

Mark Lichtle

From: Mark Lichtle
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2012 12:06 PM
To: Mark Lichtle
Subject: Connect Information for Sunday - Please Read - Times are Different

We have been talking during Connect about how we can live for Christ in the world. I am excited for an opportunity this Sunday for our students to serve Christ by being a light to others.

This Sunday, we will be traveling to Toledo for Connect, serving dinner at a homeless shelter for the Cherry Street Mission. **We will be meeting at St. Paul's at 3:30pm (not the normal 5:00)**, heading up to Toledo to serve, and will be back in Findlay at 7:30pm. Dinner will be taken care of for everyone that attends.

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR STUDENTS FROM ST. MARKS PARKING LOT AT 7:30pm. (St. Marks is 3 blocks south on Main Street, just across from Little Caesars pizza)

Our students who have been to Toronto to serve in this capacity will be able to tell you the following information and how IMPORTANT it is to keep in mind. **Please read this information, parents and students, and keep it at the forefront of your minds.** As we have witnessed first hand that all of the people that we encountered in homeless shelters whether in Toronto, Toledo or right here in Findlay have a multitude of reasons that have landed them in their current situation. It may be anything from dumb luck, simple economics to habitual behavior including criminal activity that may have lent itself to these unfortunate situations. Often times mental illness plays a part in homelessness.

All students have been instructed repeatedly on the following guidelines. These apply to all youth and adults without exceptions.

- Never give out your last name, city of residence or personal information of any kind including MySpace or Facebook info. In all seriousness, if you do not want someone at your door asking to sleep on your couch, be discrete.
- Never go anywhere alone. Including the restroom! I should always know exactly where you are. Even if another shelter volunteer or staff person tells you to go somewhere, check with me first. No one should ever walk outside of a facility without me, period.
- Leave your valuables at home, no iPods, wallets, purses etc.
- CELL PHONES will be collected before we leave the church. Under no circumstances are you to have your phone (especially not to lend it to someone) while you are serving.
- Shirts need to be tucked in and make sure that you cover all clothing with your name on it etc.
- Shirts must cover your shoulder and not expose cleavage. Easy rule would be to wear a normal t-shirt.
- Hair nets must be worn while serving meals but you may bring your own baseball or stocking hat instead. Make sure they do not have any personal info or high school information on them.

Again, this is not new information at all. It is information that we repeat every time we serve at organizations such as shelters. I am so proud of our youth. Like any shepherd, their safety is my ultimate concern. I would never intentionally place anyone in an unsafe situation. This information is not issued in anyway to create an atmosphere of fear but instead an atmosphere of safety. The organizations that we serve run without incidence to their volunteers because of diligence to the rules above. Please feel free to call me with questions or concerns.

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