## ACS News

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**Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program**

**Session I:** June 17-20, 2013  
**Session II:** September 23-26, 2013  
**Location:** Southeastern California Conference | Riverside, CA

[Click here for more details](#)

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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

On January 30, 2013, a EF3 tornado ransacked the counties of Bartow & Gordon in Georgia.

Tornado hits According to reports so far, several families of the Calhoun, Ga. Adventist Church were affected, with three whose homes were completely destroyed. [MORE](#)
God’s Closet is a community service ministry which consists of a donation network whereby individuals and businesses are invited to donate gently used and new children’s clothing to God’s Closet. MORE (God's Closet FB Page)
Atlanta News, Weather, Traffic, and Sports | FOX 5

On January 30, 2013, a EF3 tornado ransacked the counties of Bartow & Gordon in Georgia. Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) is working to set up a donation warehouse at the Adairsville Big Lots store. "The store is large enough for this operation, probably 25 or 30,000 square feet," said Georgia-Cumberland ACS DR Coordinator Terry Haight in an email January 30. "It was busy, with cars and trucks arriving constantly with donations, and around 30 volunteers going through the donations, trying valiantly to sort into categories. There were no tables, people were sorting on the floor. We got a pretty good idea of what we need to take with us, and we rented a truck and will load it in the morning, hoping to get it unloaded and our gear set up so that we can open for business by Tuesday afternoon, at the latest."

One very popular piece of equipment furnished by ACS DR is their shower trailer.

ACS DR enjoys a great reputation in Ga. A comment on the Adairsville Georgia Tornado Info Facebook page responding to the news about the ACS DR warehouse operations said, “I am thrilled to see this happen. There isn't another disaster org in this nation that does warehousing as well as the Adventists!”
According to reports so far, several families of the Calhoun, Ga. Adventist Church were affected, with three whose homes were completely destroyed.

Calhoun Seventh-day Adventist Church Pastor Gary Rustad was visiting victims all through the night and all day the next day following the tornado. Church members volunteered their time and efforts donating and distributing supplies and helping with clean-up on Sabbath and Sunday.

The Samaritan Center and the Chattanooga Food Bank delivered food and supplies to the church. After the Sabbath potluck members helped to pack bags with drink and snacks to take out to the volunteers helping homeowners. They also distributed flashlights, boxes, and paper products as needed. They were advised to bring changes of clothes and gloves in case there were homeowners who needed assistance removing things from their homes when they met them.

Again at 8 a.m. Sunday morning they met to go out and assist with cleanup, bringing their chainsaws, gloves, rakes, shovels, and anything else they could think of that might be needed.

Next week they will team up with Georgia-Cumberland Academy to help organize students and adults who will be going to homes to help clean up yards, and more.
Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program (NLCP) is designed to equip pastors, church administration and nonprofit leaders with strategies and professional skills to successfully lead. NLCP focuses on three major learning outcomes; a) leadership skills, b) improvement of knowledge, and c) changes in attitude.

This intensive two-week program is taught by a group of professionals who teach participants how to operate and minister effectively.

This training is provided as a partnership among Washington Adventist University Center for Metropolitan Ministry, Andrews University, North American Division (NAD) Adventist Community Services, Philanthropic Services for Institutions, General Conference Sabbath School/Personal Ministries, Adventist World Radio and Adventist Risk Management.

Participants will learn:

Leadership:

- To improve participants' abilities to affect individual, organization, and community changes.
Management:

- To improve participants' abilities to effectively handle the administrative responsibilities of nonprofit management.

Social Dimensions of Evangelism:

- To improve participants' abilities through biblical concepts of holistic ministry to minister in dynamic environments.

"It was a pleasure to be involved in such a meaningful, useful and well planned training. I found that the Non-Profit Leadership Training is essential to church leaders and organizers and could be beneficial to many more in our congregations. I believe there are many who sit in the pews who are not motivated to use their leadership gifts from God. This is the type of preparation that will bump us up a few notches preparing us for more effective ministry. My plan is to use this in conjunction with my formal training to be a more effective servant leader. Again, thank you for your ministry." - Michele Gamble

Download Brochure

Additional links on this topic:
NLCP Photos from Session I - June 2012

Presenters

Registration

Session I - Course Descriptions - June 17-20, 2013

Session II - Course Descriptions - September 23 - 26, 2013

Time Schedule

Travel & Lodging
The Society of Certified Senior Advisors invites you to attend a live CSA class in Portland, OR at the Oregon Conference Member Ministries (19800 Oatfield Road Gladstone, OR) from June 10-13, 2013. This CSA class provides you with an extensive education and senior designation about the health, financial and social issues that impact seniors and how to use this information to grow your knowledge about seniors - regardless of how much prior exposure you have experienced.

We focus entirely on helping all professionals understand the surprising complexity of what it means to be a senior today – how aging works, how it changes seniors’ lives, how it affects our decisions and how you can apply this knowledge and gain more credibility to serve your senior members throughout their aging journey. You are eligible for a $600 tuition discount as a Seventh Day Adventist and a partial reimbursement is available upon successful completion – enrollment deadline of March 15, 2013 if interested in participating.

What will you learn in the CSA course...

- Seniors' top fears - and how you can help seniors address them
- Special physiological and nutritional needs of seniors
- What seniors should know about Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security
- Key questions seniors should ask before they buy long-term care insurance
- How to recognize and prevent caregivers' stress before burnout occurs
- The stages and tasks of grief - and how to respond to someone who's grieving
- Where to easily find numerous resources dedicated to helping seniors' quality of life
- How to market ethically to seniors and protect your credibility

...and many more topics crucial to seniors' health, financial and social well-being.

**FLYER**

**Alternative Option: Online - Can't attend the live class...**

- Save on travel costs and time as you experience quality education delivered by expert faculty in the comfort of your home or office
- Access the recorded class modules anytime during the 6 month course period and review the material as many times as you wish
- Get comprehensive answers to your questions from the SCSA faculty via our easy-to-use online class portal
- Take a closed-book, proctored exam at a professional test center (all students receive a CSA textbook, CSA participant workbook and CSA PowerPoint book)
Contact Liz @ CSA (888-828-9209 or lizg@csa.us) to enroll at the reduced Seventh Day Adventist tuition rate of $995 available until **March 15, 2013** (standard course price is $1,595).

- Partial reimbursement available once you have successfully completed the CSA program and exam (June 10-13, 2013).

“The Certified Senior Advisor training gives our members important skills, knowledge and understanding to use in caring for the seniors in our ministries. We are living in an emerging world with an increase of the elderly population in our churches and communities. The CSA program is a vital component for successful Elder Care Ministries in our churches.”

– Sung Kwon, CSA, Executive Director

North American Division Adventist Community Services

**The Society of Certified Seniors Advisors is coming to:**

**Doubletree Hotel - Tucker, GA | January 22-25, 2013**

**Oregon Conference - Gladstone, OR | June 10-13, 2013**
More Than a Thrift Store

by Kathy Marson

Bonners Ferry, Idaho, January 31, 2013 - A family of four, new to Bonners Ferry and struggling financially, hears through the local food bank they might get help through the Community Thrift Store. They go, they ask, and they receive $200 to pay the electric deposit needed for their move into a rental. Two years later, the family donates $800 back to the store.

A young mother, whose husband just become employed but will not get paid for six weeks, comes into the Community Thrift Store. She asks for help with her rent, but Pam Roech, manager, says, “How are you doing for food?” The young mother starts to cry, so Pam gives her a voucher for $100 of food at a local grocery store. A few

Thrift store staff: Debbie Esselbach, Karen Drechsel, Pam Reoch, Shauna Cruttenden and Casty Cain.

Manager Pam Reoch checks out a customer. Notice the Free Take one Signs.
minutes later another lady comes into the store with a burden on her heart to donate $100 to the store.

A dad is in jail while the mother, home with a disabled child, has that knock on the door where her furniture is repossessed. She receives a couch from the Community Thrift Store.

Roech says, “The more people we help, the more sales we make for the month. This way of doing business is our mission statement – ‘helping people in our community.’” When Foster parents come in to buy clothes for their foster children, they get them at half price.

The uniqueness of the Community Thrift Store continues. Their one-of-a-kind ministry in Bonners Ferry supports more than four full-time and two part-time employees. They also sent $1500 each month to the local Adventist school, besides their emergency fund to assist people in need. They wash every item of clothing so their store smells clean.

The Community Thrift Store has been operational since the 1980s and Roech has been the manager for the past six years. Roach was aggressive in reaching out to the local Chamber of Commerce, the Community Action Center and the local grocery stores. She attends many of their meetings and through interacting with the community she feels the store has received more donations and has been able to help more people. “We get ourselves out there to let them know we’re here,” says Roech. “One day a fireman called me to let me know there was a house fire. I can help families faster when local people know what we are doing.”

Perhaps the number one reason the Community Thrift Store is different is that Roech has worship each morning with her workers and she tells them, “You may be the only Jesus a person sees today.”
Deer Park Connects with Community

by Kathy Marson

Deer Park, Wash., January 3, 2013 - When Phyllis Fisher, newly elected community services leader of the Deer Park, Wash, Adventist Church, heard about a ministry called, God's Closet, she thought it might be beneficial to the Deer Park community. What she found was an amazing way to connect with the community. Fisher and her assistant, Lori Knight became excited about the potential to provide clothing for the children of their community and minister to the community.

Deer Park Pathfinder Club helped bring the bags of clothes to the Fireside room for shopping day.

(L to R) Lori Knight and Phyllis Fisher, God's Closet (Deer Park) Directors.

Mindy Lyons helps put clothes on the tables.
families. They contacted Merryl Tschoepe, founder of Spokane's God's Closet, to have her assistance to get started.

Knight said, “Having Merryl help us was huge because she helped us get setup on the web and helped us know where to get clothing.” They began receiving clothing from individuals and from “Other Mothers.” The week of the event, church members and Pathfinders help haul clothing into the fellowship hall. The day before the event, many from the Deer Park community helped sort the clothing by size and gender on tables in readiness for the first shopping spree in November.

“We didn't expect very many our first time,” said Fisher, “but 61 individuals came out.” Knight and Fisher were joined by a church elder and several volunteers who were able to make the shopping experience a joy. One family asked for Bible studies. One single mom, facing medical challenges in her children’s lives, came for clothing but left with prayers, comfort and understanding. Bible studies were requested by 12 individuals and 35 requested information about children’s programs.

When asked if they would do this again, Fisher said, “definitely! And I recommend this to other churches. It is a wonderful evangelistic tool. We had been struggling with how to let our community know that we love and care for them. This is a wonderful way to do it!”

God’s Closet is a community service ministry which consists of a donation network whereby individuals and businesses are invited to donate gently used and new children’s clothing to God’s Closet. One day per quarter they invite parents and guardians of children to come and shop free of charge, except for a $1 admission fee. In Deer Park, the next God’s Closet is February 8, 2013.