



KNOXVILLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” -Matthew 25:40

With these words, Jesus charges His disciples to show their love for Him by assisting the poor. Echoing His teaching and imitating His example, the Church has always made “those who are oppressed by poverty...the object of a preferential love” (CCC 2448). This preferential love “extends not only to material poverty but also to the many forms of cultural and religious poverty” (CCC 2444).

For these reasons, the K.C.H.S. Christian Service program offers students the opportunity to perform the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, “by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities (CCC 2447). The requirements of this program are designed to teach students to fulfill this Christian duty and, perhaps more importantly, offer them the possibility of personal enrichment that comes from of giving of oneself to those in need.

DIRECT/INDIRECT SERVICE

Direct service involves direct (face to face contact with those being served, the real poor such as (but not exclusively) single pregnant women, homeless, children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and elderly **outside** the family. Indirect service is working to benefit the poor but with no person-to-person contact with the poor. (See examples listed.)

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Each work of service must be a work of mercy.
2. Each work of service must be done for the poor - whether materially, physically, emotionally, or spiritually poor.
3. Each work of service must be verifiable.
4. Each work of service must be performed outside of school hours.

HOUR REQUIREMENTS

1. Service hours must be performed between the last day of spring semester exams of one academic year and the first Monday of May the following academic year. Records of service must be submitted to the service coordinator no later than the second Monday in May for credit to be applied.
2. Freshmen and new students are required to give a minimum of 20 hours for the year, with a **minimum** 10 of those hours being given **directly** to those who are poor.

3. Sophomores are required to give a minimum of 30 hours for the year, with a **minimum** 10 of those hours being given **directly** to those who are poor.
4. Juniors and Seniors are required to give a minimum of 30 hours for the year, with a **minimum** 15 of those hours being given **directly** to those who are poor.
5. Underclassmen failing to complete the required service hours will not be allowed to return to K.C.H.S. the following academic year.
6. Seniors who fail to complete the required service hours will not receive their K.C.H.S. diploma until the requirement is satisfied.

Projects where the student spends a number of hours in direct contact with the poor is preferable, but not required

Proposal forms are required in advance for a summer project of 10 or more hours or one during any quarter of 5 or more hours. These forms are also necessary for the limited service activities listed. Any student may, and are encouraged, to submit a proposal for anticipated service activities, especially if not specifically listed in the list of acceptable service. Service proposal forms may be obtained from Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Chittenden or printed from Ed-line.

THE WORKS OF MERCY (with examples included)

The Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry
 - a. Work in a soup kitchen
 - b. Collect food for a food pantry (except during Spirit Week)
 - c. Cook meals for shut ins
 - d. Deliver food with F.I.S.H. or similar organizations
2. Give drink to the thirsty
 - a. Handing out water at a race benefiting the poor
3. Clothe the Naked
 - a. Deliver clothes to Ladies of Charity or other charitable thrift store
 - b. Make clothes for the poor
4. Shelter the homeless
 - a. Build a Habitat house
 - b. Work at a homeless shelter
5. Care for the sick
 - a. Volunteer at a local hospital
 - b. Visit patients in a hospital
6. Visit the imprisoned
 - a. Work with prison ministry
 - b. Do errands for the homebound
 - c. Visit elderly at a nursing home
7. Give alms to the poor
 - a. Work for a charity organization
 - b. Shop and deliver food to a food pantry
 - c. Clean your church

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Admonish Sinners
 - a. Speak to R.C.I.A. about the Sacrament of Penance
2. Instruct the Ignorant
 - a. Teach C.C.D.
 - b. Tutor an underprivileged child
 - c. Be a summer aide in a program for disadvantaged children
3. Counsel the doubtful
 - a. Teach C.C.D.
4. Bear wrongs patiently - not applicable, unverifiable
5. Forgive wrongs - not applicable, unverifiable
6. Comfort the sorrowing
 - a. Must be a public setting - attend a funeral or visitation service

7. Pray for the living and the dead
 - a. Must be a public setting - pray in front of the abortion clinic
 - b. Attend the March for Life

DIRECT SERVICE EXAMPLES

- Cook/serve meals at a shelter or temporary residence like Ronald McDonald house
- Deliver meals to poor or shut ins
- Hand out food at a food pantry or for the Empty Stocking Fund
- Build a house with Habitat for Humanity or repair homes in rural Appalachia with the owners present
- Volunteer with Therapy programs like S.T.A.R.
- Visit the patients at nursing homes or hospitals
- Volunteer at hospitals and have direct contact with the patients
- Visit prisoners
- Take a mission trip to Haiti or other underprivileged area
- Host a student with the Ulster Project
- Teach Vacation Bible School or other religious education to elementary students
- Tutor underprivileged children
- Teach English as a second language in parish programs
- Attend funerals/visitations for those known to you
- Volunteer at schools for the underprivileged/disabled helping the children
- Volunteer with Special Olympics as a hugger, cheerer, etc.
- Volunteer with Remote Area Medical mission trips (except veterinary trips)
- Volunteer as a camp counselor for disabled/underprivileged children
- Volunteer at the Boys/Girls Club
- Pray in front of the abortion clinic on Saturday mornings
- Volunteer to lead retreats

INDIRECT SERVICE EXAMPLES

- Parish fundraisers (cleaning, maintenance, nursery choir practice, serving, cantoring, etc. at liturgies other than those fulfilling your Sunday/Holy day obligations (See limited service)
- Pack meals for poor/shelve items at a food pantry
- Volunteer with Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
- Volunteer at fundraisers for the poor or ill
- ANYTHING FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES WITH NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE POOR
- Volunteer at Crisis Pregnancy Center
- Run errands for the homebound
- Help at fundraisers for charity
- Attend the March for Life
- Volunteer at the headquarters of a charity organization
- Help at fundraisers for a charity organization
- Attend Catholic Day on the Hill
- Make over a room with Special Spaces
- Serve/set up/clean up activities that benefit the poor (example: Right to Life Dinner)
- Volunteer at the public library
- Volunteer for the Public Broadcasting System telethon
- Sort/organize gifts for the poor (example: Angel Tree)
- Cooking for the homeless shelter/shut ins
- Making clothes for the poor
- Work at hospital that does not involve patient contact (office work, maintenance, etc.)
- Collecting items for charity thrift shops

LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES

The following indirect service opportunities may be considered for **up to 5 hours a year** with prior approval from the service coordinator and performed under supervision:

- Help the K.C.H.S. bookstore
- Help with K.C.H.S. fall registration
- Help with freshmen orientation
- Serving, singing, ushering, etc. during Sunday/Holy Day obligation (note: time logged should be the actual minutes you are performing the particular service, not necessarily the entire Mass.

UNACCEPTABLE

The following are **unacceptable** for consideration as service:

- Babysitting
- Yard work

- Sports (coaching, tournament help, etc) Exceptions: working with the underprivileged like Boys/Girls Club, tournaments that all the proceeds are for charity
- Things done for relatives (parents, siblings, grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, steps)
- Teacher help
- Other unapproved actions at K.C.H.S.
- Work without pay or working and donating the money to charity
- Anything to do with animals that is not a therapy program

An updated list of places and events will be posted to Edline, hopefully before school is out, as well as the project proposal form, which may be used for any possible service activity.

GRADUATION POLICY REGARDING SENIOR RELIGION

Senior Religion courses are separate semester courses. The semester courses are NOT averaged together to produce a final yearly average as in other classes. (A senior who fails 1st semester may NOT bring up his yearly average with a higher 2nd semester grade.)

A senior who fails *any* Senior Religion course will NOT be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies (“walk”) unless he/she has completed remedial course work. In order to be eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies, the remedial course work for a 1st semester failure must be completed and returned to the assigning teacher by the last day of the 3rd quarter. Remedial course work for either course will be provided at a cost of \$150 per course taken.

A senior who fails a 2nd semester Religion course will NOT be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies and will receive his diploma only after remedial course work is completed over the summer. Summer course work must be completed and returned to the teacher via the front office by July 1st. The teacher will review the work to determine if the student has earned a passing grade. A diploma will be awarded once the student has passed the course.

