



Becoming A Member of the Prison & Recovery Ministry's Shoppers Group

Membership Requirements:

- Be an adult (18 years old) active in any Christian Church in Charles or surrounding Counties.
- Complete all training necessary to meet the objectives below.
Total training time 6 hours, not counting time to complete reading assignments before class. (About 3 weeks—assuming 2 hrs /week at Grace Lutheran Church & School [GLCS])

Training Objectives:

- Support the Mentor and AfterCare groups by shopping for client/returning citizen needs such as: clothing, footwear, tools, and/or toiletries.
- Be prepared to follow the complexities of the GLCS Prison & Recovery Ministry Shopping Procedure Document—a document that provides specific guidance on where and when to shop for free clothing, toiletries, footwear, toiletries and maternity clothing.
- Coordinate pickup of Emergency Food from the FISH Closet Point of Contact and knowledge of SHARE food program.
- Reduce recidivism.
- Know the background factors shared by most offenders/clients.
- Know how to complete the Prison Ministry Contact Record Sheet.
- Complete the following modules from the Stephen Minister Training Course as modified to distinguish application differences between a congregational and prison ministry environment*:
 - 7—Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving, and
 - 9—Confidentiality.



GLOSSERY

- Offender—a term used to identify an incarcerated individual.
- Client—a term used to identify an individual in a recovery facility.
- Returning Citizen—a term used to identify an individual that has been released from a correctional and/or recovery facility.

SHOPPING

Shoppers will receive a list of needs and who needs them by e-mail. These lists would have to be printed and provided to a volunteer at places where we are able to get free items.

A procedure has been developed to minimize cost and provide guidance to the shopper on where and when to shop for free resources.

Other parts of the procedure deal with use of thrift stores and retail stores. Also, the procedure covers what to do in cases where the items cannot be purchased in retail stores because none of the stores carry very large clothing sizes in their normal stock. Finally, the procedure includes information on how we maintain confidentiality of the person being shopped for.



FOOD COORDINATION

Contact information will be provided for the individual needing food resources so that a pick up time can be coordinated between the individual and the FISH food closet point of contact. Also, the shopper will provide information to the individual about the SHARE food program and how to apply for it.

OPTIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Provide needed transportation for a returning citizen for job hunting, meetings with his/her Probation Officer, etc. on a case by case basis.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE STEPHEN MINISTRY AT STEPHEN MINISTRIES IN ST. LOUIS, MO.

- The Stephen Ministry was founded to equip Christians to provide distinctively Christian care to hurting people—people who find themselves in situations such as the death of a love one, the loss of a job, divorce or separation, health issues, imprisonment or many more.
- The ministry's name comes from a man identified in the Bible as Stephen. He was one of six men commissioned by the Apostles to give Christian care to the widows of Jewish men who had followed Greek practices, Acts 6: 1-6. Stephen was full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, equipping him to provide distinctly Christian care to those whom he was called to serve.



- The Stephen Minister Course is internationally recognized and used by Christian congregations and other Christian based organizations under a license purchased from Stephen Ministries.
- Website link: <http://www.stephenministries.org/>

* The Stephen Minister course from the Stephen Ministries at St. Louis is designed for use in a congregational environment. Many situations/issues facing one working in a correctional/recovery environment are different from those in a congregational environment. E.G., Point out areas in the Stephen Minister training modules where a physical helping hand may be more appropriate because the returning citizen does not have the needed resources or education.