

Out of Poverty Subcommittee

Life Skill Recommendation

1) **What does Hope & Wholeness look like for your area of emphasis?**

People living in poverty will find hope and wholeness in a supportive community. Resources and relevant education will help them to move toward a sustainable life and interconnectedness and self sufficiency.

2) **5+ year broad outcome for your committee:**

PoP will continue to meet basic needs through Mission Outpost, but will place additional emphasis on training, partnerships and services that help people overcome barriers to self-sufficiency as they move towards a life of sustainability. Our work will be characterized by partnerships with local resources/organizations and walking alongside people we serve.

3) **Summary of your recommended action step:**

This committee recommends that PoP will offer training in life skills and offer assistance in navigating existing resource systems in areas such as education, healthcare, housing, transportation, childcare, and employment. PoP will provide an environment where people moving out of poverty can find community and acceptance. PoP will guide people and enable them to guide others.

The most immediate recommended priorities are:

- Pursue the Dakota County Process Volunteer Program Proposal to train approximately 12 individuals to help families navigate County systems.
- Reinstate and strengthen the computer lab and job search components at PoP.
- Investigate to determine if Salvation Army Pathway of Hope or Dakota County's newly articulated Pathway to Self-sufficiency can serve as the most effective template/structure for the PoP population.

4) **The need:**

There is a system in place for meeting the basic needs for food and clothing through Mission Outpost; however many barriers exist to moving out of poverty. Accessing available services and resources requires time, persistence, transportation, and high level reading skills. Opportunities for training and education are limited. These factors adversely affect the ability of people to move toward self-reliance. There is an imbalance between availability and accessibility of services.

5) **The partnership opportunity:**

Partnerships can be formed at many levels. People moving out of poverty can partner with one another and partner with staff, mentors, and members at PoP. Partnerships in the broader community include:

- Dakota County
- Reaching up Ministries that provides experiential supervised opportunities for

- children, while providing practical life skills education for adults
- Area businesses that need employees
- Dunwoody Institute, DCHC, Inver Hills Community College
- The Workforce Center
- Mentorships/internships
- MOVE: An existing PoP team investigating and implementing ways to move people toward self-sufficiency.

6) **12-18 month time horizon:** We believe that in the coming year the following could be accomplished:

- Pursue the Dakota County Process Volunteer Program Proposal to train approximately 12 individuals to help families navigate County systems.
- Reinstate and strengthen the computer lab and job search components at PoP.
- Investigate to determine if Salvation Army Pathway of Hope or Dakota County's newly articulated Pathway to Self-sufficiency can serve as the most effective template/structure for the PoP population.
- Continue to explore Reaching Up Ministries and/or a similar model.
- Expand opportunities, including MOVE, for life skill development to assist individuals who utilize Mission Outpost services they are on site. (ie. Language learning, nutrition, economical and safe food preparation, parenting, finances, interview skills, personal healthcare, etc.)
- Encourage Mission Outpost clients to volunteer within the PoP community along side other volunteers.
- Assess the interest in and capacity for training and employment.
- Engage in roundtable discussions with area businesses, government, and non profits to assess employment and training opportunities.
- Ongoing roundtable discussions with area government and non profits to assess their interest and ability to play a role in forming local partnerships.

7) **Cost to PoP:**

Minimal to host roundtables. Minimal to increase volunteer roles. We recommend additional designated staff time for coordination.

8) **Space needs:**

Instructional spaces, computer lab, social space, and confidential meeting spaces are needed. A commercial kitchen would benefit all aspects of service at PoP.

9) **Staffing needs:**

A volunteer coordinator is necessary to

- coordinate the efforts of existing programs and future partnerships
- work with staff to identify areas where volunteers are needed
- recruit volunteers
- assist in the training of volunteers
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10) **Tie in to existing ministries/vision of church:**

People requiring services and those providing services are already familiar with Mission Outpost and Salvation Army. Those organizations meet the basic needs of people in poverty in our community. Additional volunteer expertise and engagement will be required to expand services.

11) **How is PoP uniquely positioned to tackle this issue or take this step?**

People (both those living in poverty and those with adequate resources) are drawn to our church location through Mission Outpost, Salvation Army and established referral relationships.

12) **The opportunity for PoP members:**

Expanding the concept of church to include service and participation will lead members to live "Up, In, Out". When the gifts and skills of members are linked to the needs of the people opportunities for connections will continuously arise. Some examples: Volunteers to be trained by Dakota County to navigate support systems; Volunteers to "walk along side" clients on the road to self sufficiency; potential life skill expertise, expanded opportunities and encouragement for clients to integrate into the volunteer corps; potential to engage with a model similar to Reaching Up Ministries; Roundtable facilitators and participants,...

13) **The faith component: How does this tie in to spiritual growth of PoP disciples and/or larger south metro community?**

- To truly be the body of Christ we must work in conjunction with the other parts of the body. Romans 12:4-8, 1 John 4:19
- Living through "up-In-Out"

14) **How would we measure success ?**

- Greater diversity and participation in services and programs
- The number of Mission Outpost clients who are contributing their gifts at PoP
- The number of individuals who take decisive steps toward sustainable self sufficiency
- Vibrancy of programs
- The efficacy of partnerships
- The number of participants engaged in programs beyond basic need provisions
- Collection of anecdotal stories

15) **Potential obstacles/risks:**

- a. Another system that is too difficult to navigate
- b. Inefficient coordination of services
- c. Lack of volunteers to fulfill the vision
- d. Failure to engage partners
- e. Clients not participating in services and/or development opportunities
- f. *Us vs. them* perspectives as opposed to all being parts of one body, "We"
- g. Lack of childcare and transportation

16) **3- 5yr horizon (potential growth opportunities beyond the 18 month immediate horizon):**

The Out of Poverty sub-committee 3-5 year vision sees a congregation in which service and serving are universally accepted as a part of belonging to a community. The Out of Poverty subcommittee recommends implementation of a “life skills” initiative intended to assist individuals in achieving personal and financial goals to move Out of Poverty. Additionally, Ongoing needs assessment will be required to continue to address changing circumstances and dynamics specifically in the areas of housing, transportation, healthcare and partnerships.

17) **Out of Poverty Workgroup: 30-50 Year Vision**

Since we cannot predict what Burnsville will look like in 30-50 years, this forecast is difficult if not impossible. However as Prince of Peace grows the following scripture can certainly serve as a generic guide;

James 2:14-17

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

And, the responsibility of our members is well described in Luke 4:18:

God’s Spirit is on me; he’s chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, “This is God’s year to act!”

#1 **Spiritual Vision**

Prince of Peace is welcoming, accepting community where people of ALL walks of life can worship and connect.

#2 **Connection Vision**

Prince of Peace members and families will have relationships out in the community. Eighty percent of PoP members will have a purposeful connection with a child, senior, person in poverty or others in need.

#3 **Service Vision**

Prince of Peace provides development opportunities that foster self-sufficiency and continues to provide basic needs (food, clothing, and dental care).

#4 **Physical Structure Vision**

Prince of Peace worship and services are physically accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Transportation, technology or virtual connectivity is available to ensure that anyone wishing to participate at PoP can do so.

Up, In and Out

God of abundance send us forth by the power of your Spirit. By your grace, we will build and deepen loving relationships with you, with each other and with our neighbor.