

# Circle of Hope - Empower

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The **Empower** category of partnership with churches in your city involves offering training in how to communicate Christ and how to engage volunteers.

How important is it for us to supply evangelism training in conjunction with compassionate products?

How would you describe the training method that best equips your partners?

You will discover, among the churches in your city ministering to the poor, programs which are attempting to reach people. Some of these programs lack training in how to lead people to faith and to see those new believers mature.

Goal: to show a clear way to explain the gospel of Jesus in an appropriate manner during or after reaching out to a neighbor with a compassionate product or providing an Adult Development or Youth Development tool. Most believers either over-explain or shy away from explaining the most important truth – that one can have a relationship with the God of the universe.

Because we view people holistically, we are adamant that people hear the good news of the gospel. They also need help to gain more life skills, resulting in more options to function in society. We are committed to loving people holistically. We have developed a number of training packages to prepare our partners to distribute compassionate products effectively.

We have found that it is very important that this training be targeted to those from the culture of generational poverty. A good description of the CGP is on the hlic.org website under “Opportunities/Resources.”

## Generational Poverty

Sociologists have determined that people need resources in *nine* areas to function successfully in today's world. Deficiencies in *more than four* of these areas will doom a person to a life of poverty and dependence.

That is why philanthropists who believe the lack of financial and material resources is the only element that traps people in poverty are so frustrated with their results. They are dealing with only one part of a complicated whole.

We believe that people trapped in generational poverty must be viewed **holistically** — body, soul and spirit. If we truly care, we will seek to *empower* people in as many of these areas as possible:

- **Physical health and mobility**
- **Mental abilities** and (applied) **education** to deal with life's demands
- **Emotional resources** to avoid self-destructive behaviors and pursue choices and opportunities
- **Financial resources** to acquire needed goods and services
- **Spiritual resources** to give strength and purpose
- **Support network of friends and family** for times of crisis
- **Role models** who do not engage in self-destructive behaviors
- **Positive self-image** and **sense of hope** for the future
- **Adaptability** to the **values of the workplace**

## Differences among economic levels (long-term cultural):

- \* Immediate gratification vs future orientation
- \* Relationships vs time/efficiency
- \* Educational levels

How would training express these cultural distinctives?

Are there ample workers in the average inner-city church?

How do we mobilize the maximum number of lay people from indigenous churches?

In New York City we have developed training to help sensitize leaders in seeking volunteers. The training, *Effectively Mobilizing Volunteers*, equips lay people to actually turn over their jobs to new people. The goal is to increase the workforce.

Other instruction that helps increase volunteers' effectiveness is Compassion by Command. This video curriculum includes a movie, *God Bless the Child*, vignettes based on poverty issues, and a Bible study written from a gospel-driven focus, rather than a moralistic focus.

Cru Inner City has mobilized volunteers in the following ways:

1. Mobilizing inner-city lay people to reach out wholistically to their neighbors
2. Mobilizing "resource church" volunteers ... many trained by Compassion by Command

\*Often this occurs through "packing parties" or targeted volunteering at an adult or youth development center

3. Mobilizing and deploying college students during spring break and the summer.

Debbe Santiago, a Cru partner known as the Mother Theresa of Coney Island, told us, "*Summer in the City is the best thing you do.*"

The college student volunteers come to our cities and are assigned to partner churches to learn what it is to serve inner-city churches. As they serve, they are able to act on some of their compassionate and evangelistic burdens.

The students would be coordinated through Cru's Short-term Ministry Opportunities office.

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