



Lost Sheep Ministry

Volunteer Orientation Packet

Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. Matthew 18:6

***Please completely read the orientation packet
Fill out and sign the volunteer application***

Memo from the Executive Director
Welcome- Introduction
Volunteer Qualifications
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We Depend on Volunteers

Volunteer Application
Signature form

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Memo *from the Executive Director, Maxine Raines*

As in any organization, certain guidelines need to be followed, and our ministry is no exception. It is important that each of you understand the mission and goals of Lost Sheep Ministry, so we are all reaching up and out to those we serve, with the same God-given vision.

In keeping with our ministry's mission, items donated to Lost Sheep Ministry will not be sold or given to organizations that intend to sell them for fundraising or profit. Donations to Lost Sheep Ministry are either distributed to the homeless, or another valid ministry that will use the donation in accordance with our mission and vision.

You may be working with donations which have been given by individuals, churches, businesses or organizations. These donors designate that their gifts be used specifically for people in need. Please do not take donations or supplies.

We are so blessed that God has sent people like you to give of your time by partnering with us in ministering to those who are lost, homeless, and hurting.

Welcome!

We are excited at the opportunity for you to minister the love of Jesus to Knoxville's less fortunate. Like many American cities, Knoxville is 'home' to many who are homeless. Our homeless neighbors, along with those with low/no income, are growing rapidly, especially with the present economic situation. Our mission is to provide restoration through the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Volunteers reach out to demonstrate the love of God in many ways. You may choose to volunteer with our Under the Bridge Meal, which includes clothing ministry, Christian literature, medical screening, a message, music and prayer. Or volunteer with the Nightclub Guardian Angels in the Old City. Opportunities also include our office, warehouse and kitchen.

The Mission Field

As with any new environment, you will stumble on new social norms, mannerisms and behavior. Some of our neighbors are sleeping in tents or under bridges, have no access to showers and very little personal hygiene. Both homeless and youth may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Please be sensitive to issues of oppression and diversity. Say kind words and come with the expectancy to give and receive. At first you may not understand a lot of what you see, but patience and a smile will go a long way to help bridge gaps. We are demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ with our presence, words and actions. You will be blessed as you bless others.



QUALIFICATIONS FOR LOST SHEEP MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

- A born-again believer in Jesus Christ
- Active membership and church attendance in a Bible-believing Christian church *
- In agreement with Lost Sheep Ministry Guidelines
- Enthusiastic about being called by God to serve the homeless, the lost, the hurting, the addicted, and the abused, and a desire to serve others
- Have a basic knowledge of the Bible.
- Be willing to learn and grow in teamwork with others
- Have the agreement of your spouse, if married
- Be at least thirteen years old and supervised by a parent, youth pastor or church leader.
- Are able to attend scheduled meetings of this ministry and present your questions, input, or recommendations, concerning your area of ministry.
- Feel comfortable to pray with someone to receive Jesus as Savior.

* Church: A valid Christian assembly, recognized in the community of churches and pastors, whose doctrinal statement and beliefs are similar to the following:.

**The inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible.
The virgin birth and complete deity of Christ.
The atoning sacrifice of Christ's death for the sin of the world.
The literal resurrection of the body.
Christ's second coming in bodily form to earth.**

Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. Matthew 18:6

Personal Safety in the Mission Field

We ask that everyone be mindful of their surroundings concerning safety. The instructions below will help your time in the field ministering with Lost Sheep to be safe and productive.

- Your valuables (purse, cell phone, and camera) should be locked in your car. Please don't leave them in sight.
- Don't get out of sight of the other volunteers.
- Don't judge or condemn. You do not know the experiences that have shaped these individuals. Most have been hurt, abused, and/or molested and have not experienced God's love.
- Please do not give money to anyone, no matter what the situation may seem. Often, stories are told that will appeal to your sympathetic side. If approached by anyone asking for money just say, "Sorry, I can't do that."
- Don't give anyone your full name, telephone number, work or home address.
- Don't let anyone use your cell phone.
- Please, don't promise anyone anything, no matter how good your intentions may be.
- Do not buy gifts of any kind for anyone.
- Don't give anyone a ride in your car for any reason.
- Do not smoke while involved on any outreach ministry at Lost Sheep.
- In the event of a medical emergency, every effort will be made to provide transportation, either by a staff member or by ambulance. Please do not attempt to intervene in an emergency.
- Taking pictures of ministry in action is ok, but if you want a close up of a particular person, ask permission. Some folks like their picture made, but others may not want to be recognized, such as ladies escaping an abusive situation.

Don't hesitate to ask about anything you don't understand, or if you're in doubt about how to answer a person's question.

While ministering to others, the Lord may show you a particular person to pray for. Whether you see them again or not, please continue to pray. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall believe. Matthew 21:22 (KJV)

Dress Code

Due to the nature of homeless ministry, and to model a Christian witness, a dress code for outreach is necessary. This particularly applies to church youth groups and teens. Youth directors, pastors and leaders are responsible to insure their volunteers are properly attired. If dressed un-appropriately, you may be excused from the ministry site.

Dress casually and comfortably. Please, absolutely no low-cut or revealing tops, hip hugger pants or bare midriff. Shorts should be no shorter than two-three inches above the knee. Absolutely no short-shorts.

Because of gravel, open toe shoes are difficult to wear. Tennis shoes or boots are more comfortable. Dress warm in cold weather, perhaps in layers. Toboggans and gloves are helpful.

Sign-In – Under the Bridge

Look for the volunteer table. Here you can sign in, receive a badge and find your place of ministry. Always sign in when you arrive.

Health & Wellness

Research on MRSA (Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) indicates a higher risk for individuals with history of homelessness, incarceration, frequent emergency room visits and injection drug use. Those living in a shelter, and who share showers, clothing, etc. are at a higher risk, as well as those who have poor hygiene.

Volunteers should know that MRSA and other infections are prevalent within the homeless population. Taking this into consideration, the following information is intended to inform staff and volunteers of the potential health risk, and how to take necessary precautions against the chance of infection, to stay healthy and happy!

- Please use gloves when working with food or cleaning tables.
- A sink, soap and water are available at the portable restrooms, if needed.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available at your work station, the volunteer table, and medical table.
- If you are cleaning up after meals, clean & disinfect surfaces of tables.

We depend on Volunteers

If you cannot volunteer when scheduled, please contact us at 865-688-9636 at least 24 hours before you are to volunteer. This gives us time to make other arrangements.

We are looking forward to working alongside you to give HOPE in the name of Jesus, to Knoxville's homeless.

VOLUNTEER APPLICATION



Today's date _____

I. Personal information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ zip _____

Phone: home _____ cell _____ work _____

Email _____ age _____

Are you a born again Christian? Yes No

Name of church attended regularly: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Ministry or volunteer experience: _____

3. Background information

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Are you comfortable working with a wide diversity of people, ethnicity, & race? _____

How much time can you commit to volunteering?

once a week _____ once a month _____ other _____

2. Volunteering

What area of ministry are you interested in?

Under The Bridge Meal & Clothing:

- Serving food
- Set up and take down
- Clothing ministry
- Prayer table
- Music ministry (singing or playing an instrument)
- Medical outreach

Lost Sheep Facility:

- Preparing food – Kitchen
- Clothing Ministry
- Office, data entry, telephone, and/or computer skills
- Ware-house organization

I have completely read the orientation packet and understand its contents. I have been informed of and understand all factors/risk involved in volunteering with Lost Sheep Ministry, including the qualifications, personal safety, dress code, donations, and health and safety. I agree to abide by them.

Date _____

Signature _____