

SOUTH SOUND DREAM CENTER

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR FAMILIES. OUR PASSION.

ADOPT-A-BLOCK

PROGRAM MANUAL

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SSDC Mission:

To identify areas of need in the South Sound and initiate compassionate outreaches in those areas

Adopt-a-Block Overview:

Through the Adopt-a-Block program, SSDC delivers more than 200 bags of groceries every week to families in need. SSDC outreach teams also identify various other family and household needs as they interact with youth and families served. This home-to-home approach has enabled SSDC to be extremely successful in identifying youth and families who are in the greatest need and who might not always pursue or have access to other community services. SSDC staff and volunteers have had opportunities to assist individuals struggling with challenges such as drug abuse, and help them access the assistance they need. Adopt-a-Block engages members of the faith community, encouraging churches and their members to take responsibility for neighborhoods in their area with financial support, volunteers, and resources.



Testimonies

“The Word of Life Youth started their Adopt-A-Block on M Street in Auburn. The group of 18 people went into 4 different neighborhoods. Many people were very surprised that we were giving out groceries for free. One particular woman didn’t answer the door and yelled “can I help you?” through the door when we knocked. The group told her that we’re from the Dream Center. She opened the door and we repeated ourselves “hi, we would like to bless you with these groceries”. The woman started crying and hugging us. She said that her kitchen is completely empty and she didn’t know where she will get her next meal from! We had several of these encounters in one day where people broke down crying with gratitude. People are struggling and they were touched by our acts of love. Praise God!” *Tina Sidorko (Word of Life Group Leader)*

“We feel just as impacted by this experience as those we are giving food to. When we see a need and are able to fill that need, that means the most - especially when you see children excited to get the groceries.” *Steve & Christina Gately (Group Leader from Christian Faith Center)*

“We had a new church group (Christian Faith Center) come out and help us this week. They are committing to one weekend a month for the next year. They were excited to start making relationships with the people and the kids in the neighborhood of Camelot Square. I had a chance to introduce them to the regular people that we serve and know. It was a great time and they will be here next time with more people and more resources.” *Jason Weichert (Board Member)*

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“After having 1-2 volunteers during the summer to cover almost 100 homes, it was great having 12 fantastic volunteers from Auburn High School Key Club help put together 125 bags of bread, milk, apples, cupcakes, and soda! Praising God for more nutritious food! And, when they found out we were going to Don Won, one girl and boy mentioned that they used to live there and remember receiving the groceries!” *Rick Cameron (SSDC Executive Director)*



Highlights

- SSDC got a carpenter to completely redo a mobile home skirt so a single mom wouldn't be kicked out.
- Worked with a father to get off drugs and stop gambling. Before SSDC got involved, the father was stealing from the kids to get drug money. SSDC walked with them while they were homeless and helped with food and finances. The family now has their own house and has been stable for the past several years.
- Helped a 83 year old woman in a wheelchair by getting a group to build a new wheelchair ramp
- Helped a woman on disability stay in her house who was 5 days from eviction because she couldn't take care of her yard. We got a group to volunteer and totally landscape her yard.
- We identified a blind woman who could not clean her house and spent many hours scrubbing the walls
- We got a medical scooter donated for a woman who was half paralyzed
We got another group to come in and do landscaping for a woman who was on oxygen.

New Individual Volunteer Process:

- Fill out volunteer application and activity release form (e-mail, mail or bring in at least one week before volunteering).
- Attend a SSDC Volunteer Orientation (needs to take place within the first three months of volunteering).
- Choose an outreach to commit to. (SSDC encourages people to find an outreach that they feel connected with and then make a one year commitment, even if it's once a month).

Large Group Process:

One Time Commitment

- Fill out the SSDC Large Group Form.
- SSDC approves partnership.
- Group leader works with all volunteers to fill out volunteer application and activity release forms (e-mail, mail or bring to SSDC Headquarters at least one week before event).
- SSDC trains group and takes them out to Adopt-a-Block or other prearranged outreach.

Regular Commitment

- Fill out the SSDC Large Group Form.
- SSDC approves partnership.
- Group leader works with all volunteers to fill out volunteer application and activity release form (e-mail, mail or bring to SSDC Headquarters at least one week before event).
- SSDC works with group leader to do an orientation for their team.
- SSDC works with group to identify a Core Leader to oversee the group within the first three months.
- SSDC trains Core Leader and provides support.

Food Drives

- The SSDC makes over 200 lunches and bags of groceries every week. Therefore, the need for food is a necessity. All large groups are encouraged to do a food drive once a quarter to help cover the costs. Food drives could include: Peanut butter (creamy), Jelly, Mayo, Baloney, hygiene packs, etc.

Policies:

- Our number one goal is to serve and love on all people who we serve at our Adopt-a-Block
- Follow the SSDC Safety Procedures:
 - Take time to pray for before every outreach with your team.
 - Please listen to your core leaders
 - Stay with your team at all times.
 - Do not volunteer personal information about yourself to anyone (where you go to school, your age, where you live, phone #, etc.).
 - Please get permission from your SSDC core leader before taking pictures.
 - Please dress modestly. No low cut tops, or short skirts/shorts.
 - Please make sure that all personal/valuable items are locked away safely (purses, wallets, jewelry, money, electronics, etc.).
 - Please do not give money or gifts – this is done through a leader only at their discretion.
 - Nobody under the age of 13 years will be allowed on any outreach, unless the parent or guardian attends. Only the SSDC Executive Director and Deputy Director can make exceptions.
- **Medication**
 - Anyone associated with SSDC in any way cannot distribute any kind of medicine, even over the counter medicine such as aspirin, cold medicine, cough drops, TUMS, etc.
- **Conflict Management**
 - **Listen.** James 1:19-20 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.
 - **One person.** Only allow one person to speak at a time, you might have to separate the parties.
 - **Speak calmly.** Proverbs 15:1 A gentle answer turns away wrath.
 - **Explain next steps.** After you have tried listening explain to them that we do not allow such behavior in the Drop-in-Center and if they continue, they will have to leave.
 - **Problem persists.** If the problem still persists, ask one or more volunteers to back you up as you ask them to leave.
 - **Nothing works.** If nothing else works, let them know you are calling the police.

Adopt-a-Block Positions Descriptions

Core Leader (1 to 2 people max per Adopt-a-Block)

- Manage, train and coordinate all volunteer activities.
- Pray for groups.
- Lead team debriefs.
- Step in when positions are not filled.
- Work with Deputy Director if problems arise.
- Fill out weekly and quarterly reports in Survey Monkey.
- Meet with Core Leadership team once a month.
- Work with volunteers to fill out the appropriate SSDC paperwork.
- Manage food distribution.
- Manage group's sign in sheet.
- Manage distributing and collecting Christmas and Thanksgiving Forms

Outreach Team

- Assemble food to distribute.
- Work with Core Leader to bring foods that are needed.
- Knock on doors (or visit homeless camps) of individuals in the specified community and distribute food and/or other items when necessary.
- Develop relationships with individuals in the community.
 - Relationships are key, not a time to preach.
 - Get to know them, what do they like, dislike, what do they do for a living, do they have family, are there things they need prayer for, etc?
 - When opportunities arise pray with those you are speaking with.
- Send qualitative stories to Core Leader.
- Work with Core Leader to determine what kind of assistance the SSDC can provide or places to refer families to.

Community Outreach Workers (community members that are being mentored to be leaders)

- Recruit and encourage others in their community.
- Take the lead at the adopt-a-block :
- Introduce SSDC Outreach Team to others within their community.
- Assist with distributing food to their community.

Adopt-a-Block Detailed Schedule

1. 8:30am Core Leader Lead arrives to unlock doors and start prayer.
2. 8:45am Core Leader arrives at SSDC location (SSDC Headquarters or Cornerstone Baptist Church).
3. Core Leader picks up sign-in-sheet for their group (created by Program Assistant).
 - All names typed on sign-in-sheet have a background check completed.
 - No one can volunteer unless their name is on the sign-in-sheet.
4. 9:00am Outreach Volunteers arrive and sign in
5. 9:00am Lead describes what is taking place that day and prays for the day.
 - Describe: Each role that needs to take place to get the groceries put together and where everyone will go after groceries are put together.
 - Discuss: Ideas on how to talk to people during the Adopt-a-Block.
 - Treat each person like a friend you just met.
 - Find something that you may have in common and talk about your experiences.
 - Don't preach at them. Focus on building a relationship.
 - Focus on active listening if opportunities arise to ask for prayer needs.
 - Write prayer needs on a piece of paper and pray over them throughout the week so you can ask about it the next time you see them to see how the Lord answered your prayers.
6. 9:15am Put grocery bags together and make sandwiches. (SSDC brings items. Outreach Volunteers are encouraged to bring food to help fill the bags).
7. 10:30am Wipe down tables, put supplies away and take tables down.
8. 10:45am Core Leaders take groups to Adopt-a-Block location
9. 11:00am Core Leader/Group Leader breaks groups into teams of 3-4 people.
 - Core Leader tells groups where to go.
 - Outreach Volunteers bring bags of groceries or sandwiches to each house.
 - Outreach Volunteer knocks on doors, introduces themselves as a volunteer with the SSDC and that they are there to bless them with groceries.
 - If opportunity arises Outreach Volunteer asks them if they have any prayer needs.
 - If there are opportunities to pray Outreach Volunteer will pray for them.
10. 11:30am All Outreach Volunteers meet Core Leader for a Debrief.
 - How was your experience?
 - Any stories you want to share with the group?
11. 11:45am Core Leader thanks everyone for coming and invites people to come back next week.
12. After the event the Core Leader fills out the SSDC report (<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/TVBR8K2>).

Adopt-a-Block Overview Schedule

Federal Way

Time	Activity
9:00am	Arrive at Cornerstone Baptist Church (25030 Military Rd. S. Kent, WA 98032)
9:00am - 9:15am	Description of the day and prayer by Core Leader.
9:15am - 10:30am	Prepare food for your adopt-a-block (bags of groceries, lunches, etc.)
10:30am - 10:45am	Clean up
10:45am - 11:30am	Drive to Adopt-a-Block (SSDC does not provide transportation).
11:30am - 12:00pm	Team Debrief back at Adopt-a-Block

Auburn

Time	Activity
9:00am	Arrive at South Sound Dream Center (1420 Auburn Way S Auburn, WA 98092)
9:00am - 9:15am	Description of the day and prayer by Core Leader.
9:00am - 10:30am	Prepare food for your adopt-a-block (bags of groceries, lunches, etc.).
10:30am - 11:30am	Drive to Adopt-a-Block (SSDC does not provide transportation).
11:30am - 12:00pm	Team Debrief back at Adopt-a-Block.

Wisdom for the Journey

- The second commandment is not a ministry only some are called to.
- God will call you beyond your talents.
- In the parable of the Good Samaritan, which is the explanation of the second commandment, no where did the Good Samaritan verbally preach the Gospel to the one he helped. Our actions really are louder than words. We will find that people will open up to the gospel as we love them, but we need to demonstrate the love of God first.
- According to 1 Corinthians 13, you can do the very same acts of giving to the poor and have it mean nothing. You must allow God to open your heart to give out of love ("If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 1 Cor 13:3).
- 1 Corinthians 13:8 says that love never fails. You will run into blocks in your own heart where you really don't want to go out. It is when you press in and do it anyway, that you will find the ability to love.
- In Luke 11:39 - 41 Jesus tells the Pharisees that if they want to be made clean both inside and out to give to the poor. This promise is to us also.
- In Acts 10:1 - 4 there are two reasons that God heard Cornelius, his prayers and gifts to the poor. As we go and do the same from our hearts as Cornelius, we will find god opening up doors for us.
- Jesus told the story of the good shepherd who left the 99 sheep to go find the one lost sheep. When you go out, pray and ask God for just one person that day, who really needs even just a smile. Focus on "the one", don't try to get everyone saved in one day.
- We must understand the extreme value of each individual person to God. We tend to measure the value of a person based on how opened they are when we try to reach out to them.
- The Apostle Paul said that some sow and some water. You might simply be called to water a seed and never see them get saved. You have to be OK with this.
- Adopt-a-Block is in large part a prayer ministry. You need to pray first and then go out to reap the fruits of your prayer.



Support

SSDC is a non-profit organization that relies on the support of volunteers, donors and gifts-in-kind. By contributing \$18 a month you can support one family each month with groceries and basic necessities every other week.