



LAUNDRY LOVE PROJECT™

Volunteer Information:

Thank you so much for partnering with Current for this project. We are very thankful that you are here with us. You will be bringing hope to the hopeless during this project.

Please re-read this information packet as you prepare for the project.

Logistics:

- Be prepared to work for at least 3 hours at the laundromat in various capacities.
- Wear comfortable & appropriate clothing.
- Get plenty of rest ahead of time. It will be exhausting.

Preparing for the Project:

- **Know your role.** We are providing a service of love. We are not there to fix their lives but to show love and offer reprieve from a financial burden.
- **Think about how you will create conversations.** Think through questions you can ask and be ready to listen to their stories. Don't just focus on their negatives, but ask the question, "What are you most proud of with your family?"
- **Attitude - it sets us apart.** Hope and happiness is contagious. Be friendly, inviting, and caring. Be sure to not come across condescending.

During the Project:

- **What we bring to the community:** Current provides a tangible service to low-income communities. We bring several hundred dollars in quarters, all necessary laundry supplies, activities for children, and refreshments. Inevitably, people will ask "what the catch" is. There is none. We are not there to preach or recruit, just to show love.
- **You don't need to have all the answers** to their problems. You DO need to come ready to explain why YOU are there as a volunteer; people will ask.

- **Be ready for “organized chaos.”** Most projects are very busy with people having multiple loads of laundry to do and others waiting in line. Most likely every machine will be full at once. Don’t get overwhelmed. This is part of the fun and takes commitment on our part to embrace the chaos, make it work and care for participants.
- **We are not looking for RIGHT NOW results.** We aim to create relationships, begin conversations, demonstrate love and intend to follow up with all those who are interested. We are in this for the long haul; we want you to approach it that way as well.

Encounters at the Project:

There is always a fear that it will be hard to relate to people that are receiving from the project. This is simply not true, be confident and comfortable and you will do great!

- The people you will encounter are real people who are just like us.
- You will have to explain multiple times why we are there and that we expect nothing from them. As simple as what we are doing is, people are skeptical at first and always surprised by people doing a service out of love with no strings attached. Have fun with the explanation and don’t get frustrated.
- Don’t be surprised - many of the participants have not done laundry in several weeks (some in months) and will show up with cars packed full of bags of laundry. Some participants will be pushing grocery carts full of laundry.
- Some people will be unresponsive and shy. Though it happens rarely, some people will reject our services. Don’t try to force it. Be graceful and friendly. Offer them refreshments and conversation. They will eventually open up.
- Be ready to creatively translate languages. Some participants do not speak English so we do our best to have a translator present but that’s not always the case.

Your job at the Project:

- You will be placed on a team to do specific tasks during the project. Tasks include distributing quarters, refreshments, keeping track of stats, playing with children, security, greeting and checking in participants, organizing supplies etc.

- You will be given quarters to use during the project. Please do not give the quarters to the participants. Put them in the machines for them when they are ready to wash/dry. We have someone distributing quarters to volunteers. When you run out, see them.
- Create conversations. People love to talk. Listen to their stories. Don't just focus on their negatives, but ask the question, "What are you most proud of with your family?"

The Current Team:

- This is a hands-on experience and you will have plenty of opportunities to hang with and learn from our team.
- Our team is there to support and encourage you every step of the way.
- Ask questions. We are there to help.

You will be asked Questions:

Many times there is media coverage at these projects and there is a good chance you will be asked questions. Have an idea in your head about how you will handle that situation. Feel free to refer them to a Current team member or be ready to answer their questions:

What is Current? What is the Laundry Love Project? Why are you here?

Current of Tampa Bay is a non-profit organization that started with young adults committed to engaging current social initiatives. The aim is to educate young adults on current social initiatives and mobilize them to bring about change.

The Laundry Love Project started in California with our friends, Just One (a non-profit based in Los Angeles). Laundry Love Projects assist low-income people with meeting a basic need – washing clothes and linens. For those living below the poverty line, washing clothes regularly presents both a logistical problem and a financial hardship. We partner with local laundromats to create a place of relief for those living in shelters, motels, cars and on the streets. We help wash clothes, pay for laundry fees, visit with the participants and play with their children.

History?

Current of Tampa Bay has been around since 2008. Started by Jason Sowell, a former youth/college pastor, when he saw the need for an organization that bridged educating young adults on social initiatives with mobilizing them to bring about change. Current recruits volunteers from all walks of life - from college students to small business owners to business executives to artists. Current establishes college campus groups for awareness and education, organizes local projects such as LLP and the Hope For Homes Project, and takes multiple domestic and international mission trips every year.

Are you a church?

We are not a church but a nonprofit organization based in Tampa, FL.

Thank you for partnering with us and blessing others with real love.