Tool 4: Creating a Community Resource Directory

From Helping Without Hurting in Church Benevolence

Consider using the below tool to create your church’s community resource directory.

General Assistance
- Local Social Services Department
  - Temporary Aid for Needy Families
  - Supplemental Security Income
  - Medicaid
  - Utility Assistance
- Food/Clothing/Furniture Closets or Pantries

Housing
- Emergency Shelters
- Domestic Abuse Shelters
- Rental Assistance Programs
- Federally Subsidized Housing Locations
- Mortgage Assistance Programs
- New Homeowners Assistance

Consumer Information
- Financial Literacy Programs
- Consumer Credit Counseling Service
- Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA)

Employment/Vocational
- Jobs Preparedness Programs
- Occupational Work Centers

Education
- Literacy Programs
- Tutoring Programs
- Graduate Equivalence Degree Programs
- College/Vocational Schools

Health
- Crisis Pregnancy Centers
- Addiction Recovery Programs
- Public Health Clinics
- Public Health Nurses
- Parish Nurses
- Health Care Social Workers
- Public Health Information Hotlines and Programs
- Trauma-Informed Care Centers

Legal
- Legal Aid Services
- Immigration Services
- Lawyers
- Magistrates and other court officers
- Juvenile Justice Office

Aging Programs
- Subsidized housing for Seniors
- Nutrition Centers for Seniors
- Developmental Day-Care Centers for Seniors
- Local Government’s Office of Aging
- Nursing Homes

Children/Youth
- Head Start programs
- Child Development Centers
- Infant Nutrition Centers
- Child Abuse/Neglect Social Workers
- Day Care and Nursery Schools
- Mentoring Programs (e.g., Big Brother/Sister)
- School Guidance Counselors
- After-School Tutoring Programs

Handicapped Services
- Rehabilitation Centers
- Developmental Activity Centers
- Numerous Special Interest Organizations

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1 Adapted with permission from Timothy J. Keller, Resources for Deacons: Love Expressed through Mercy Ministries (Lawrenceville, GA: Christian Education and Publications, 1985), 56-58.