

Memo

To: VOLUNTEERS
From: MAXINE RAINES
Re: MINISTRY GUIDELINES

In any organization, certain guidelines need to be followed, and our ministry is no exception. It is important that each of you understands the mission and goals of Lost Sheep Ministry so that we are all reaching up and out to those we serve with the same God-given vision.

With that in mind, I'm taking this opportunity to clarify some of the guidelines that have been established for the day-to-day operations of our ministry offices. Please review and feel free to ask questions for anything that is not clear.

*In keeping with our ministry's mission, under no circumstances will items donated to Lost Sheep Ministry be **sold** or **given** to any other organization that intends to sell the items for fundraising or any other reason or purpose.*

We are charged with the responsibility of making sure every item that has been donated to Lost Sheep Ministry is either distributed to the homeless or to another valid ministry that will use the donation in accordance with our mission and vision. Please complete the approved tracking forms to aid with inventory tracking.

We are so blessed that God has sent people like you to give of your time to partner with us in ministering to those who are lost, homeless, and hurting. We appreciate everything you do in the way of cooking, cleaning, sorting clothes, and receiving and delivering donations, and we ask God to bless you in a special way for all your hard work in this ministry.

QUALIFICATIONS OF LOST SHEEP MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

You are a qualified candidate to serve as a volunteer if you:

- Are a born-again believer in Jesus
- Hold active membership in a Bible-believing church* and attend a church regularly
- Are in agreement with Lost Sheep Ministry Guidelines
- Are enthusiastic about being called by God to serve the homeless, the lost, the hurting, the addicted, and the abused
- Have a desire to serve others
- Regularly read the Bible, have a basic knowledge of it, and seek daily fellowship with the Lord
- Show leadership potential and be willing to learn and grow in teamwork with others
- Have the agreement of your spouse, if married
- Are of legal voting age
- Are able to attend scheduled meetings of this ministry and present your questions, input, or recommendations about your area of ministry
- Are able to pray with someone to receive Jesus as Savior and baptizer in the Holy Spirit

* By “church” we mean a valid Christian assembly, recognized in the community and by Christian pastors in the area, and having as its pastor/minister one who is similarly recognized by other Christian pastors.

GUIDELINES FOR LOST SHEEP MINISTRY

- New volunteers should work closely with and under the supervision of seasoned volunteers until you learn to serve the homeless.
- Stay with other volunteers. **NEVER** leave by yourself with anyone or get out of sight of the other volunteers unless you go in a team of two or more, and someone knows you are leaving and with whom.
- **NEVER** give your last name, where you work, live, or any information that would put you at risk.
- You must be able to discern truth. Remember, our clients are survivors and will tell you whatever they feel is necessary in order to get your help. **NEVER** give money or meet them after ministry time. Ask only staff members if you need help in any area. **NEVER** promise anything; rather, always say, *“I will look into it and try to get what you need, only if I can do it.”* **NEVER** buy anything for our clients unless you first check with the ministry staff. Once a volunteer receives a request, the ministry staff must first agree that there is a need, and find an agency that gives or helps in this area. If we cannot find a source, we might buy or secure what is needed.
- Don't judge . . . don't condemn . . . care for them You do not know the full stories or experiences that have shaped these individuals. Most of these people have been hurt, abused, and/or molested and have not experienced God's love.
- Pray for wisdom to meet the spiritual needs of the children and adults.
- Approach each client as a person, not a burden, problem, or “case.” Our clients need our acceptance and love just the way they are, even if they never change.
- Be sensitive in talking *with* our clients—not *at* them. Avoid lecturing. They have already experienced this type of interaction with many other people. When God gives you the opportunity (after they share that they have a problem), then and only then, tell them what the Bible says and what God can do to help them.
- These clients need your encouragement and will be under tremendous peer pressure **NOT** to accept the truth of Jesus Christ.
- We do not pay rent, light bills, etc. for any client. We do, however, have knowledge of different agencies that help in various ways, such as the Stranded Travelers Bureau, who sometimes will help get people back home. We help by giving information on how to get an apartment (KCDC), food (FISH), or access church pantries. Ask a staff member for information.