

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY CARE MINISTRIES TOOLKIT AND TRAINING RESOURCE

A New Vision for Community Care Ministries

For more than a century, Community Care Ministries (CCM) has been a vital expression of The Salvation Army's mission. Its roots can be traced to the League of Mercy, which began in 1892 with a simple act of compassion: visiting the sick, the lonely and the isolated. While the heart of CCM remains unchanged, our approach must continue to evolve to meet the realities of today's world.

Our communities face ongoing challenges such as loneliness, poverty, displacement and social isolation. These realities affect not only seniors and those navigating illness, but also young families, struggling students, caregivers and many others searching for connection and support. At the same time, our corps congregations are navigating busy lives, stretched resources and changing volunteer dynamics. Yet the call to serve, love and transform lives in the name of Jesus remains as important as ever.

This refreshed vision of CCM recognizes that caring ministry extends far beyond traditional visitation. It encompasses any congregational program or initiative that helps a corps engage its community through practical, relational ministry. CCM is not simply a ministry carried out by a few dedicated volunteers. It is a way of life that invites the whole corps to participate in demonstrating the love of Jesus through meaningful acts of service, connection and care.

By creating multiple opportunities for people to belong, serve and support one another, Community Care Ministries helps congregations build stronger communities while sharing the hope and compassion of Christ in tangible ways.

Why this toolkit?

This CCM toolkit and training resource is designed to equip corps to engage their congregations in meaningful, flexible and impactful ministry. It provides the tools to expand CCM beyond traditional models, allowing corps to connect existing programs and people to service opportunities that reflect their unique community needs.

✓ **A ministry for all:** Every corps ministry, whether it focuses on worship, youth, music, small groups, family services or outreach, can contribute to community care ministries when it reflects our mission to share Jesus' love through practical service.

✓ **Connecting ministries, not adding burdens:** Instead of creating more programs, CCM integrates with what is already happening, such as meal programs, community-building initiatives,



youth-led service projects and social mission partnerships. This approach allows every corps member to engage in a way that fits their gifts and availability.

✓ **A practical expression of faith:** CCM ensures that corps are not only places of worship but also centres of Christlike action, responding to community needs through service that reflects the love of Jesus.

What is inside?

This CCM toolkit and training resource is designed for corps at any stage of involvement, whether you're building on existing ministries or starting fresh. It includes:

✦ **Flexible ministry models:** Adaptable frameworks to help corps shape CCM in ways that fit their capacity, from small initiatives to full-scale outreach.

✦ **Practical tools and templates:** Resources for planning and implementing service projects, from visitation plans to community engagement strategies.

✦ **Training modules:** Equipping volunteers with confidence and skills to serve effectively.

✦ **Ideas for new and expanded ministry:** Inspiration to connect current programs such as worship teams, Bible studies and youth groups to the heart of CCM.

✦ **Partnership strategies:** Guidance on forming collaborations with local organizations and local Salvation Army social mission units to maximize community impact.

✦ **Biblical foundation and inspiration:** Rooted in Matthew 5:16, reminding us that every act of service is a way to let our light shine before others.

An invitation to act

The future of community care ministries is broad, flexible and deeply rooted in mission. This toolkit is more than a set of resources: it's an invitation to reimagine CCM as the bridge between our congregations and our communities. Every corps, every program, every individual has a role to play.

By aligning service with existing ministries, corps can engage more people, deepen community impact and truly reflect the hands and feet of Jesus in practical, transformative ways.

Welcome to the next chapter of community care ministries. Let's build something new—together.

