



## How to facilitate the Mission as Life emphasis

**The ministry you have to families and volunteers is as important as the ministry to those you serve.**

Too often agencies see volunteers as a necessary evil they endure in order to keep costs down.

**Volunteers can become your lifeline if cared for properly.**

*Mission as Life* (MAL) families are looking to do more than merely stuff envelopes or cut grass. **They want to contribute to advancing the Kingdom of God.** They want to grow in their ability to free up time, treasure and talents for service to God. *Mission as Life* volunteers expect

- ✦ To be shown how what they do fits into the larger picture of what God is doing through the organization. **Why is their task significant?**
- ✦ **To have the agency help them understand the people they serve**, to be sensitized to their culture, to be made aware of how their perspective differs from those they are serving.
- ✦ **To be instructed in principles of the Kingdom of God.** Mission as Life volunteers want to be challenged to live more completely for God, to put their God-given talents to work.
- ✦ **To have seasoned staff people involved in their training** rather than the least trained person on the staff.
- ✦ **To be debriefed after their service** so they can understand how to do better, have any curious circumstances or encounters explained, or have their fears, frustrations or feelings of inadequacy addressed.
- ✦ **To have work suitable for the whole family.** This means appropriate levels of work in an environment that is safe for children.
- ✦ **To have resources for available for further growth.**
- ✦ **To be treated with dignity.** Part of this involves keeping them in the communication loop. They don't want to show up and be informed that the work was cancelled that day and that the agency forgot to call and inform them.
- ✦ **To know the agency knows what it is doing.** This involves the agency being prepared for volunteers and being organized.
- ✦ **To be introduced to Jesus in a strange disguise.** They want to care for the least, the lost and the left behind in a manner that challenges their stereotypes and assumptions. They want to learn to love their neighbor as themselves, despite how different that neighbor is.