

# Benevolence Ministry

## Quick Start Guide



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For a formal benevolence ministry training, visit:

<https://maximizingstewardship.teachable.com/l/pdp/module-2-benevolence-ministry>



## WHY WE SERVE THE NEEDY

### **Loving the Poor Among Us – Scriptures (BSB Version)**

Special thanks to Ethan Pope at Watermark Church, Dallas, TX for this list.

1. Exodus 23:3      And do not show favoritism to a poor man in his lawsuit.
2. Exodus 23:6      You shall not deny justice to the poor in their lawsuits.
3. Exodus 30:15      In making the offering to the LORD to atone for your lives, the rich shall not give more than a half shekel, nor shall the poor give less.
4. Leviticus 23:22    When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap all the way to the edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Leave them for the poor and the foreign resident.
5. Leviticus 19:15    You must not pervert justice; you must not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the rich; you are to judge your neighbor fairly.
6. Leviticus 25:35-37   Now if your countryman becomes destitute and cannot support himself among you, then you are to help him as you would a foreigner or stranger, so that he can continue to live among you. Do not take any interest or profit from him, but fear your God, that your countryman may live among you. You must not lend him your silver at interest or sell him your food for profit. Show no partiality in judging; hear both small and great alike. Do not be intimidated by anyone, for judgment belongs to God.
7. Deut. 1:17          There will be no poor among you, however, because the LORD will surely bless you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess as an inheritance.
8. Deut. 15:4          If there is a poor man among your brothers within any of the gates in the land that the LORD your God is giving you, then you are not to harden your heart or shut your hand from your poor brother. Instead, you are to open your hand to him and freely loan him whatever he needs.
9. Deut. 15:7-8        Give generously to him, and do not let your heart be grieved when you do so. And because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything to which you put your hand. For there will never cease to be poor in the land; that is why I am commanding you to open wide your hand to your brother and to the poor and needy in your land.
10. Deut. 15:10-11     Do not oppress a hired hand who is poor and needy, whether he is a brother or a foreigner residing in one of your towns.
11. Deut. 24:14        You are to pay his wages each day before sunset, because he is poor and depends on them. Otherwise, he may cry out to the LORD against you, and you will be guilty of sin.
12. Deut. 24:15        The well-fed hire themselves out for food, but the starving hunger no more.
13. 1 Samuel 2:5       The LORD sends poverty and wealth; He humbles, and He exalts.
14. 1 Samuel 2:7       He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.
15. 1 Samuel 2:8       About that time there was a great outcry from the people and their wives against their fellow Jews. Some were saying, “We and our sons and daughters are numerous. We must get grain in order to eat and stay alive.”
16. Nehemiah 5:1-2

17. Nehemiah 5:3      Others were saying, “We are mortgaging our fields, our vineyards, and our homes to get grain during the famine.”

18. Nehemiah 5:4      Still others were saying, “We have borrowed money to pay the king’s tax on our fields and vineyards.”

19. Nehemiah 5:5      “Some of our daughters are already enslaved, but we are powerless to redeem them because our fields and vineyards belong to others.”

20. Nehemiah 5:7      “You are exacting usury from your own brothers!”

21. Psalm 9:18      For the needy will not always be forgotten.

22. Psalm 34:18      The LORD is near to the brokenhearted; He saves the contrite in spirit.

23. Psalm 41:1      Blessed is the one who cares for the poor; the LORD will deliver him in the day of trouble.

24. Psalm 112:9      He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor.

25. Psalm 113:7-8      He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the dump to seat them with nobles, with the princes of His people.

26. Psalm 146:7      He executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.

27. Prov. 3:27-28      Do not withhold good from the deserving when it is within your power to act. Do not tell your neighbor, “Come back tomorrow and I will provide”—when you already have the means.

28. Prov. 11:25      A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.

29. Prov. 14:20      The poor man is hated even by his neighbor, but many are those who love the rich.

30. Prov. 14:21      He who despises his neighbor sins but blessed is he who shows kindness to the poor.

31. Prov. 14:31      Whoever oppresses the poor taunts their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors Him.

32. Prov. 17:5      He who mocks the poor insults their Maker.

33. Prov. 19:1      Better a poor man who walks with integrity than a fool whose lips are perverse.

34. Prov. 19:4      Wealth attracts many friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.

35. Prov. 19:7      All the brothers of a poor man hate him—how much more do his friends avoid him! He may pursue them with pleading, but they are nowhere to be found.

36. Prov. 19:17      Kindness to the poor is a loan to the LORD, and He will repay the lender.

37. Prov. 19:22      The desire of a man is loving devotion; better to be poor than a liar.

38. Prov. 20:13      Do not love sleep, or you will grow poor; open your eyes, and you will have plenty of food.

39. Prov. 21:13      Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too shall cry out and receive no answer.

40. Prov. 21:17      He who loves pleasure will become poor; the one who loves wine and oil will never be rich.

41. Prov. 22:9      A generous man will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

42. Prov. 22:16      Oppressing the poor to enrich oneself or giving gifts to the rich will surely lead to poverty.

43. Prov. 22:22-23 Do not rob a poor man because he is poor, and do not crush the afflicted at the gate, for the LORD will take up their case and will plunder those who rob them.

44. Prov. 28:3 A destitute leader who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain that leaves no food.

45. Prov. 28:6 Better a poor man who walks with integrity than a rich man whose ways are perverse.

46. Prov 28:27 Whoever gives to the poor will not be in need, but he who hides his eyes will receive many curses.

47. Prov. 29:7 The righteous consider the cause of the poor, but the wicked have no regard for such concerns.

48. Ecclesiastes 9:16 Wisdom is better than strength, but the wisdom of the poor man is despised, and his words are not heeded.

49. Jer. 5:28 They have not taken up the cause of the fatherless, that they might prosper; nor have they defended the rights of the needy.

50. Jer. 40:7 ...The king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam over the land and that he had put him in charge of the men, women, and children who were the poorest of the land...

51. Amos 4:1-2 Hear this word, you who...oppress the poor and crush the needy...The Lord GOD has sworn by His holiness: "Behold, the days are coming when you will be taken away with hooks, and your posterity with fishhooks."

52. Amos 5:11 Therefore, because you trample on the poor and exact from him a tax of grain, you will never live in the stone houses you have built.

53. Amos 5:12 ...You deprive the poor of justice in the gate.

54. Amos 8:4,7 ...You who trample the needy, who do away with the poor of the land, The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob: "I will never forget any of their deeds..."

55. Matthew 25:37-40 Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.'

56. Matt. 26:11 The poor you will always have with you.

57. John 12:8 The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have Me.

58. Rom 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but associate with the lowly. Do not be conceited.

59. Gal 2:10 They only asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I also was eager to do.

# BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

Why a financial benevolence Ministry? What's the end goal (to get them off your back OR give them a hand up with love, discipleship and assistance)?

Qualifiers to receive assistance:

- 1. All personal resources exhausted
- 2. Unable to obtain a job or 2<sup>nd</sup> job
- 3. No family assistance available
- 4. Faithful to have done their part

Policies for members, attenders, staff, non-members and transients

What expenses will the program pay?

What expenses will not be paid?

Limits for benevolence (determined by church ministry budget or limits per family)

## **Types of Assistance**

1. On-the-spot gift cards, 2. Major Financial Assistance and 3. Hands-On Coaching with Discipleship

## **Gift Cards**

1. Make color copy of government ID to retain, 2. Write reason for requested gift card(s)
2. Make 4 phone calls: w/ local Law Enforcement, community assistance organization and 2 nearby churches: Are they wanted by law enforcement – advise police they are on your property if “yes”, but do not attempt to restrain them. Have they already been served by another org or church?
3. Document Dollar Amount of Gift Cards Given with names of persons handing out the cards plus date and time. Note: Person receiving gift cards must match ID provided and recorded. Have two-person rule for all “stranger” gift card transactions including interview, ID check and record keeping, handing out cards and logging transactions (w/ serial numbers if desired).
4. If possible, make all transactions in plain view of recorded security camera.
5. Did someone ask the person about their spiritual journey. Be ready to present the gospel if accepted. Record verbal decision for Christ in gift card log. If available, invite to discipleship for materially poor as appropriate.
6. Covenant not to sue signature on back of one-page request form. Signed?

## **Major Requests**

What information will be required for requests over a pre-determined dollar amount?

Proof of identity, income & assets verification, signature with covenant not to sue or agreement to binding arbitration. Will membership, giving record, small group or attendance be verified? Have they asked for assistance in the past? What happened? Did they follow-through on their end with recommended discipleship and recommended actions?

Interview Questions: What self-help have they taken, how long have things been going this way, from whom have they requested assistance? Do they have any family nearby?

## **Application Documents**

Does the benevolence application state in writing that no promises are being made by completing the application or coming to an interview? Is there a place for them to sign the agreement with a copy kept on record?

Does the application list local community assistance resources for food, temporary housing, medical care and job training?

## **Program Policy Considerations**

What written policies are in place for not giving cash directly to the applicant?

What's the process for gift cards? Who is authorized to give hand out? Tracking required?

What is the policy for a "NO" response to their request, while still showing love and respect?

Who can serve on the benevolence team? Qualifications and training required? Are ministry team members trained to be familiar with nearby community organizations & resources?

Who will follow-up with applicants and when?

Is gift card inventory checked periodically and verified with cards given vs cards ready to be given. Are new gift cards logged into inventory? What is the policy when gift card stock does not match inventory log?

Policies for face-to-face meetings (meeting with someone of the opposite sex or different race or origin or skin color? Is there a "two-man" policy to protect staff and volunteers from being accused of wrongdoing in the meeting and a policy for approved meeting locations and hours to meet applicants? Is the plan of salvation presented in written form to the applicant?

Are the applicant's social media accounts checked to get an independent sense of what is going on?

## **Recommended Resources**

Ministry Specializing in Serving the Materially Poor: [www.Chalmers.org](http://www.Chalmers.org) Chalmers specializes in church program training, volunteer/staff training and program curriculum.

### Legal Guide for Benevolence Ministries

<https://capincrouse.com/church-benevolence-programs/>

### Informational Website: ChurchLawandTax.com

Book: Church Finances: The Complete Guide to Managing Ministry Resources, by Michael E. Batts & Richard Hammar.

Articles: Christianity Today, Benevolence Fund Basics, Giving Help the Right Way, What Your Church Needs to Know about Benevolence Ministries by Frank Sommerville.

## COORDINATION WITH OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

1. What organizations serving the needy are in your community? How do they help? What are their specialties? Examples - food pantry, utility assistance, medical help, warm clothing in the winter, etc.
2. What help does your church provide to non-church members?
3. How do you fund this area of ministry? (Special offerings such as 5th Sunday, line-item budget or through high-capacity donors who are passionate about this area). Do you highlight benevolence ministry in offering moment “stories of life change”?
4. How does your church leverage benevolence ministry to win the lost and make disciples? What is working and what hasn’t worked? In what ways to you plug them into groups, classes or with counselors?
5. What one point of contact in your community can churches check if they suspect someone is “working the system” going from church to church? Do you check up on people asking for assistance, checking with law enforcement, checking their Facebook or other social media, etc.?
6. How do local community organizations desire to work directly with churches for the mutual benefit? What do they need? What serving opportunities are regularly needed by your local community organizations? (This is where you can send volunteers!). How are you leveraging volunteers serving with community benevolent organizations to point people back to your church?
7. Does each “front desk” church leader have a resource sheet with this information? Have you provided your church receptionist with a guide to love on people who are not part of your congregation when they walk in the front door? How have you familiarized every greeter and receptionist with a quick reference guide for benevolence? An example Community Assistance Guide is provided on the following pages.

# Community Assistance Guide Example



## Denton County Community Charities

<b>CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION</b> <a href="https://www.ccahelps.org">https://www.ccahelps.org</a> Click on "Get Help"	Latest Update: Sep 2025	<b>THE SALVATION ARMY</b> 9 AM to 4 PM. <a href="https://salvationarmyntx.org/north-texas/lewisville">https://salvationarmyntx.org/north-texas/lewisville</a> <a href="https://salvationarmyntx.org/north-texas/denton">https://salvationarmyntx.org/north-texas/denton</a>
200 S. Mill Street Lewisville, TX 75057	<b>Locations</b>	1508 E McKinney St, Denton, TX 76209 880 Fox Ave, Lewisville, TX 75067
Walk-ins Mon-Thurs 9 -11 and 1-3. On Fridays 9-11 (food pantry sign-up only).	<b>HOURS</b>	9 AM to 12 Noon 1 PM to 4 PM
Area served: Denton Co. and in Frisco & Coppell ISD.	<b>Area Served</b>	Denton County
Direct clients to intake coordinator: 972-219-4305  For church inquiries contact: <a href="mailto:FamilyServices@ccahelps.org">FamilyServices@ccahelps.org</a> with requester's info.	<b>CONTACT</b>	Lewisville: <del>Dealynn</del> Richard at 972-353-9400 Denton: Majors Mark & Becky Gilliam at (940) 566-3800 By appt M-F 1:00 pm to 3:30 PM
Yes, by appointment	<b>CLOTHING</b>	
Self-selection grocery store serves 900 families weekly.  One-time Emerg Food Pantry M-F, 8 AM to 8 PM.	<b>MEALS &amp; FOOD</b>	Food pantry – Lewisville: Tue & Thurs 9-11:30 & 1:30 -3:30  Denton: Wed & Fri. 9:30-11:30
CCA calls participants in their programs "Angels".		Community lunches every day but Saturday 12 Noon to 1 pm
Golden Angels program (for all seniors on fixed income for fellowship, Bible Study and fun) shop at the food pantry Open 9-12 Mondays.		Sunday Lunches 12 – 1 pm
	<b>Brown bag lunches</b>	In the summer, serves apartment complexes.
Employment assistance – Job coaches work with Angels to develop resume's, prepare for interviews and seek jobs Mondays thru Thursdays on some mornings & afternoons.  A job readiness workshop the last Monday each month, 9 AM to 12 Noon.	<b>Employment Assistance</b>	NOTE: JUVO Jobs App has a map of local job openings with location, description and pay.

<b>CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION</b>		<b>SALVATION ARMY – NORTH TEXAS</b>
Prayer partners available at CCA. Professional Counseling available at no cost.	<b>Chaplain Pastoral Care/Counseling</b>	Pastoral care (on request) on campus
Church partners who have community gardens provide vegetables every week to our food pantry for distribution.	<b>Community Gardens</b>	Community Garden located 5 minutes away with 60 plots at a cost of \$20 per year with all tools provided. 1/2 of everything produced goes to the feeding program.
Life Skills Program includes: Level 1-5 English classes are at 10 AM & 6 PM. Schedule varies by semester. Basic computer skills classes Wednesdays at 6 PM. Financial literacy. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, 11 AM to 12 Noon.</b>	<b>Life Skills Education</b>	Adult life skills education: Reading Literacy and financial literacy, Life skills on campus at 880 Fox, Lewisville, TX.
Rent & utility assistance based on criteria with proper documentation. No medical clinic.	<b>Financial Assistance &amp; Medicine</b>	Rent & Utility assistance (emergency assistance). Prescription Assistance.
Kids Eat Free – summer lunch program serving 1,000 kids for 11 weeks during the summer & VBS kids.	<b>Kids lunches</b>	Salvation Army LISD Summer Feeding Program.
Back to School – families are allowed to shop to prepare their children for school including outfits & school supplies. Christmas gifts for kids are available.	<b>Back to School &amp; Transport.</b>	School supplies only.
Assistance is provided to Angels with application processes for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). SNAP representative available on Mondays 9-12 and 1-4.	<b>Help with Federal Programs</b>	Assistance is given to apply for Medicaid, Medicare and food stamps (SNAP) on every 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday.
First Mondays 4 PM to 7 PM.	<b>Legal Aid</b>	
Bus passes or gas cards are given to Golden Angels needing transportation to a program.	<b>Bus &amp; Train Passes</b>	Yes, to shelters that have space.
	<b>Rehab.</b>	6-month adult addiction rehab.
	<b>Homeless</b>	Warming & Cooling Station.
	<b>Overnight Selter</b>	Denton: Check-in at 4 pm.

<b>Heart of the City Lewisville</b>		<b>Food, Clothing, Training and More.</b>
<a href="https://heartofthecitylewisville.com">https://heartofthecitylewisville.com</a> Click on Get Help Now	Multiple Locations	See Website for Hours at Each Location
2021 N. Mill St., Lewisville, TX 75067		Northview Baptist Church
1569 W. Main St., Lewisville		New Beginnings Church
25631 Smotherman Rd. Frisco 75033		New Life Community Church
1407 Walnut St., Carrollton		Primera Iglesia Bautista
2103 Savage Ln., Lewisville		Delay Middle School (for students only)
921 Morse St., Denton		Morse St. Baptist Church
<b>Serves People from Anywhere</b>		
<b>Thrive Academy</b> offers classes on personal growth, education and training, career development, and financial management training		
<b>Volunteer Opportunities Available</b>		To volunteer click "I WANT TO HELP"

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<b>First Refuge Ministries</b> (940) 484-4384 <a href="https://dentonrefuge.org">https://dentonrefuge.org</a> Location: 1701 Broadway St. Denton, TX 76201 Food Hours: Mon: 9 AM- Noon, Wed: 1-4 PM or <del>Thur</del> : 6-8 PM	<b>Food, Medical Dental Counseling Women's Health</b>	Serves: Denton County North of Lake Lewisville. Call for Appt.
<b>Denton Community Food Center</b> (940) 382-0807 Location: 306 N Loop 288, Ste 400, Denton, TX 76209 Hours: Mon & Wed's 10:30 AM – 12:15 PM Appointment Required.	<b>Food Distribution</b>	For appointment, Sign-up, then log in. <a href="https://app.pantrysoft.com/login/denton">https://app.pantrysoft.com/login/denton</a>
<b>Love Thy Neighbor</b> New Beginnings Church in Lewisville. 1569 Main St. on Tuesdays in Lewisville	<b>Clothing</b>	First & Third Saturdays of each month from 9-11:00 am.
<b>Second Time Around Clothes Closet</b> Location: Ignited Fellowship 209 Mockingbird Lane, Denton, Texas 76209	<b>Clothing</b>	(940- 382-1822) Call for hours and Appts.

CCA VOLUNTEER NEEDS  <u>Listed by Seasons/Dates</u> CCAHELPS.ORG/Volunteer	SERVING Opportunities	SALVATION ARMY VOLUNTEER NEEDS  <u>Dates are year-round, Except Angel Tree and Red Kettle Ringing</u> <a href="https://salvationarmyntx.org/north-texas/volunteer">https://salvationarmyntx.org/north-texas/volunteer</a>
<b>April to May</b> – Needed offering to cover costs for <u>Kids Eat Free</u> summer weekend lunch program or hold collection drive for one product of the campaign.		People who are flexible to work one day each week for 3 hours. Shifts available either from 9 AM to 12 Noon OR 1 PM to 4 PM.
Food Pantry Helpers: M-Th 8am-8:30pm F 8am-4pm Pantry warehouse and grocery take-out; in kind donation transporters.		Food pantry: See hours above. Lifting required only for foods that fit into a bag. Taken to car only for the elderly.
<b>June-August</b> -		Feeding program helpers. Serving shifts start at 11:30 until complete Mon-Fri.
<b>Late July</b> – Personal shopper volunteers are needed to help children select clothes at Old Navy. Funds are needed to purchase school clothes.		
<b>November – December:</b> Teams of 12-15 volunteers needed to sort through donated food products during the busiest donation time of the year. <b><i>Daytime volunteer groups are the biggest need.</i></b> We would prefer to know when you plan to serve by late September for Nov-Dec.		Red Kettle Bell Ringers needed – November through Christmas. Online Registration: <a href="http://RegisterToRing.com">RegisterToRing.com</a>
<b>December</b> – Host a Giving Tree; CCA Christmas Outreach needs individuals and teams of volunteers to help distribute gifts at a Christmas outreach.		Help distribute gifts from Angel Tree Program.
		<i>This list was compiled by Brad Jack, Sept 2025 MaximizingStewardship.net</i>