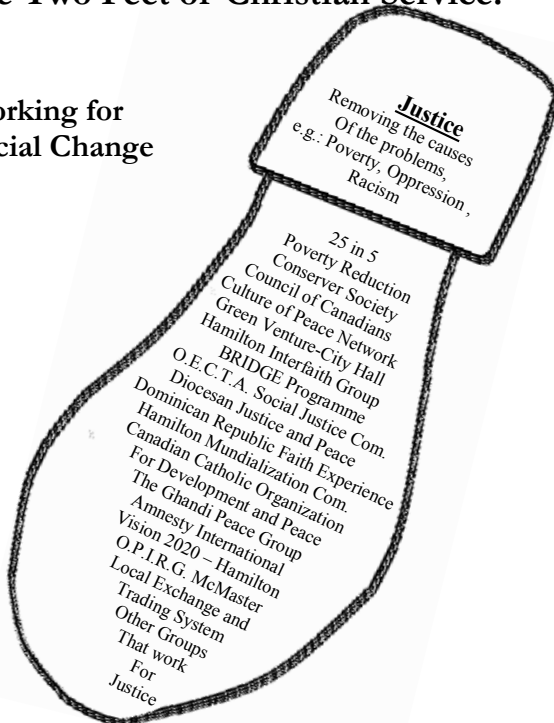


Helping Through Direct Service



The Two Feet of Christian Service:

Working for Social Change



Christian Service Volunteering Checklist

Are you aware that... ?

1. you must do 40 hours of service work in order to graduate
2. you must do these hours after entering high school
3. you should try to volunteer where there is a serious or genuine need
4. you may perform these hours anytime outside instructional time (i.e., before school, during lunch, after school, weekends, holidays)
5. you may exceed this number if you wish to continue to support your causes
6. there is a Christian service Guide (small blue book) available through Student Services
7. there is a special sheet on which you can track and report your hours and reflections (Christian Service Activity Sheet)

If you take the time to write a reflection, it may be chosen for the Board-wide Reflections Booklet produced annually

8. you should submit your hours to Student Services on or before Dec. 15 and May 30 of each year if you wish your hours to appear on your report card
9. there is a Christian Service board you can check regularly
10. there is a Christian Service resource binder in Student Services
11. there is a Christian Service animator/advisor to help you
12. you can make an appointment with this animator/advisor in Student Services
13. you can also earn hours by becoming aware of groups / agencies for social change (e.g., through visits, meetings, becoming a junior board member, etc.)
14. You must not get pay or benefits for what you do
15. You must not take another's wage-earning opportunity
16. **Working for a profit-making business does not constitute Christian Service and will not count for hours**



Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic Schools
Believing, Achieving, Serving

Christian Service at a glance

"... not because you have to but because you want to"



The Two Feet of Christian Service:

To truly perform Christian Service we must use both feet. One foot represents **Direct Service** or **Charity** while the other foot represents work toward **Social Change** or **Justice**.

Direct Service, which helps people survive their present crisis, is the logical place to begin. But just as you need both feet to walk, you should at some point move in the direction of **Social Change**. This will help you understand how to remove the causes of people's problems.

"But if I washed your feet - I who am Teacher and Lord - then you must wash each other's feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do." (John 13: 14-15)

You're Not Alone

Our Tradition

It has long been the tradition within the **Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board** to encourage students to become involved in the community, both locally and globally. Schools have been engaging students, both elementary and secondary, in voluntary Christian service as an experiential component of their religious education programs and through extra-curricular groups before the legislated 40 hours came into being. Through the Christian Service Program, students continue to be challenged and enabled to put into practice their baptismal commitment to serve others, especially those "who are least among us" (Mt. 25: 35-36, 40), all the while fulfilling their graduation requirements.

In-School Support

can be obtained through:

- Christian Service Animators
- Student Services Staff
- Staff Members in general
- Volunteer Community Agencies
- Parish Reps
- Class Visits
- Individual or Group Conferences
- Volunteer Fairs
- Christian Service Websites and/or Links
- Christian Service Program Information Manual
- Volunteer Site Binders
- School Announcements
- Information Bulletin Board
- Motivational Videos and Literature

Home Support

As per government program and diploma requirements, it remains, however, the responsibility of the students and their parents to choose the service that will be provided and to screen the sites and people connected with the service.

And You're in Control

What would you like to do?

- school involvement, e.g. peer tutoring
- parish involvement, e.g., children's liturgy
- community involvement, e.g., food banks
- social justice involvement, e.g., learning about and promoting fair trade products

Why do you want to do this?

Because of:

- genuine concern for those who need help
- personal interests and talents
- an extension of favourite school subjects
- your desire to learn
- you want to master skills
- several of the above

When would you do this?

- before or after school, lunch hours
- during spares
- in the evening
- on weekends
- on holidays
- 10 hours per year
- 40 hours in the same year
- in Grades 9 and 10
- in Grades 11 and 12
- continuing after the basic 40 hours, as a lifestyle

What steps should you take?

- meet with your animator/ advisor; obtain an Activity Sheet
- investigate areas that interest you, obtained through
- announcements, flyers, websites, etc.
- participate in your chosen service
- have your on-site supervisor sign your Activity Sheet
- hand in your completed and signed Sheet to your animator or Students Services

Ineligible Activities

An ineligible activity is one that

- is a requirement of a class or course (e.g., co-op)
- takes place during instructional time on a school day
- **is normally performed for wages in a workplace**
- involves operating a vehicle, power tools, scaffolding
- involves administering any type or form of medication
- involves handling "designated substances"
- consists of normal duties at home (e.g., daily chores)
- is considered personal recreational activity
- **provides direct financial benefit or other gain (social, political, etc.) to the student or his/her family or to a business**
- conflicts with Church teachings and ethical standards

* For more detailed information consult your Christian Service Information Manual

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I babysit for the neighbours?
... only if there is evidence of a serious need, e.g., a Special Needs child, no money to pay a babysitter or other services, etc
2. Can I coach for a hockey/soccer/swimming club?
... only if it is for a non-profit organization.
3. Can I volunteer for a relative?
... as in example # 1
4. Can my hours away on a school project count, e.g., serving lunch at a shelter?
... volunteering during normal school time cannot count as Christian Service hours.
5. Can the hours spent on the Pilgrimage, March for Life, Thinkfast, Dominican and other exposure trips be considered?
... Yes ... check with your animator for the standard hours allotted.

The Christian Service Program in the Secondary Schools within the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board satisfies the graduation requirement for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma. (Ontario Secondary Schools, Grade 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999 OSS)