



CHOIR IN A SOCIAL SERVICES SETTING

STARTER PACK



WHY A CHOIR?

A choir provides an opportunity to build up individuals, develop relationships and create a community of belonging and support. It engages corps members and members from other churches to form connections to social services residents and participants with an outreach focus.

First contact the Social Services Executive Director in the location you would like to start a choir. Always work with, and stay in communication with, staff regarding scheduling, contacting residents or participants, policies and procedures in the ministry unit, etc. Depending on the location, there may be a need to have staff present during rehearsals and events.

STEPS

Assemble a Team

- Find a music leader

The music leader selects and leads the choir in rehearsal and performance. Music leaders can be found in Salvation Army corps and other churches. The leader should be a positive example of Christian living.

- Find a choir manager

The manager supports the music leader by organizing and assisting with set-up and logistics, as well as personnel management. Residents, participants or volunteers already in the social services setting might be able to help with this.

Find ways to involve social services residents or participants. Some are musicians who can help with accompaniment, artists could create advertisement posters, and others could help by distributing music.





- **Find an accompanist**

Identify a capable accompanist for the choir. Some of the residents or participants in the program might be musicians who could help with accompaniments. Other accompaniment options can be used where needed.

These options can be found on the Everybody Sings website.

Time and Place

Find a rehearsal time that works for your leaders and choir members in a location that is accessible and available. Choose a weekly or bi-weekly schedule for rehearsals and be consistent.

Recruit Members

Advertise your choir through multiple mediums such as social media, flyer handouts, and word of mouth. For templates, see the Everybody Sings website.

Find Music

When looking for music, keep in mind the number and level of the singers in the group. Try to choose music that they will enjoy singing. Also keep in mind, when choosing music, that members of the group may change from week to week. Familiar songs and easier tunes may make the experience more enjoyable for the group. For a list of websites to purchase music from, see the Everybody Sings website.





Funding

To run this group, you may require finances to cover music purchases and advertising. Ask for local sponsorship, fundraise, or have a concert and charge admission. These are just a few ways to help fund your choir.

Make plans

Find opportunities for the choir to sing out in the community. This could be at:

- community events
- senior's homes
- park concerts
- chapel services at their social services centre
- other social services settings
- corps functions
- divisional events

GET STARTED

Follow these steps to start a choir in a social services setting. You may experience some hurdles along the way, but there is an answer to every problem.

Find it here:

www.samagacb.com/everybody-sings

