



Orthodox Christian School Ministries

Official High School Ministry Organization of the
Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States

**"WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST."
2 CORINTHIANS 5:20**

Community Service Idea Bank

Serving our communities is an effort taught by the Lord Christ in whom we ought to emulate in every action done by our chapters. Doing so can oftentimes be difficult and was even emphasized by Him who we truly serve. Below is a list of community service ideas that can be done in communities around campus to make known our faith.

Serving Our Elders

1. Friend a Senior

Work with a local senior center/local Oriental Orthodox Church in assisting the elderly in living facilities/at home in daily living activities and giving them company. Entertaining them with board games, approved Christian songs, daily Biblical readings, saints stories, delivering groceries, medications, chores, friendly conversation etc. are all great ways to help those with difficulties living by themselves. Checking up on them via phone call or in-person visit during the holidays or periodically allows them to still feel cared about.

2. Nursing home / Hospice

Similar to "Friend a Senior", work with a nursing home in your local area to assist in any way possible. Assisting in daily needs, entertainment, board games, approved Christian songs, daily Biblical readings, saints stories, and friendly conversation are all great ways to work with these facilities.

3. Senior Citizen Field Trip

With the arrangement and approval of your clergy advisor, try to take someone elderly to a place of their choosing such as a mall or a park. The clergy advisor is usually aware of individuals in church who no one asks about. Maybe open the



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Bible, sing a song, go shopping with them, or just be an enlightening presence in their lives.

Medical Care

1. Medical Housekeeping

While this may require approval, working with medical facilities to deliver materials that they may need and/or working in them to restock supplies they may need is a small yet great way to serve those who are ill.

2. Host a Blood Drive

Coordinate with organizations such as OneBlood to host blood drives, preferably at your local Oriental Orthodox Church. If not possible, host the blood drive in a popular area in your community and have a table set up outside the bus to make donors aware of the purpose of our organization and the premise of our faith.

Reaching Students

1. Athletic Event Volunteering

Although this may require much planning, this is an excellent way to publicize the existence of OCSM on campus and the Oriental Orthodox Church in general. You can host your own athletic event or collaborate with other organizations to volunteer at an already established athletic event such as running marathons for a Christian cause. Handing out water, shirts, etc are usually what is requested at events such as this.

2. Tutoring Local Children/University Students

Collaborate with local schools and even your campus to capitalize on your



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educational talents. It does not have to be complicated subjects, yet work according to your capabilities in helping those who may not be able to afford hiring a tutor. Establish a system in working with students and create a personal relationship with them to expose them to the faith.

3. Book Drive / TB Allocation

As University students, textbooks are often used semesterly. Consider organizing a system where textbooks can be donated and reallocated across your university.

Children in Need

1. Orphanage, Special Needs, Foster Care Facilities Volunteering

Consider engaging the kids in activities, board games, songs, or stories. In foster care facilities and orphanages, many of them are in need of school supplies, pull-ups, tutoring/mentoring, coloring activities, being read to, and other forms of playing with the young children. Additionally, facilities have mentioned that a parents night out has allowed for an opportunity to bring these kids to church. This provides an excellent opportunity to expose children to the Oriental Orthodox faith with Bible lessons and entertainment. Be sure to work with your local facilities for what they may allow.

2. Activities for Children in Hospitals

While this may require approval, create smaller groups in your chapter to visit children in hospitals and provide activities for them to make kids be kids once again. Activities such as songs, board games, reading to them, taking them for a walk, carrying them (if allowed), praying with them, wearing a costume (superheroes, Santa, or whatever requested), and other forms of entertainment are beautiful ways to put a smile on their faces.



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3. Buddy Program with Special Needs

Various organizations specialize in working with individuals with Down Syndrome, Autism, etc. and are tasked with developing cooking skills, exercising, tutoring, speech therapy, literacy, certifications, etc. with individuals of all ages. More importantly, personal relationships have greater value than achieving a goal. These types of individuals are very much often neglected so let us serve our brothers and sisters in any way we can in allowing them to live their lives with greater ease.

Feeding the Hungry

1. Assist Food Bank/Food Truck Company

Work with a local food bank/nonprofit organization to provide fresh meals to those in need of a meal in your local community. This will be incredibly rewarding during the holiday season such as Thanksgiving or Christmas time.

2. Homeless Outreach

Working with your chapter and assistance from your local Oriental Orthodox Church, help the homeless by providing meals, clothes, hygiene materials, verses, crosses, blankets, whatever you can come up with, etc. to better alleviate some of the needs of the homeless in your community. Utilize this as an opportunity to possibly pray, read the Bible with them, and expose them to the faith. Be creative!

3. Collect Shelter Needs

Oftentimes, shelters are in need of garments, toiletries, beddings, pillows, seasonal wear, and hygienic items. Call your local homeless shelter and cater to



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their specific needs. This can be in the form of collecting at once (in the form of a drive) and delivering or going together as a group with each member's individual donations.

4. Making Blankets

There are many organizations that choose to focus solely on blanket and clothing collection drives for those in need. Small blankets for babies or even larger ones can be handmade in many different ways and can offer a creative outlet for your club to serve.

Being a Light in the Community

1. Community Clean-Up

Get together with the members of your chapter and clean various areas of your community. While uncomfortable, this is a marvelous opportunity to show your community that organizations such as OCSM serve not only our campus but our communities. In doing so, seeing larger groups of people volunteering, people will inquire about our organization and our faith.

2. Letters to Seniors / Military Veterans

Write mass letters to someone elderly or veterans and develop a personal relationship with them. Go beyond the generic, "I care about you" card. Make it in a manner in which you can make their day and possibly go out of your way to serve them and/or their families!

3. Work with Nonprofits on Renovations

The presence of various organizations that renovate underserved, run-down



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schools/buildings are plentiful and they are in much need of volunteers. This is a beautiful way to make our organization's presence known throughout the community, especially with big projects such as these!

4. Reading Sessions at Local Library/Shelter

Local libraries/shelters are always in need of people to read to the young children. Grab an appropriate book or something of spiritual benefit even that may be of interest to the young children (Bible stories). What is more important is that you develop personal relationships with the individuals you read to in order for them to trust you as a friend.

5. Cleaning a Church

The Lord asks us that our charitable deeds be done in secret so that our Father in Heaven may reward us openly. Service is not only in Sunday School but in tidying the house of the Lord. We wish for our own homes to be as neat as possible, so how much more should our Heavenly Father's house be spotless! Grab a few members and possibly vacuum the church, clean the bathrooms, and organize the commonly used areas.

6. Teach Class/Book Club at Community Center

Each member has a God-given talent, use it! Maybe it is the ability to play an instrument, solve certain problems, cook, sing, etc. Whatever it may be, community centers are a great way to teach those who may struggle in various areas of their lives. Additionally, starting a book club with the approved books of OCSM can be an effective way to introduce non-Christians to the Orthodox faith.



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Holiday Themed

1. Holiday Drives

Collecting food, clothing, toys, stuffed animals, books, bedding and linens, candles, working appliances, furniture, household items, and even money to donate to charitable organizations are fine examples to make holidays more comfortable for the less fortunate. Be creative in what you can collect and expand beyond just food and toys!

2. Santa to Seniors/Christmas for Children

There are various ways including working with a local homeless shelter, foster care home, senior living facility, or even international organizations that specialize in evaluating what seniors/children may want for Christmas. Whether it is directly shopping with them or having it collected and delivered, holiday shopping for the less fortunate makes seasons such as this a bit more cheerful!

3. Holiday Activities

What better way to get together than during the holidays. Utilize such a gathering for the advancement of the Orthodox faith. While donation drives and letters may be helpful, things such as Christmas caroling, Easter Egg Hunts, bringing Santa to sick children, etc. are ways that allow people to wonder who OCCM is as an organization. Think beyond these ideas and utilize the ingenuity of the holiday season to attract people to the Faith.

Logging of Events Completion

Please log events through the [OCSM Community Service Event Form](#), and send pictures to your Community Service Director for proof of completion and extra points.



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If you have other ideas outside of this list, please be sure to run them by the Community Service Director.

Any community service outside the school or church must be approved by the Clergy Advisor, and parents' awareness and approval is required.

Community Service Resources by Area

Tennessee // Nashville

- Habitat for humanity of Greater Nashville: <https://www.habitatnashville.org/>
- Hands on Nashville: <https://www.hon.org/groups>
- Annual Hot Chocolate Run <https://hotchocolate15k.com/volunteer/>
- The Nashville Food Project: <https://www.thenashvillefoodproject.org/givetime>
- Girls on the Run Middle Tennessee
https://www.gotrmiddletn.org/volunteer#jumpto_group
- Second Harvest Food Bank:
<https://www.seconddharvestmidtn.org/act/volunteer/group-request/>
- Salvation Army Nashville Area Command
<https://www.salvationarmynashville.org/volunteer>
- Thistle Farms <https://thistlefarms.org/pages/volunteering-fundraising>
- Special Olympics Tennessee
<https://www.specialolympicstn.org/get-involved/become-a-volunteer>
- Nashville Zoo <https://www.nashvillezoo.org/volunteer-at-the-zoo>
- St. Luke's Community House <https://www.stlch.org/getinvolved>



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- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society: Light the Night
<https://www.lls.org/volunteer>
- Hands on Nashville: <https://www.hon.org/groups>
- Second Harvest Food Bank:
<https://www.secondharvestmidtn.org/act/volunteer/>
- Cookeville Rescue Mission
<https://www.cookevillerescuemission.org/volunteer>

Texas // Houston

- The Beacon: <https://www.beaconhomeless.org/volunteer>
- Habitat for Humanity: <https://www.houstonhabitat.org/volunteer/every-hand/>
- Host Blood Drive: you will need to get school approval and get in contact with local blood donation agencies such as American Red Cross, Gulf Coast Regional blood center, etc.
- Houston Food Bank:
<https://www.houstonfoodbank.org/ways-to-give/give-time/volunteerathfb/>
- Bread of Life: <https://volunteer.breadoflifeinc.org/need/>
- The Salvation Army: <http://salvationarmyhouston.org/volunteer/>
- Star of Hope Mission:
<https://volunteer.samaritan.com/recruiter/index.php?class=OppSearchResults&recruiterID=506>
&udf1162=Group%20Friendly&type=all
- SBP Houston: <https://sbpusa.org/get-involved/volunteer>