

EVERYBODY SINGS: STARTING A COMMUNITY CHOIR

Belonging Together/Programs

FOCUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External
VOLUNTEER BASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General corps membership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External volunteers <input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music sections <input type="checkbox"/> Women's ministries <input type="checkbox"/> Seniors' ministries <input type="checkbox"/> Social mission
TARGET POPULATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seniors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> People with disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Caregivers <input type="checkbox"/> New Canadians <input type="checkbox"/> Social mission <input type="checkbox"/> Parents of babies and toddlers
SAMIS INPUT	<input type="checkbox"/> CCM events <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CCM programs <input type="checkbox"/> CCM visitation <input type="checkbox"/> Other

Program description:

The Everybody Sings Community Choir is an inclusive musical outreach initiative aimed at bringing together singers of all ages and skill levels from the corps and surrounding community.

Participants will enjoy weekly rehearsals focused on developing musical skills, building friendships and sharing faith through music. The choir will perform regularly at church services, seasonal events and community gatherings, offering a visible expression of hope, unity and hospitality.

What are the intended program outcomes?

Goals include:

- Build stronger relationships between corps members and the broader community.
- Offer musical development and leadership opportunities for participants.
- Foster spiritual enrichment through shared musical experiences.
- Increase corps visibility and community engagement.
- Promote personal well-being through the mental and emotional benefits of singing.

How will these outcomes be evaluated?

- **Participant retention and growth:** Track the number of participants over time (initial sign-ups versus ongoing attendance) to assess interest and commitment.
- **Feedback surveys:** Distribute simple feedback forms to choir members and audience attendees after major performances to gather insights on their experience, personal growth, and sense of community connection.



- **Community participation:** Monitor how many new community members (non-corps) join the choir or attend performances, reflecting outreach effectiveness.
- **Spiritual impact:** Include optional reflection questions in feedback forms (e.g., "Has participating in the choir strengthened your faith or spiritual journey?") to gauge spiritual enrichment.
- **Performance opportunities:** Record the number of invitations or opportunities to perform at corps services, community events or partner organizations as a measure of increased corps visibility and engagement.
- **Volunteer and leadership development:** Track the emergence of new section leaders, volunteer organizers or administrative helpers, indicating leadership growth within the choir community.

What procedures are required to set up this program?

- **Assess interest:** Survey corps members and community contacts.
- **Secure leadership:** Recruit a qualified choir director and accompanist.
- **Develop repertoire:** Select diverse, accessible music (sacred and community-appropriate).
- **Promote the choir:** Create flyers, social media posts and local advertisements.
- **Organize registration:** Collect participant contact information and any relevant musical experience.
- **Schedule rehearsals:** Set regular, clear rehearsal times.
- **Plan for performances:** Identify local opportunities and schedule concerts/services.

What procedure is required to operate this program?

- **Host a kick-off meeting:** Outline vision, expectations and introduce leadership.
- **Begin regular rehearsals:** Teach vocal techniques, ensemble skills and repertoire.
- **Encourage community engagement:** Welcome new participants and promote a warm, inclusive environment.
- **Prepare for performances:** Organize dress rehearsals and coordinate event logistics.
- **Review and reflect:** Gather participant and audience feedback to improve future sessions.

Are there financial costs attached to providing this program?

Potential expenses:

- Sheet music purchases and licensing fees.
- Printing marketing materials (flyers, posters, programs).
- Light refreshments for rehearsals/events.
- Equipment purchases if necessary (e.g., music stands, folders, small amplification).
- Venue rental if corps space is unavailable.

What physical resources will I require?

- Rehearsal space with seating and good acoustics (church hall, fellowship room, etc.).
- Piano or keyboard for accompaniment.
- Sheet music (physical copies or digital files).
- Music stands and folders (optional).
- Name tags for new participants (optional).
- Refreshments station for rehearsal breaks (optional).

Would any additional training be necessary for volunteers with this program?

While no formal certification is required to participate in the Everybody Sings Community Choir, some key roles will benefit from targeted training to ensure a welcoming, safe, and effective ministry experience:

Required training for key volunteers:

- Ministry worker screening process: All volunteers who interact regularly with vulnerable individuals (e.g., youth, seniors) must complete The Salvation Army's ministry worker screening process, including a criminal record check and vulnerable sector screening, where applicable.

For more information:

For additional guidance, resources or support in planning your program, please contact the Music and Arts Ministries team at territorial headquarters for sample materials, best practices and consultation on outreach strategy.