



## Rooting Youth Service Experiences: A Practical Guide



Office of Education,  
Evangelization  
and Catechesis

INSPIRING FAITH, KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNITY

ARCHDIOCESE *of* HARTFORD



THE OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC  
SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Of the Archdiocese of Hartford

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## Mission

To provide a resource for parish catechetical leaders, Confirmation coordinators, Catholic School educators, youth ministers and high school campus ministers to assist in developing meaningful and comprehensive service experiences for youth.

## Vision

Service experiences for youth will be grounded in the spiritual and social dimensions of the faith. Youth will have significant opportunities for encounter with Jesus Christ by actively engaging with those they serve and reflecting on their experience through prayer, dialogue and theological reflection. These experiences will plant seeds, nurtured by the gifts of the Holy Spirit such that youth will heed the call to continue serving, even after Confirmation.

## Introduction

Working with youth is an essential ministry of the church, one that requires much energy and dedication. The youth are situated in an interesting point in life, a time of growing and maturing, a time of walking and falling, and a time of learning and questioning. The Church and the community are entrusted with their care and upbringing from the moment of baptism, fostering the faith by actively engaging them through learning and service. Faith begins at home, the Second Vatican Council taught, with the family as the “Domestic Church”<sup>1</sup> where the youth first encounter the faith and the values of the Christian life. These are embodied and affirmed through the witness of the parents in their own lives.

Youth, however, must venture into the world, letting faith mature on their terms through their daily experiences and relationships they develop. Parish catechetical leaders, Confirmation coordinators, Catholic school educators and youth ministers have a tremendous opportunity to accompany the youth during their teenage years. It is critical to recognize the following challenges: the secularization of society, an increasing reliance and infatuation with technology, morality obscured by the values exhibited in popular culture, a growing skepticism of the faith, a movement towards relativism, and a view of the sacraments of initiation as tasks to accomplish.

Ministers today are seeking innovative and creative ways to weave the beauty of the Catholic faith into the lives of the youth. There is a thirst to learn and experience, yet ministers must communicate the faith in a way that is accessible and leaves room for youth to challenge their faith, realizing that life is not always black and white. This resource seeks to draw upon the common concerns in catechesis, sacramental preparation, and evangelization of youth by exploring the spiritual and social dimensions of the faith that are essential to their formation. Ministers will also acquire best practices in service ministry through the experience of other ministers in the archdiocese. Additional resources such as literature, volunteer opportunities and training will be available so that ministers will have greater opportunities to incorporate social justice into the service experience.

Fundamental to our understanding of service experience, is encounter. We recall the encounter between doubting Thomas and Christ in John 20, where it was not until Thomas touched the wounds of Christ did he come to believe, crying aloud “My Lord and my God.” The Lord then

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<sup>1</sup>Second Vatican Council, *Lumen gentium*, 11; cf. *Apostolicam actuositatem*, 11.

replied, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” The kerygma, or the heart of Christ’s message, is an invitation to see him amidst the poor and vulnerable as we are reminded in Matthew 25, “Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.” Encounter is an opportunity for conversion. Christ calls us out of ourselves, our comfort zones, to truly see him in the ones we are serving.

As a leader, great care should be placed upon choosing service opportunities that are both meaningful and impactful to the community being served, yet stay true to Catholic social teachings. The Corporal Works of Mercy “are the charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs.” (USCCB) Through the Corporal Works of Mercy, Jesus gives us the blueprint for serving and entering into community with our brothers and sisters.

Questions to consider when choosing a location for service:

- Is the location representative of the population that you wish to serve?
- Will the youth have opportunities for meaningful interactions with those they serve?
- Will the youth and chaperones be safe during the service experience?
  - Check out the neighborhood crime statistics with [Crime Reports](#)
- Are there hospitals or health clinics nearby in case of emergencies?
- Are there general stores or groceries nearby in case additional supplies are needed?
- If the service experience is more than a day, can the location accommodate youth and chaperone to stay over (i.e. parish hall or rectory)?

Questions to consider when choosing a project:

- Does this project fall under one of the **Corporal Works of Mercy**?
  - Feed the hungry
  - Give drink to the thirsty
  - Shelter the homeless
  - Visit the sick
  - Visit the imprisoned
  - Bury the dead
  - Give alms to the poor
- Does this project provide the opportunity to truly enter into community with others?
- How will this project allow youth to grow their faith and embrace their call to discipleship?
- Can youth return to this site or project on their own? With their peers? With their family?

## Preparing for a Service Experience



### Before the Experience

- Get to know one another - why are you here?
- Learn about social justice issues in the community you are going to visit
- Group vision - what are your hopes for the trip?
- Trip expectations



### During the Experience

- Routines for start, middle, and end of the day
- Priorities: learning, conversing with locals, praying as one community
- Emphasis on accompaniment
- Get out of comfort zone



### After the Experience

- Integrate experience into daily life
- Two feet of love: charity and social justice
- Practical ways of living in solidarity with own community
- Check in after one week, one month, and one year after experience

## FIRST STEPS (BEFORE THE EXPERIENCE)

### Prayer by St. Teresa of Avila

*Let nothing disturb [us]. Let nothing frighten [us]. All things pass. God does not change. Patience achieves everything. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices.*

*Christ has no body now on earth but [ours]; no hands but [ours]; no feet but [ours]. [Ours] are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. [Ours] are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. [Ours] are the hands with which He is to bless His people.*

In order to ensure the success of a service opportunity for youth, it is important to have the details of the event clarified. It is also imperative that youth are well prepared for the experience prior to participation.

- Get feedback from youth you work with as to what demographic they may wish to encounter in a service experience (children, elderly, homeless, etc.)
- Visit site prior to bringing the youth and ask the following questions:
  - What types of outreach/programs do you offer to the population being served?



### Before the Experience

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- How best can we help you in your mission?
- Is there a way we can partner to support you in an on-going fashion? This may allow continued projects at an offsite location such as the church.
- Basics - how many people should come, such that all volunteers will be actively engaged?
  - How many adults should come?
  - How can we best educate our young people about your population? (misconceptions, special needs, obstacles, current statistics, . . .)
- Prepare youth for challenges that may arise:
  - Realistically prepare them for the environment they are entering - sights, sounds, smells. This will not only increase their comfort level but prevent sensory overload.
  - Discuss the population you plan to visit. What prejudices might exist and discuss why this is so. How does society/media portray this group? How can you have an open mind as you interact with this group?
  - Share fears and expectations.
  - Discuss how the youth can support one another during the experience.
  - Brainstorm any challenges that may occur and develop strategies for handling these.
  - Inform youth that they will be asked to reflect upon their experience so they may begin looking deeply at the interactions and experiences they'll be having.
- Set expectations of the youth:
  - This is time to immerse oneself not only in a new culture, but another's life.
  - The priorities are to learn, talk with the locals, and pray and work as one community.
  - What do you hope to accomplish? Outline goals and outcomes for the service experience.
  - Do you bring any specific skills that will be used in the service experience?
  - Take time to learn about the local community. What language is spoken? What social justice issues do they face?
- Choose one or two "student leaders." Youth typically follow the lead of influential peers and this will also provide good growth opportunities for student leaders.
- The emphasis of every service opportunity should be focused on interactions with those who are being served. Even if the youth are just stocking shelves at a food pantry, or other manual labor sites, try to have a supervisor come and share about how the site is run. It would also be very beneficial to have a visitor who helps at the site, or a recipient of the services share their thoughts and reflections.



#### During the Experience

- Routines for start, middle, and end of the day
- Priorities: learning, conversing with locals, praying as one community
- Emphasis on accompaniment
- Get out of comfort zone

## NEXT STEPS (DURING THE EXPERIENCE)

*Making Room at the Table* by Carole Garibaldi Rogers and Mary Ann Jeselson

*O loving God, you nourish and sustain us. We thank you for the gift of food, which nourishes life. You continue to be with us in so many and marvelous ways, nourishing and sustaining us always with food that gives life to all the aspects of our being.*

*Help us to use the many ways in which you nourish us as sources of unity and life for all of your people. Allow us to grow in sensitivity to the plight of those who are hungry, alone, frightened, shut out, uninvited, unwelcome.*

What occurs during the service experience will have a profound effect on how youth encounter Jesus through the people they are working with. Below are some suggestions for how to ensure that the experience is positive and meaningful to all involved.

- Establish a routine that incorporates reflection for the start, middle, and end of the experience:
  - Start
    - What time will everyone be expected to leave and from where?
    - Be sure to start the day with prayer (Mass is ideal, but that depends on whether the community has access to a priest). If this is a partial day experience, begin with a simple prayer, being sure to not only include the target population, but the youth as well.
    - Run through the the itinerary for the day - specify the locations to be traveled, tasks to be done, and people they will be meeting.
    - Provide an opportunity for the youth to ask questions and share any fears or nervousness with the group.
  - Middle
    - Encourage the youth to engage those they are serving through conversation. [Here](#) is a list of conversation starters that youth can view ahead of the experience to help them in engaging those they will be serving. If applicable, set time to eat together for a meal. Also encourage youth to sit with someone new and with those they are serving (if possible).
    - Limit the youth's time on their phones and emphasize that this is an immersion experience. Depending upon the location of the activity, it is often better if cell phones are left in vehicles.
      - Consider saying "no technology at all except adult chaperone in case of emergency."
  - End
    - Set aside some time for a group reflection which incorporates prayer, faith sharing, and Scripture. This can be as simple as a group prayer on site or

upon returning home.

- Some key questions to ask: Who did you encounter today? Were you at all hesitant to encounter others? What were some blessings/challenges you experienced? Given the time constraints of many families, the initial debriefing may occur on the journey home. These are wonderful conversation starters to have initially with the youth on the way home, if the timing does not allow for a full debriefing.
  - Remember that every individual will process their experience differently. Give time for the youth to be on their own or with their peers. Provide the youth with a simple [reflection sheet](#) that they can take home and continue to process their experience or provide journals with reflection exercises.
- Chaperones should always put themselves in the position of encouraging the youth - model appropriate behavior, yet allow the youth to lead with support.
  - Hold the youth accountable for their commitment to the service experience. If youth are found misbehaving or not engaged in the service, chaperones are encouraged to take the youth aside to check in with them.

## FINAL STEPS (AFTER THE EXPERIENCE)

### Prayer by Catholic Relief Services

*Loving God, We pray in thanksgiving for all of our blessings. And we thank you, especially for the community gathered and for everyone we met on our trip. We ask that we will not allow the experience we had - the stories of those we encountered and a deeper understanding of the poverty that many people face - to fade with our memories of the experience.*

*Transform us so that we are forever changed by our experience, and will bring it with us wherever we go. Make us witnesses to your Gospel message to care for the poor and oppressed. Fill us with the strength to be faithful to this message even in the small things. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen*

The ways in which youth grow and develop in their faith after a service experience can be as powerful as the way in which they grow during the experience. Take advantage of the many ways to continue their faith journey even after the service experience. It is critical to spend time with rich conversation in debriefing with the youth.

- Pose the following questions to open up reflection and discussion:
  - Highs and lows of the experience (start easy to get the ball rolling)
  - Who was the face of God for you today?
  - For whom were you the face of God?
  - What most surprised you about this population? (recall prejudices discussed prior



### After the Experience

- Integrate experience into daily life
- Two feet of love: charity and social justice
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- to the visit)
- Give opportunities for the youth to share their experiences
  - Witness talks
    - At the end of Mass
    - During Confirmation sessions
    - With younger students in the faith formation program
    - At parish social functions
  - Reflection essays
    - Upload to parish website
    - Print in parish bulletin

### **Best Practices**

When planning service opportunities and mission trips for youth, it is imperative to intentionally weave the ecclesial and spiritual dimensions around the actual engagement experiences. Our U.S. Bishops' Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis caution against facilitating "poverty tourism." Our explicit efforts to wrap the themes of Catholic Social Teaching and the Works of Mercy around service experiences helps draw the connections between service and justice for youth.

Verify that chaperones assisting with the service experience have gone through proper training:

- Sexual Abuse Awareness Training for Adults
  - [Virtus Online](#)
- Archdiocese of Hartford [Office of Safe Environment Handbook](#)
- Sexual Abuse Awareness Training for Children and Teens
  - [Child Lures Prevention Program](#)
  - [Teen Lures Prevention Program](#)
- Contact [Kathleen Nowosadko](#) with any questions regarding Safe Environment concerns

Verify that all proper paperwork is filled out and collected from youth:

- Field Trip [Permission Form](#)
- Fill out [Chaperone Compliance Form](#)
- Provide chaperones with an emergency contact list
- Arrange drivers to transport youth
  - Fill out [Volunteer Driver Form](#)
- Develop a contingency plan for inclement weather - make these arrangements with service site ahead of time.
- Develop a cell phone policy for your youth. It is strongly recommended that students do not bring cell phones into the service site, and only adult chaperones should carry cell phones.
- Verify that students' vaccinations (especially tetanus) are up to date.

## Designing a Service Experience

One of the most challenging parts about youth service experiences is designing a meaningful opportunity. Here are suggestions that will help you as you go about your planning:

### Working in the community

- Remove debris from any place that experiences continued collection
- Painting fences
- Conduct a neighborhood drive to collect used furniture
- Work with local organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Boys and Girls Club

### Work with local schools

- Working with the elderly
- Visit with elderly at a nursing home
- Help an elderly neighbor (mowing the lawn, pulling weeds, shoveling the snow)
- Help out at Senior Centers

### Working with the homeless

- Prepare sack lunches and deliver them to those living on the streets
- Collect other items to deliver to homeless shelters (blankets, sheets, towels, toys, books, disposable diapers)
- Hold a clothing drive to collect cold-weather clothing

### Working with a shelter or food bank

- Volunteer to help prepare or serve food at a shelter
- Volunteer to help with repairs or maintenance at the shelter
- Hold a food drive
- Collect grocery coupons to give to a local food bank

### Working with the environment

- Grow a parish garden or work at a community garden
- Work with neighborhood or community to clean up abandoned building
- Volunteer to help with neighborhood curbside recycling pick-up
- Plant trees, flowers, or other vegetation in vacant spots around the neighborhood
- Hold a recycling contest

### Working with literacy and education

- Try tutoring at learning centers or afterschool programs
- Collect used books to give to a hospital, nursing home, shelter, or preschool
- Read aloud to a person who is visually impaired
- Organize a reading hour for children at a local school or library
- Teach English, Spanish, or another language to those who need learning
- Tutor other people in any skill or talent

### Working with persons with disabilities

- Volunteer at a Special Olympics event
- Volunteer at a rehabilitation center - learn about patients with special needs
- Volunteer to help with your parish Faith Formation program, to assist children with special needs
- Begin a “Mass Buddy” program...where teens can sit with children with disabilities during Mass to help parents, especially those who have other children to tend to

### Working with youth in the neighborhood

- Set up a buddy system at your parish or school for kids with special needs
- Volunteer to work with children at risk of suicide, alcohol, or other drug use, gang involvement, pregnancy, running away, and other problems
- Volunteer at a YMCA, YWCA, Boy/Girls Scouts, Boys’/Girls’ Club
- Organize a safety walk system to escort young children around the neighborhood or to and from school

### Source:

Lewis, Barbara A. *The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 Service Ideas for Young People Who Want to Make a Difference*. Free Spirit Publishing. 2009

- ▶▶ Click [here](#) for a list of service projects that are categorized by the **Corporal Works of Mercy**.
- ▶▶ Click [here](#) for info on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) multimedia contest, which links **education for justice with advocacy**.

## Resources

### Articles

- U.S Catholic
  - [If heroism is driving your mission trip, stay home - Michael Gabe](#)
- Catapult magazine
  - [Short Term Missions: Are they worth the cost - Jo Van Engen](#)

### Books

- Connell, SJ, Martin and Connors, Christiane. *Whatever You Do: Helping Students Think Deeply About Service Experience*. National Catholic Education Association. 2009.
- Jambor, Mary Beth. *Helping Kids Live Their Faith: Service Projects that Make a Difference*. RCL Benziger. 2017
- Lewis, Barbara A. *The Kid's Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 Service Ideas for Young People Who Want to Make a Difference*. Free Spirit Publishing. 2009
- McCann, Deborah. *What Pope Francis Says About Service: 30 Days of Reflection and Prayers*. Twenty-Third Publications. 2016.
- Meuser, Bernhard. *Docat: Catholic Social Teaching for Youth*. Ignatius Press. 2016.
- Schlag, Martin. *Handbook of Catholic Social Teaching: A Guide for Christians in the World Today*. The Catholic University of America Press. 2017.
- Weber, Kerry. *Mercy in the City: How to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visit the Imprisoned, and Keep Your Day Job*. Loyola Press. 2014.

### Educational

- Catholic Relief Services
  - [Prayers and Reflections for the Journey - a participant manual designed to accompany Catholic Relief Services' Resources for Short Term, International, and Immersion Trips](#)
- Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers [Discover Your Neighbor: Mission Education Program](#)
  - Free online resources on the following topics:
    - Care of creation
    - Migration
    - Economic justice
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
  - [The Two Feet of Love in Action, facilitator's guide](#)

### Organizations

- [Young Neighbors in Action](#) - weeklong service learning program for middle school, high school students, and adults by the Center for Ministry Development
- [Catholic HEART Workcamp](#) - CHWC provides all you need to offer your young people a positive life-changing experience. You prepare at home and once you arrive, a team of college-aged students, a manager local to the area, a director from the home office, a priest to celebrate liturgy and the sacraments, and a volunteer nurse are all ready to serve you so that in return, we are able to serve together.

Websites

- [Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry - Youth and Young Adults](#)
- [Office for Education, Evangelization, and Catechesis - Youth Ministry](#)
- [Catholic Relief Services - Resources for Service and Immersion Trips](#)
- [Education for Justice](#)
- [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops - Justice Peace and Human Development \(Youth Section\)](#)

Appendix

**Outreach Opportunities in Hartford County**

<p><b>The Bridge Family Center</b>  Amanda Aronson  1022 Farmington Avenue  West Hartford, CT  860-521-8035</p> <p>Provides a health intervention and prevention programs for children and families in Crisis in the Greater Hartford Area.</p>	<p><b>Gifts of Love</b>  Nancy Carlson  34 East Main St.  Avon, CT  860-676-2323</p> <p>Offers short-term programs and education to working individuals and families suffering financial crises in the Greater Hartford Area.</p>
<p><b>Catherine’s Place</b>  Faye Holmes  211 Wethersfield Avenue  Hartford, CT  860-808-2115</p> <p>A residential living program in Hartford that provides transitional housing to fifteen single, homeless women for up to one year.</p>	<p><b>The House of Bread</b>  Ask for Margaret or Grace  1453 Main St.  Hartford, CT  860-724-1061</p> <p>Provides food, housing, education, medical/psychological, and legal services to economically disadvantaged residents in the Hartford area</p>
<p><b>Catholic Worker House</b>  18 Clark St  Hartford CT 06120  860-724-7066  <a href="mailto:purplehousecw@gmail.com">purplehousecw@gmail.com</a></p> <p>A community of lay Catholics and like minded individuals in North Hartford that work with children and families in the neighborhood to secure food and housing for those in need.</p>	<p><b>Immaculate Conception Shelter (ImmacCare, Inc.)</b>  Teresa Wierbicki  1868 Hungerford St.  Hartford, CT  860-724-4823</p> <p>Strives to eliminate homelessness in the Hartford area by creating safe, affordable housing and developing the soft skills of those experiencing housing crisis.</p>

<p><b>Covenant to Care</b>  Dave Santis  1477 Park St. 2A  Hartford, CT  860-243-1806  <a href="mailto:dsantis@covenanttocare.org">dsantis@covenanttocare.org</a></p> <p>Provides direct assistance to children in Connecticut who are neglected, abused, and/or impoverished.</p>	<p><b>Klingberg Family Centers</b>  Krystal Crockett  370 Lynwood St.  New Britain, CT  860-832-5519  <a href="mailto:krystal.crockett@klingberg.org">krystal.crockett@klingberg.org</a></p> <p>Provides hope and healing to children and families traumatized by abuse, neglect, severe family problems, and mental health issues.</p>
<p><b>Knox, Inc. Headquarters</b>  75 Laurel St.  Hartford, CT 06106  860-951-7694  <a href="https://www.knoxford.org/volunteer/">https://www.knoxford.org/volunteer/</a></p> <p>Uses horticulture for community engagement to forge partnerships with residents, business, government to build healthier and more beautiful neighborhoods in Hartford</p>	<p><b>My Sister's Place</b>  102 Pliny St.  Hartford, CT  860-895-6633  <a href="mailto:ejohnson@sistersplacect.org">ejohnson@sistersplacect.org</a></p> <p>Provides transitional services such as meals, housing, medical care, financial management for homeless men and women with children.</p>
<p><b>The Crisis Pregnancy Center</b>  Deborah awes  30 Mill Street  Unionville, CT 06085  (860)-673-7397  <a href="mailto:DLaws@TheCrisisPregnancyCenterCT.org">DLaws@TheCrisisPregnancyCenterCT.org</a></p> <p>A Christian pro-life center that assist women in making life-affirming plans to keep and parent their babies or adoptions plans through compassionate and spiritual support.</p>	<p><b>Prudence Crandall Center for Women</b>  Tyshaunda Wiley  594 Burritt St.  (860) 225-5187 ext. 32  <a href="mailto:twiley@prudencecrandall.org">twiley@prudencecrandall.org</a></p> <p>Provides comprehensive care to victims of domestic violence through care, advocacy, support, and education</p>
<p><b>Hands on Hartford</b>  Wanda Guzman  55 Bartholomew Avenue  Hartford, CT  860-706-1507  <a href="mailto:wguzman@handsonhartford.org">wguzman@handsonhartford.org</a></p> <p>Provides food, housing, and health services to needy residents in Hartford with the help of volunteers and community partnerships.</p>	<p><b>Catholic Charities (Immigration Services)</b>  Kimberly May-Bailey  35 Groton St  Hartford, CT  860-297-7800</p> <p>Offers support for incoming and current refugee/migrant individuals and families through refugee resettlement, immigration, employment, and ESL services.</p>

<p><b>South Park Inn</b>  Dick Lusso  75 Main St  Hartford, CT  <a href="mailto:dlusso@southparkinn.org">dlusso@southparkinn.org</a>  860-724-0071</p> <p>Assists homeless people by improving their life situation and providing temporary/ long-term housing and supportive services.</p>	<p><b>Habitat for Humanity</b>  500 Cottage Grove Rd.  Bloomfield, CT  <a href="mailto:Volunteer@hartfordhabitat.org">Volunteer@hartfordhabitat.org</a>  860-541-2208</p> <p>Dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in the Hartford area through constructing, rehabilitating, and preserving homes.</p>
<p><b>Chrysalis Center, Inc.</b>  Maryellen Shuckerow  255 Homestead Ave.  Hartford, CT 06105  860-263-4400  <a href="mailto:mshuckerow@ChrysalisCenterCT.org">mshuckerow@ChrysalisCenterCT.org</a></p> <p>A multi service organization that serves individuals and families living in Connecticut.</p>	<p><b>Elizabeth Park Conservancy</b>  1561 Asylum Avenue  West Hartford, CT 06117  860-231-9443  <a href="mailto:volunteer@elizabethparkct.org">volunteer@elizabethparkct.org</a></p> <p>Partners with the City of Hartford to main and preserve Elizabeth park.</p>
<p><b>Riverfront Recapture, Inc.</b>  50 Columbus Boulevard, 1st Floor  Hartford, CT 06106  860-713-3131  <a href="http://www.riverfront.org/get-involved/volunteer">http://www.riverfront.org/get-involved/volunteer</a></p> <p>Connect residents in the Hartford Country to the Connecticut River through different recreational programs such as parks, art, and adventure programs.</p>	<p><b>A Hand Up, Inc.</b>  West Hartford  860-424-2980  <a href="https://ahandupinc.org/">https://ahandupinc.org/</a></p> <p>Helps people transitioning from homelessness to independent living by distributing and repurposing household items.</p>

**Outreach Opportunities in New Haven County**

<p><b>Amistad Catholic Worker House</b>  Mark and Luz Colville  203 Rosette Street New  Haven, CT  203-624-5517  <a href="http://www.amistadcw.wordpress.com">www.amistadcw.wordpress.com</a></p> <p>A community of lay Catholics that work with children and families in the New</p>	<p><b>Columbus House Emergency Shelter</b>  586 Ella T. Grasso Blvd.  203-401-4400  <a href="mailto:info@columbushouse.org">info@columbushouse.org</a></p> <p>Provides shelter and housing for those in need, in addition to fostering personal growth and independence.</p>
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<p>Haven area to provide a safe haven and a place to gather.</p>	
<p><b>Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services</b>  235 Nicoll Street  2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  New Haven, CT 06511  203-562-2095  <a href="mailto:info@irisct.org">info@irisct.org</a>  <a href="http://www.irisct.org">www.irisct.org</a></p> <p>Provides services to refugees including English lessons, education and youth programs, employment services.</p>	<p><b>Midnight Run</b>  Center Church 84 Broadway  New Haven, CT 06511 203-865-6354  <a href="mailto:ccmail@christchurchnh.org">ccmail@christchurchnh.org</a>  <a href="http://www.christchurchnh.org">www.christchurchnh.org</a></p> <p>This is an outreach ministry for the homeless.</p>
<p><b>St. Francis and St. Rose of Lima School</b>  423 Ferry St. New Haven, CT  203-777-5352</p>	<p><b>St. Ann Soup Kitchen</b>  930 Dixwell Avenue  Hamden, CT  203-562-5700</p> <p>Provides hot meals for those in need.</p>
<p><b>Springs Learning Center</b>  Sr. Margaret Mary Kennedy, O.P.  115 Blatchley Ave.  New Haven, CT  Tutor/ESL/Reading  <a href="http://www.springslearning.org">www.springslearning.org</a></p> <p>Provides English as a second language lessons to the Hispanic/Latino population of New Haven area.</p>	<p><b>Master's Manna</b>  428 S. Cherry St.  Wallingford, CT  203-678-3042  <a href="http://mastersmanna.org/">http://mastersmanna.org/</a></p> <p>Serves residents and homeless in Wallingford, Meriden, and Cheshire, by finding local resource from other towns. Services include: food pantry, cooked meals, shower and laundry, clothing and supplies pantry, vocational and education training, and a community health center.</p>
<p><b>St. Francis Food Pantry</b>  397 Ferry St.  New Haven, CT  203-777-5356</p> <p>Food pantry, located in the parish hall next to the school.</p>	<p><b>St Thomas More Center</b>  268 Park St  New Haven, CT  203-777-5537  <a href="https://stm.yale.edu/act">https://stm.yale.edu/act</a></p> <p>The Catholic Center at Yale University which has opportunities to assist in the soup kitchen (Wednesdays), prayer center for Catholic Yale students, and other services projects.</p>

<p><b>New Reach – Live Haven Shelter</b>  447 Ferry St  New Haven, CT  Part of New Reach, Inc.  <a href="http://newreach.org/">http://newreach.org/</a></p> <p>Provides a full spectrum of housing services for at-risk families, youth, and individuals from eviction prevention to the development of supportive and affordable housing.</p>	<p><b>Miller Memorial Community</b>  360 Broad St #1  Meriden, CT  203-237-8815  <a href="http://www.millercommunity.org/">http://www.millercommunity.org/</a></p> <p>A residential community that provides health care and rehabilitative care to older adults in the Meriden area.</p>
<p><b>Mary Wade Home</b>  118 Clinton Ave  New Haven, CT  203-562-7222  <a href="https://marywade.org/">https://marywade.org/</a></p> <p>An organization that seeks to provide high quality medical care, social programs, and supervised residential services. The campus includes a nursing home, hospice, adult day care, and Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s programs.</p>	<p><b>MidState ARC</b>  200 Research Parkway  Meriden, CT  <a href="https://thearcct.org/the-arc-of-meriden-wallingford/">https://thearcct.org/the-arc-of-meriden-wallingford/</a></p> <p>A membership agency that provides comprehensive, full-service, community-based opportunities for people with disabilities in Central Connecticut.</p>
<p><b>Emergency Shelter Management Services</b>  645 Grand Ave  New Haven, CT  203-777-2522  <a href="http://esmsshelter.org/">http://esmsshelter.org/</a></p> <p>Established in 1989, provides assistance to the homeless population in the New Haven area, specifically for male residents. Services include access to transitional and permanent housing and coordinated services.</p>	<p><b>Connecticut Food Bank</b>  2 Research Parkway  Wallingford, CT  203-469-2000  <a href="mailto:cfb@ctfoodbank.org">cfb@ctfoodbank.org</a>  <a href="http://www.ctfoodbank.org/">http://www.ctfoodbank.org/</a></p> <p>Provide food assistance to people throughout the State of Connecticut. Food and resources are provided through a network of community based programs, serving adults and children in Fairfield, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, and Windham counties.</p>

## Outreach Opportunities in Waterbury

<p><b>Acts 4 Ministry</b>          1713 Thomaston Avenue          Waterbury, CT 06704          (203-574)-2287  <a href="mailto:info@acts4.org">info@acts4.org</a>  <a href="http://acts4.net">http://acts4.net</a></p> <p>This organization collects and distributes household items for those in need.</p>	<p><b>Carolyn's Place: Pregnancy Care Center</b>          137 Grandview Avenue          Waterbury, CT 06708          (203)-597-9050  <a href="http://www.carolynsplace.net/">http://www.carolynsplace.net/</a></p> <p>Provides support for those faced with an unplanned pregnancy.</p>
<p><b>Habitat for Humanity – Great Waterbury</b>          P.O. Box 1881          Waterbury, CT 06722          (203)-596-0014  <a href="http://www.waterburyhabitat.org/">http://www.waterburyhabitat.org/</a>  <a href="mailto:info@waterburyhabitat.org">info@waterburyhabitat.org</a></p> <p>Builds and restores homes for low income families.</p>	<p><b>Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury</b>          267 Grand Street          Waterbury, CT 06702          (203)-754-1164  <a href="http://www.lvgwct.org/">http://www.lvgwct.org/</a>  <a href="mailto:vvowe@waterburyct.org">vvowe@waterburyct.org</a></p> <p>Teaches English literacy and promotes family literacy for those in need.</p>
<p><b>Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury</b>          29 Central Avenue          Waterbury, CT 06702          (888)-568-8332  <a href="http://www.safehavengw.org/">http://www.safehavengw.org/</a>  <a href="mailto:info@safehavenofgw.org">info@safehavenofgw.org</a></p> <p>Provides a safe and caring environment for victims of domestic violence.</p>	<p><b>St. Vincent DePaul Mission of Waterbury</b>          34 Willow Street          P.O. Box 1612          Waterbury, CT          (203)-754-0000  <a href="mailto:info@svdpmission.org">info@svdpmission.org</a>  <a href="http://www.stvincentdepaulmission.org/">http://www.stvincentdepaulmission.org/</a></p> <p>Works with the poor, homeless and hungry to provide support, food and shelter.</p>
<p><b>The Arc, Waterbury</b>          1929 East Main Street          Waterbury, CT          (203)-575-0707  <a href="http://www.waterburyarc.org/">http://www.waterburyarc.org/</a></p> <p>Assists individuals with intellectual disabilities so they may learn, work and participate in their communities.</p>	<p><b>Waterbury Youth Services</b>          83 Prospect Street          Waterbury, CT 06702          (203)-573-0264  <a href="http://waterburyyouthservices.org/">http://waterburyyouthservices.org/</a>  <a href="mailto:contactus@waterburyyouthservices.org">contactus@waterburyyouthservices.org</a></p> <p>Creates opportunities that empower youth by teaching them skills to be more successful at home, in school and in the community.</p>



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"Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!" - Pope Francis

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