



## Junior High Community Service Program Grades 7 & 8

### Goals

The Community Service Program seeks to develop our students' faith, that it becomes conscious and lived, by providing experiential opportunities to integrate theory and outreach. Jesus' command to us is to "Love the Lord, your God... (and) love your neighbor as yourself." (Mk. 12:30-31) He tells us "Whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me." (Mt. 25:40) Through serving others, our students will discover their gifts, be active in their Christian life, and carry out God's plan for their life and learn the joy, which flows from loving others.

### Requirements

A student must submit written verification of a minimum of 30 hours of community service during their 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade years. **Each student is required to complete 30 hours of community service before June 1<sup>st</sup> of their eighth grade year. THIS IS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT.** There are pro-rated hours for students that were not enrolled at the beginning of their 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade year: enrolled September of 7<sup>th</sup> grade year: 30 hours; enrolled September of 8<sup>th</sup> grade year: 15 hours. The number of community service hours required for any transfer-in students during the school year are as follows: second semester of 7<sup>th</sup> grade: 25 hours; second semester 8<sup>th</sup> grade student: 10 hours. **Failure to complete the requirement results in the student being denied participation in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade end of year festivities.** These hours may be started during the summer before the 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. Students are to complete their hours by June 1<sup>st</sup> of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

**Hours may not be worked during school hours, unless it is school sponsored.**

Hours worked through a student's church may be used for this program, as long as hours are worked during non-school hours.

### Other Information

The "**Community Service Program Permission and Verification Form**" – the **top portion** of this form is to be completed by the student's parent (s) with the name of organization; description of the activities or tasks of service performed by student; student signature and date of service; and parent signature, telephone, and date. The **lower portion** of this form must be completed by the service organization supervisor. **(Authenticity of the returned forms may be verified by phone.)**

Students are responsible for contacting the organization or individual and the subsequent interview, just as if they were seeking a job, and for working in a professional manner. They are therefore, expected to dress appropriately, be prompt and courteous, ask questions, and give the supervisor any necessary information.

Most students will work on their own, or perhaps with a friend. However, MVCS does provide some opportunities for group activities (i.e. Thanksgiving Feast, Bingo Nights, MVCS Auction, etc.)

Any service project done as a group must meet the following criteria: 1) the activity must be completed outside of school hours, with the exception of the Thanksgiving Feast or any other school sponsored event 2) no money may be accepted 3) every group must have an adult moderator and 4) paperwork for reporting service hours must be submitted within 60 days of the service project. Serving one's immediate family is not counted towards community service hours as it is expected that everyone should always be serving the members of their family! **If you have questions with regards to receiving credit for a particular project, please see the Principal in advance.**

## Suggested List of Placement Opportunities and Activities by Category

### The Hungry, Homeless, and Poor

Clothing/Food Drive Distribution  
Community Home Repair/Construction  
Habitat for Humanity, other housing rehabilitation and construction  
Halfway Houses  
Hunger Awareness Meals  
Shelter for the Homeless  
Soup Kitchens  
Church Organized Mexico Trips (weekends or school breaks)

### The Sick

Hospitals and Health Centers  
Medical Centers  
Multiple Sclerosis Friendly Visitor Program  
Nursing Homes  
Rehabilitation Centers  
Ronald McDonald Houses

### The Emotionally/Physically Disabled

Blind Persons  
Deaf Persons  
Handicapped Children's Centers  
Homes, Centers, Schools for the Handicapped  
Sight-impaired Social Events  
Special Athletics Programs  
Special Education Swimming Programs

### Children

After-School Recreation Programs  
Assistant Coaches for Youth Sports  
Babysitting for Families Who Can't Afford to Pay (**Limit of 10 hours toward requirement**)  
Boys/Girls Club Activity Assistant  
Clerical work at schools  
Day Care Centers  
Library Reading Programs  
Maternal and Child Health Centers  
Orphanages  
Pre-School Assistant/Activities  
Programs for Disadvantaged Children  
Religious Education  
Teacher's Aides  
Tutoring Elementary Students

### Religious Placements

Church Festivals  
Music Ministry  
Retreat Leaders  
Vacation Bible School Leader/Assistant  
Youth Ministry Service Project

### Cultural Placements

Museums  
Non-Profit Theater Performances  
Libraries (Clerical, Reading Programs)

### Recreational Placements

After-School Recreation  
Day/Summer Camp Counselors  
Park Recreation Programs

### Fundraising for Others

Bake Sales  
Jog/Walk/Swim...athons  
Non-Profit Groups  
Church Festivals  
Trips to Mexico (**Limit of 8 hours toward requirement**)