

## Potential CTK Mercy Ministry Volunteer Opportunities – 9/1/11

### Kennedy Kids

As a part of Kennedy Kids, CTK volunteers will assist Kennedy Elementary School children by volunteering as morning greeters at the school's entrance, as lunch room assistants (e.g. helping younger students open their milk cartons), as landscape volunteers, and donating teaching supplies, among other opportunities. Our hope is that as we continue in faithful service to Kennedy Elementary, we will obtain permission from the Norman Public School District to begin a long-term (2-year) mentorship program with at-risk students.

### Community Garden

Pending session approval and sufficient volunteer response, CTK will begin and manage a large community garden on its property. The ambitions for this program are giving neighborhood families in our building's vicinity opportunities to improve their quality of life (in this case more and better food) through investing sweat equity in the community garden. Any additional foods will be donated to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and/or distributed directly through CTK to CTK members in need. CTK volunteers will also have opportunities to build true friendships with individuals and families in our community as they work alongside one another in the garden.

### Clothing Store

Many of us in our congregation occasionally purge our closets and those boxes of winter clothes in the garage or attic we never seem to wear anymore. When we do, we often take them to local donation boxes like Goodwill. As a space becomes available, we would like to create a store of baby-, toddler-, child-, and adult-sized clothing. Then, if a family or community member suffers loss by flood, fire, or some other unforeseen event, we can respond with free, quality clothing. Other church members and community members can apply to purchase clothing at reduced cost based on need. CTK volunteers will work in organizing clothing drives, receiving clothes, inventorying, reviewing application, and responding to clothing needs.

### SWEAT Team

For those of us who have lived in Oklahoma for any amount of time, we know that it is a state with extreme weather. Whether it is ice storms in December or wind and hail storms in June, we regularly encounter and clean up after weather-induced damage. CTK volunteers on the SWEAT Team would volunteer one or more Saturday mornings each month to respond to home repair and yard clean-up requests. CTK members and community members alike would submit applications for assistance with damage resulting from weather, fire, flood, or other natural

disasters as well as normal repairs and maintenance of home's belonging to those unable to care for them (e.g. some elderly and disabled persons). Volunteers need not be skilled in repairs to start volunteering but can learn as they participate.

#### Emergency Relief Fund – CTK

We can never predict emergencies and often we are ill-prepared to receive them. Each December, the deacons will take a special offering for the diaconal fund. A large portion of that collection plus an additional large portion of the monthly budget for the diaconal fund out of the general giving will be designated for the Emergency Relief Fund. As members of the CTK family encounter emergencies, such as loss of job, medical emergencies, unexpected death, natural disaster damage, etc, they can apply for short-term (3 months or less) support from CTK. The distribution of these funds will be based on need as identified by the deacons.

#### Emergency Relief Fund – Norman

Similar to CTK's Emergency Relief Fund, one will also be established for members of our community outside of the CTK family. Norman community members outside of the CTK family may also submit an application for short-term (3 months or less) assistance to the deacons, who will allocate funds as deemed appropriate and as funds are available.

#### Financial Planning

As the recent financial collapse of the late 2000's revealed, we live in a culture of debt. If the average American liquidated all their resources, they would still be in debt. Debt can enslave individuals and families, affecting every area of their lives, not just their finances. As we continue the earthly ministry of Christ on earth, one part of helping to set captives free is helping set CTK family members and Norman community members free from the bondage of debt. CTK volunteers will meet and counsel individuals seeking financial freedom. Participants will learn simple biblical and common everyday principals for getting out of debt and staying debt free, freeing up resources to prepare for their own futures and helping others in need.

#### Life Coaching

With an overabundance of options in America today, we often don't know which way to turn as we encounter life's many crossroads. Perhaps, we are unhappy with our current circumstances but are unaware of how to make positive change in our lives or live contentedly with the circumstances God has given us. CTK volunteers will meet with participants seeking help in improving their quality of life and obeying God as they seek to serve Him in His kingdom, providing experience and know how of how to apply for a job, where to look for job, choosing between educational opportunities, simple life fitness and wellbeing practices, and time management skills.