

Serving the City 2008 – Saturday, April 19

What is Serving the City as ONE?

Serving the City is an annual event to bring the churches of Greater Huntsville and the surrounding communities together to visibly demonstrate the love of Christ through united prayer, a day of serving in the community, sharing (food, clothing, blood drive, etc) and celebrating together God's goodness. Saturday, April 19, 2008 will be our city and community-wide day of service.

The Stated Purposes of Serving the City is to:

- ❖ Allow churches an opportunity to serve the community together
- ❖ Demonstrate the love of Christ
- ❖ Build bridges from the church to the community
- ❖ Meet basic and urgent needs in the city

The Demonstration of Christ's Love

Christ gave us abundant examples of how we should serve with servant hearts in our community. Everywhere he traveled he would serve all of the people he came in contact with. We have numerous biblical commands of Christ which lead Christians to display God's love through service.

Philosophy of "Serving the City"

It is very important that "Serving the City" be an effort led by many churches in our area. Our perspective is this endeavor should not reflect on any one church, be run by any one church, and that the focus be on impacting the city for Christ. The "Serving the City" director will work with the church directors and the coordinating team so that all churches are represented in the organization and the decision making in each area. It is a Christian effort to demonstrate the love of Christ to all we come in contact with. Each and every decision will begin with prayer and prayer will be the foundation for all the work to be carried out. The greater Huntsville area and the surrounding communities need to see churches and Christians working together meeting basic needs through out the area.

Training and Signing Up for Serving the City - April 19, 2008

If you have interest in finding out more about the one day of service blitz of multiple churches and congregations on April 19, 2008 there are several ways to do so.

1. Pray about you and your churches involvement in Serving the City 2008
2. Attend an interest meeting.
3. Read the "Serve the City" flyer for more information
4. Sign up for being involved in Serving the City by the deadline - Monday, February 4, 2008. Others can sign up later but will be behind in the optimum process.
5. Call or email Mike Pearce - 428-9448 or mike@fbchsv.org. - cell phone 655-3423.

Donations

Each participating church will be expected to ask their congregation to bring items to support some of the projects. For example, the packets that are sent to nursing homes, to the hospital waiting rooms, the packets for the homeless, for the military overseas and in the states, and many other donation items will be collected at each church and brought to one of the Hub packing locations. Monetary donations may also be made to help defray the cost of materials and tools for some of the projects. Each church will collect the donations and be responsible for turning them in according to the schedule.

Commitment

Once the decision is made and you and your church would like to become involved in "Serving the City," follow the steps below to officially indicate your commitment to "Serving the City."

1. Pray about your involvement and make the commitment to engage your whole church
2. Fill out an application form
 - These can be picked up at the interest meetings
 - Or the form can be mailed or emailed to you by asking for one (see the contact numbers below)

Once you make a commitment to be involved we will provide the following:

A church information packet will be mailed to you to help guide you in all the simple steps of making your day of service run smoothly. Included will be the church director's guide, an administration timeline, and other information to provide your team with all the necessary tools you need.

Enclosed with the church information packet will be a publicity packet to help motivate your members to be fully involved in being servants. This packet will include a publicity timeline, Serving the City posters, video spots, sign-up sheets, flyers, and other promotional help.

Training meetings

A **training meeting** on Sunday, February 3, at 2: 00 will train your leadership team. The meeting place will be in the chapel of First Baptist Church. Look for the balloons for the correct entrance at 600 Governors Drive.

Another team meeting will be scheduled in **March if needed**. Most of the final questions will be answered and logistics will be arranged for all participants by email. After the February 3 date I will be glad to meet with any local church team on a “need to” basis.

Organization of Serving the City

Church Director

Each church will enlist a “Serving the City” director. All the directors of the churches will come together and participate as the Coordination team. They will make help make sure all the organization is in place and running smoothly.

Project Leaders

Each church director will enlist as many project leaders as they need for each of the seven different areas of projects that they choose to be involved with. **The seven areas of projects are construction, in-house projects, service projects, school projects, projects for area ministries and agencies, environmental projects, and block parties.** The project leader will organize all the projects in that specific project area. There may be many projects or just one in that particular area. They will oversee the purchase of the materials and supplies and will enlist all the team leaders.

Team Leaders

The team leaders are the leader over one specific project. They will enlist a group of 8-12 people who work on that specific project. The team leader will work with the project leader to coordinate materials and specific information needed for each project.

There are three ways people can become a member of a team on a specific project:

1. Sign up for the project by filling out the sign up brochure or go on line for sign up
2. Be enlisted by the team leader
3. Show up the day of the work and get assigned to the project.

Each church will have three options.

The **first** is to have its members join in the many projects already prepared for the area-wide “Serving the City.” There will be projects in each of the seven areas listed above. The projects will be scattered all over the area. Some will be located in or near different churches and these churches will become the center communication point for that project.

The **second** option is a church may choose to design and carry out their own project or projects in their community. The church will be responsible for purchasing all the material and planning all the work. The church director will keep the “Serving the City” director informed of the projects and will turn in a report to the director on the project/s. One good

example would be a church hosting a block party in their community and inform the attendees of the ministries of the church.

The **third** option is for your church to become a “Hub site”. We are enlisting churches around the area to be a Hub Site for in-house projects, construction projects, and any other projects that would be of benefit to that part of our area. Congregations that choose to be a Hub site will be a collection point for donations, provide lunch for your area workers, and provide leadership for the projects in your area. See Mike Pearce for more information about being a Hub site.

General Time line for January through April - 2008

January - February

Director Enlistment and other enlistment

Your church “Serving the City” director should have already been enlisted. If not January is the time frame for enlistment in order to have your team ready for the training meeting Sunday, February 3, at 2: 00. The meeting place will be in the chapel of First Baptist Church. Look for the balloons for the correct entrance.

The church director should be an organized person and able to tackle a large church-wide effort. It can be one of the staff or a lay person who have the skills to work with many people and delegate responsibility. Also during the month of January project leaders should be also be enlisted. The project leaders will be in charge of one area of projects (such as construction). The project leaders then will begin in February and continue in March to enlist the team leaders and assistant team leaders. Your project leaders should attend the training meeting on February 3 and others as announced.

Publicity

It will be good to run some teasers and announce to your people that “Serving the City” is coming. Ask your people to block out that date for service. Publicity begins in earnest in February. This month place all your posters around your church and begin running the video clip whenever you can. Use the introduction announcements to help your congregation understand the reason and goals of “Serving the City.” Continue toward the end of the month of February to promote the sign-up times in March and April. Begin to advertise the list of donations materials. The lists will be emailed or mailed to you when they are ready.

If your church has not officially become a part of the “Serving the City” and have not returned the Application form, do so by the deadline, Monday, February 4.

If your church is sponsoring your own projects February is the month to finalize the projects and begin fine tuning the details. After project leaders visit the project sites, make a list of all materials and tools that will be needed. Begin to purchase materials and checking on the tools that are available.

You should have already signed up officially to participate in “Serving the City” if not do so now.

March

Enlistment

March is sign up time. You will spend a lot of time on the phone and at church asking people to participate. For something new some people hesitate being involved. Encourage your project leaders and team leaders to go the extra mile to call and enlist people. This will help them decide to be involved. Don't make this a "you all come" approach. Members will need to be enlisted. One of the phrases I like to use to motivate people to participate is "The natural response to the worship of God is service." Christ gave us a wonderful example of service during His earthly ministry.

Individual project members will not have a good idea what is expected. Encourage your team leaders and assistant team leaders to meet late March or early April with their project team and discuss the details of the project. If your church is sponsoring your own projects continue to finalize purchasing all material and verifying availability of tools. The project coaches and team leaders should make visits to the work site to determine final details and any changes in plans.

Donations

At the same time as the sign ups you will need to promote and collect donations for the projects. Donations are an easy way to involve more of your church members in the "Serving the City" effort. The donations collection time frame is Sundays March 23 and 30, and Sunday April 6. All donations will need to be delivered to the central site or Hub site by Tuesday April 8th.

Sign Up Sundays

There are four Sundays in March that will be our sign up Sundays for your members. On March 9, 16, 23 (Easter) and the 30 you will set up sign up tables with volunteers, put sign up brochures with all the projects listed in your Sunday School or other gatherings for people to sign up, announce at every service the deadline for being involved. If you have a web site consider adding a sign up form on your site for easy access. You will be given all the sign up brochures that you will need. They may be mailed to your members, placed in the seats of your worship center, or passed out at Bible study and other small groups.

Volunteer Sign Up Brochures - Dead Line - Monday, March 31

After your members sign up by filling out the sign up brochure or going on line they will be due to be turned in on Monday, March 31 at First Baptist Church. That sounds early for turning in the sign up brochures but when you consider the work to make sure 2000-3000 volunteers are assigned and placed on a project we need all that time to make everything happen. Plus, the team leaders need time to contact their team assignments and take care of all the last minute details. So the March 31 deadline is very important. Please plan your enlistment and publicity to be finished by March 31.

April

Crunch Time! If you have followed the time line everything should run smoothly. Encourage each project team leader and team members to visit the site to see the location and details of the project. (this will not be necessary with some projects) If the project team is working with an individual or family, take time to introduce all the team members and have prayer with them. You may want to have one person on each project team to be the communicator and pray-er with the family. That could be the assistant team leader.

Communication will be very important during this time. Especially to project teams that has members from several churches. All people who have volunteered should receive a telephone call or an email from their team leaders. This is extremely important. For some projects the team leader may need to contact members two or three times to make sure all information has been received and all questions have been answered.

Do not panic if you do not fill up on all your projects. You will always have people just show up. You should always be prepared to accommodate walk-ins. If your church is running your own projects prepare one or two projects that you can add and have a leader on stand-by that can lead the project. Inversely, if you do not have enough for one or two projects have one or two projects that you can drop. Focus on the projects that you have promised to others and let the ones go that no one will know if it is done or not.

Donations will be collected and delivered to the district sites according to each churches location. The donations delivery deadline is Tuesday, April 8.

The Last Week - Monday - Friday, April 14 - 18

This week the final purchase of materials should be delivered to the site (if the site is secure). Construction material and dumpsters will be on site by the middle of the week. Project leaders and Team leaders will go through the final check list for everything needed for their project. Project leaders will check with team leaders for final questions. Some projects leaders, team leaders, and members may need to meet on Friday, April 18th to organize and set up their supplies so everything is ready for Saturday.

Serving the City as ONE day - Saturday, April 19, 2008 - 7:30 am

All project coaches, team leaders, and project members will meet for a light breakfast and a blessing for the day prayer.

We will make sure you have the Hub locations where your group will meet for gathering that morning. After a light breakfast, going over last minute details, and pray for God's leadership and all the effort that day is the best way to begin the day. If a church is doing all their own projects themselves they will have the option of having their own meeting or joining one of the Hub meetings.

Saturday, April 19, 2008 - 8:00 - 8:15 am

Team leaders will gather their team together after the blessing prayer and see if all the team members are present. Any team who is short on workers can go to the "walk-in" coordinator and enlist extra workers. If any team has too many workers, projects who are short on workers can enlist some of the extras. The team leaders will then leave after they have permission from the project leaders. Each team will make sure that they have all the supplies needed before leaving. Maps will be available for those who have not been to the site.

Each church director, project leader, team leader, and assistant team leader will have the list of all cell phone numbers for each person and project for communication. There will be problem solvers for each area of projects and helpers will be at stores (Home Depot, Kroger, etc) to purchase any emergency materials and supplies. Medical personal will be on call to help with any injuries.

During the day we will have photographers and videographers out recording the work of the projects. We would encourage each team to take some of their own pictures also. Please send copies to Mike Pearce at mike@fbchsv.org.

Sunday, April 20, 2008 - 6:30 pm - Celebration Service - TBD

All participants are invited for a Celebration Service on Sunday night, April 20. During the service we will see some of the photos and videos of the projects, hear testimonies of how God worked in our community, and give God the praise for using us in the lives of people all over our neighborhoods. Last year we had only one site - this year we may need more than one Celebration Service site. Everyone will be given a flyer on the work day with all the information needed for each Celebration site.

Serve the City Evaluation

All church directors, project leaders, and team leaders will be asked to turn in a written report and evaluation of the day. The evaluation forms will be available before the work day and may be mailed, emailed or faxed to Mike Pearce.

For more information or if you have questions you may contact Mike Pearce at mike@fbchsv.org or at work 256-428-9448, my mobile 256-655-3423, church fax 256-428-9402 or by mail at 600 Governors Drive, Huntsville, AL 35801.