

PURSE MINISTRY

Belonging Together/Programs

FOCUS	☒ Internal ☒ External
VOLUNTEER BASE	☒ General corps membership ☒ External volunteers ☐ Youth ☐ Music sections ☒ Women's Ministries ☒ Seniors' Ministries ☐ Social Mission
TARGET POPULATION	☐ Seniors ☐ Youth ☐ People with disabilities ☐ Caregivers ☐ New Canadians ☒ Social mission ☐ Parents of babies and toddlers ☒ Survivors of human trafficking and first responders

Program description:

Purse Ministry is a grassroots outreach led by the Take-A-Break Ladies Bible Study group at Oshawa Temple, providing comfort and care to survivors of human trafficking in the local community. Through assembling purses filled with practical items, devotionals, scripture cards and personal notes of encouragement, the ministry offers tangible reminders of God's love, dignity and hope during a vulnerable and difficult time.

Each purse is prayed over and volunteers commit to ongoing prayer for victims, first responders involved in rescues and even for the transformation of perpetrators.

This guide is intended to help other corps adapt and operate a similar ministry to meet needs within their own communities, while partnering with local victim services agencies or police departments.

What are the intended program outcomes?

Goals include:

- To offer victims a tangible expression of God's unconditional love and care.
- To provide comfort and encouragement during the early stages of rescue and recovery.
- To uphold a covenant of prayer for victims, first responders and community restoration.
- To foster greater awareness within corps communities about the realities of human trafficking.
- To create a simple, sustainable, prayer-driven outreach model adaptable to local needs.

How will these outcomes be evaluated?

- Feedback from local victim services unit staff or community agency partners.
- Informal testimonies of encouragement from corps members and external partners.
- Observations of growth in corps prayer life, awareness and compassion toward anti-human trafficking efforts.
- Opportunities to share the model and inspire other ministry groups to participate or replicate.



What procedures are required to set up this program?

- Begin with prayer and education by inviting a local police officer, social worker or service provider to educate your group about human trafficking in your community
- Identify a local partner agency (e.g., victims services unit, anti-human trafficking coalition, police human trafficking unit).
- Appoint a co-ordinator to lead donation drives, organize assembly sessions and liaise with agency contacts.
- Create a suggested item list for donors, including purses and comfort items.
- Promote the initiative through corps programs such as women's ministries, Bible studies, and community care ministries.
- Establish twice-a-year giving periods (e.g., Valentine's Day and fall) or adapt based on local agency needs.

What procedure is required to operate this program?

- Maintain regular communication with the partnering agency.
- Promote the ministry consistently within the corps and invite ongoing donations.
- Set dates for assembly and prayer gatherings.
- Carefully store donated items to ensure quality and hygiene standards.
- Reinforce confidentiality and respectful handling of donations.
- Emphasize the prayer focus as central to the ministry's heart and mission.

Are there financial costs attached to providing this program?

No formal funding is required. This ministry operates entirely through donations of goods and time, driven by prayerful generosity.

Participants are encouraged to contribute as they are led, trusting God to supply what is needed without placing financial strain on corps budgets.

What physical resources will I require?

- Keyboard, brass instruments, guitar or portable speaker for accompaniment.
- Songbooks or large-print lyric sheets.
- Light percussion instruments (optional, for participant engagement).
- Transportation support for volunteers and instruments.
- Name tags for volunteers to promote approachability and familiarity.



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

Volunteers engaging with vulnerable individuals must complete The Salvation Army ministry worker screening process.

For more information:

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

