouse and secretarial services volunteers. Hours: 9 a.m. to noon, Monday – Thursday. We also have opportunities available for special events, food drives, and school projects throughout the year.

SCV Homeless Shelter

24901 Orchard Village

Santa Clarita, CA 91355

Phone: (661) 259-1298

Website: <http://www.santaclaritashelter.com/>

The Santa Clarita emergency winter shelter is open from approximately Dec.1 through March 15 each year and provides shelter, food and clothing for shelter clients.

Opportunities: Many donation and volunteer opportunities are available including cash donations, food, clothing and/or supplies. Volunteers may also volunteer their time helping out at the shelter, often in regular rotation as overnight hosts, food servers and safety patrollers. Jackets, blankets and warm socks are always needed, welcomed and appreciated.

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SCV Make A Difference Day

Make A Difference Day is America's largest day of service when millions of Americans volunteer service all across the country. Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. Call the SCV Resource Center at (661) 250-3720 or e-mail at info@scvrc.org to find out how to volunteer or to be a sponsor. Be a part of making a difference right here in Santa Clarita.

SCV Pregnancy Center

25050 Peachland Avenue, Ste. 106
Santa Clarita, CA 91321
Phone: (661) 255-0082
Website: www.scvpc.org
Email: info@scvpc.org

The SCV Pregnancy Center exists to empower those facing an unplanned pregnancy to make pregnancy-related decisions by providing FREE pregnancy tests, options counseling, STD information, referrals, and support groups. Support groups include post abortion, pregnant/parenting teens, and parents of pregnant teens.

Opportunities: Rewarding volunteer opportunities are available, including: clerical, clothing teams, newsletter, speakers' bureau, and many more. Call for information.

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SCV Special Olympics

24779 Valley Street

Newhall, CA 91321

Spirit Games (Sign up March, serve in May)

Phone: (661) 253-2121

Website: www.sosc.org/santaclarita.html

Email: santaclarita@sosc.org

The mission of Santa Clarita Valley Special Olympics (SCVSO) is to provide sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, providing them with opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and share their gifts, skills and friendship.

Opportunities: SCVSO is run solely by volunteers and with local community support, including financial donations. SCVSO is always in need of dedicated volunteers in all sport venues, particularly coaches and assistants, and to help with special events, volunteer coordination and programs.

SCV Youth Project

20880 Centre Pointe Parkway

Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Phone: (661) 257-9688

Website: www.helpnothassle.org

Email: volunteers@helpnothassle.org

The SCV Youth Project exists to provide a safe, nurturing environment where teens and families are strengthened, empowered and equipped with the tools they need to live successful and fulfilling lives.

Opportunities: Volunteers can work in a variety of roles: outreach, administration, maintenance, programs and fundraising. Volunteers are asked to share their skills and talents to support the programs and build the organization.

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Single Mothers Outreach

24271 Main Street

Santa Clarita, CA 91321

Contact: *DaAnne Smith, President*

Phone: (661) 288-0117

Website: www.singlemothersoutreach.org

Email: dsmith@singlemothersoutreach.org

Single Mothers Outreach works to promote the social, emotional, educational and economic welfare of single mothers and their children.

Opportunities: Single Mothers Outreach welcomes volunteers for office help, fundraising, special events, and mentoring.

Teens Against Graffiti (TAG)

Contact: *Christine Saunders*

Phone: (661) 284-1439

Email: csaunders@santa-clarita.com

TAG is for youth, ages 13-18 years old, who want to help with graffiti removal in the City of Santa Clarita.

Opportunities: TAG is held on the third Saturday of every month from 8 am to 5 pm. At least two adult supervisors are required with each youth group. Each participant (including supervisors) must complete a City Volunteer Application which can be completed online at: www.santa-clarita.com/volunteer or at City Hall at 23920 Valencia Blvd., Suite 110.

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Young Life Santa Clarita Valley

27819 Smyth Drive

Valencia, CA 91355

Contact: *Nancy Pantellas, Area Administrator*

Phone: (661) 257-6723

Website: <http://SCV.younglife.org>

Email: ynqlfscv@aol.com

Young Life is a non-denominational, Christian organization committed to impacting kid's lives and preparing them for the future. For more than six decades, Young Life has been introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith, while providing strong, positive influences in their lives.

Young Life and Wyld Life (High School and Junior High School)

Dave Wilson

(661) 257-6723

Email: dwilson32@yahoo.com

Fun Life (Special Needs)

John and Nancy Pantellas

(661) 257-6723

Email: ynqlfscv@aol.com

Opportunities: Young Life is always in need of volunteers to work directly with the kids, to chaperone a special event, to provide food for one of their club meetings, etc.

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Other Community Volunteer Opportunities:

Santa Clarita has numerous community service projects and events that need volunteers. For current volunteer opportunities, to sign up, or to get more information call, (661) 286-4165 or check out their website at www.santa-clarita.com. The direct link to volunteer opportunities on their website is: www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/parks/volunteer.asp

Here are some ideas from other Life Groups:

- Free Oil Change for Single Moms
- Helping a needy family with food, clothes, yard work
- Family Date Night (provide free babysitting for parents to go out together.)
- Participate in SCV city clean up activities like... (the wash, etc.)
- Clean up a local park.
- Free Christmas gift wrap outside Wal-Mart, or a big store like it.
- Go door to door to get people's prayer requests.

Answers to Commonly Asked Questions:

- 1. Why do you encourage us to invite people who are not followers of Jesus to participate in service projects with our Life Groups?** Inviting someone to Church or a Life Group can be awkward and difficult. However, inviting someone to join a group from the community to help serve the homeless, clean up a local park, or deliver presents to a less fortunate family, is an easy invite. A community service project is a great way to reach out to your neighbors and tell them about Jesus with your actions. It is a safe predictable place for them to see the Church at work.
- 2. What if we are asked to give money to an organization or program where we serve?** Your Life Group receives money throughout the year to serve your community. However the money we give you is not intended for you to make a donation. The money we give you is intended for meeting physical needs, such as the purchase of resources, food, clothes, etc. If you feel a donation could or should be made, have your Life Group Facilitator contact the Community Team leader who oversees your area FIRST!
- 3. What if the people we serve are doing a good thing, but they are not honoring God in the way they do it?** Your Life Group will not always be working with organizations that share the same values you do. This is your time as a Life Group to be an example in the community, not judgmental. If you see things happening that you don't like, don't address them during the project, but rather give us some feedback after the event is over.
- 4. What if someone in our group sees a need and thinks our group should make this our primary place of service?** The needs in our community are overwhelming. If an individual feels strongly about feeding the homeless weekly or being a coach for Special Olympics, we encourage that kind of involvement. However, just because one individual feels strongly about a certain place of service, the entire group should not be pressured or expected to help on an ongoing basis. If individuals make the decision to do so, that is fantastic.