

Engaging Community Leaders

Your community's leaders play a vital role in your community. Your Mayor, Council Members, Supervisors, etc. are in positions that give them unique insight into, and responsibility for, the areas of real need in your community. As the Church, we have the privilege to come alongside our community leaders, serving them as we serve our communities. As you serve your community, providing your community leaders with specific reports that detail the impact and amount of your community service can be a powerful tool of encouragement both for your community leaders and your church..

1

Ask Community Leaders about Needs in Your Focus Area

Decide if your efforts will focus on your entire city or region, or on the community you live in. Next, identify the area's most pressing needs. One way to do this is to read the newspaper and keep notes when it mentions needs. Then, schedule a meeting with your mayor or community representative. Ask for a list of the community's most pressing needs from their perspective. Since you are there to serve, it is critical to ask them for what they think are the best ways you can serve the community.

2

Share the Needs with Your Leadership

It is critical to get your leadership united and focused on which needs you will be addressing. Seek your leaders' great ideas of creative ways to address the needs. They will help identify the ministries/services you might already have that are addressing some of the community's problems. [Click here for ideas for community-wide events..](#)

3

Share the Need with Your Congregation

If you are a leader in a church, share the needs with your congregation. If you aren't part of a church, consider partnering with one. Your church may have existing ministries focused on the expressed needs. This is a great opportunity to recruit more people to become involved in ministry in general, and in specific ministries as well. Everyone can get a Ph.D.O, an "advanced degree" in service! Your efforts mean that you will be recruiting people to become community partners as well. Forming strategic partnerships with the police, social services, public schools, the food bank, and so on, will create win-win situations for everyone.

4

Start Serving

Conduct a church-wide or group-wide Do Something campaign. This will lead to a church-wide community service project and the development of a series of ongoing ministries that will serve you community year-round. Make sure you plan carefully and thoroughly. Then deploy your “troops” to meet the needs expressed by your mayor or community official.

5

Track Your Service Hours

You will need to set up a good process to record and track volunteer service hours. We recommend setting up simple forms online that are easy to access and use by volunteers. One way to do is to use an online service like Wufoo (www.wufoo.com).

6

Calculate the Economic Impact of Your Service

Multiple the numbers of hours you’ve donated by the reasonable hourly pay rate for your area to find the cost savings to your community. One way to do that is to use O*Net Online (www.onetonline.org).

7

Provide a Quarterly Mayor’s Report

This report will give officials confidence that you are actually following through on what you promised. It is also an opportunity to nurture a working relationship with your mayor and/or city officials.

Include the following components:

- a. Ministry description
- b. Practical need it addressed
- c. Community agencies you partnered with
- d. Number of volunteers involved
- e. Number of people in the community served
- f. Number of volunteer hours served
- g. Financial impact on the community/city

See [Mayor’s Report](http://www.dosomethingchurch.org/resources) at www.dosomethingchurch.org/resources for a detailed example.