

SING ALONG CONNECTIONS

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

Program description:

Sing Along Connections brings music teams into local care facilities and social mission units to lead joyful, uplifting sing-alongs for residents, clients and caregivers.

Using familiar hymns, spiritual songs and popular favourites, the goal is to create meaningful moments of joy, connection and spiritual encouragement. Participants are invited to sing, clap along or simply enjoy the music, fostering a sense of belonging, dignity and Christ-like love in action.

This program is adaptable for shelters, transitional housing, adult day programs and other community-based Salvation Army ministries where music can uplift and connect individuals.

What are the intended program outcomes?

Goals include:

- To uplift the spirits of individuals in care facilities, shelters and community programs through music.
- To foster community connections and show Christ's love through practical service.
- To create outreach opportunities for corps members, music sections and volunteers.
- To build ongoing partnerships between the corps, care facilities and social mission units.

How will these outcomes be evaluated?

- Gathering informal feedback from facility staff, residents and program clients.
- Conducting regular debrief sessions with volunteers to reflect on the impact.
- Tracking frequency of visits and number of participants engaged over time.
- Noting any invitations for return visits, expansion to new locations or new ministry partnerships.



What procedures are required to set up this program?

- Identify local care facilities, shelters or community programs interested in hosting sing-alongs.
- Meet with staff to establish a schedule, discuss participant needs and determine best practices for the environment.
- Recruit and screen volunteers from the music sections (bands, songsters, worship teams) and corps congregation. Ensure they complete the **ministry worker screening process** where vulnerable sector involvement applies.
- Prepare a repertoire of familiar, welcoming songs appropriate to the audience.
- Use simple song sheets or lyric booklets for sing-along participation.
- Prepare audio tracks where live musicians are not available.

Note: For support in sourcing sing-along song sheets, lyric booklets or accompaniment tracks, please contact music and arts ministries. They can assist with materials and guidance for music-based outreach programs.

What procedure is required to operate this program?

- Maintain regular communication with care facility or shelter staff.
- Confirm the schedule and participant needs before each visit.
- Prepare and refresh song lists and necessary materials.
- Ensure volunteers are equipped and briefed before each session.
- Lead the session, encouraging flexible engagement—residents or clients may sing, listen, clap or simply enjoy the atmosphere.
- Debrief with volunteers after sessions to review highlights and learnings.

Are there financial costs attached to providing this program?

Minimal to moderate costs may include:

- Printing of song sheets or lyric booklets.
- Transportation costs (fuel, mileage, parking).
- Purchase or maintenance of portable speakers and audio equipment.
- Refreshments for volunteers (optional).

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 Music and Arts Ministries team at territorial headquarters for sample materials, best practices and consultation on outreach strategy.

