



CHLB LEADER'S GUIDE

Grace Fellowship Leaders,

We are so very thankful for you and your faithful leadership as we all go out into our local community to serve and glorify God during CHLB! You are an essential part of this outreach, and we couldn't do this without you!

Michael Farr

Director, Local Missions

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. -- 1 Peter 4:10 ESV

CHLB QUICK FACTS

Who?

Everyone at Grace Fellowship is encouraged to serve with us at CHLB! You can lead your small group, organize a small team from your large group, or gather your Grace Fellowship friends to serve together.

What?

Our church doors will be closed, and we will be serving as the **Hands and Feet of Jesus** in our community. Each team is encouraged to find a neighborhood or community service project (see the list of ideas below) or to adopt a project from the CHLB Project Adoption List. You should target a project that will take your team about 3 to 4 hours to complete.

Why?

To glorify God and share His love, mercy, and grace in our Community! Jesus commanded the following of us: “... *let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*” -- Matthew 5:16 ESV

When?

Please serve on Sunday, October 18, 2026, in the morning. As Team Leader, you will set specific times for the project you've selected.

Where?

Anywhere in our local community.

Resources?

Teams can access up to \$650 in funds for their service projects.

Childcare?

Will be available from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm on our church campus for children 8 weeks through 4 years—advance registration required by Sunday, September 29, 2024. Click [HERE](#) to complete the childcare registration form.

Celebration?

Each team should plan some time to celebrate and glorify God together after your service project is completed.

Pictures or Video?

Please take photos (including a before and after photo of your team and a team photo with the person you are serving) and upload 3-4 max to [DAY OF PHOTOS](#).

WHY YOUR GROUP SHOULD SERVE TOGETHER

Small groups benefit from occasional opportunities to serve together.

Here's why:

1. IT'S BONDING.

Groups that serve together often build stronger connections. By serving together, you create shared memories and experiences that you celebrate (and even laugh about).

2. IT'S BIBLICAL.

Groups that show concern for those in need emulate the ministry of Jesus, who met spiritual and physical needs.

3. IT'S BOLSTERING.

Serving strengthens everyone as you step outside your comfort zone and learn to help others. Service is a muscle that needs to be developed and exercised.

4. IT'S BENEFICIAL.

Groups that do the same thing over and over atrophy. Groups that mix up the format of the group stay healthier longer.

Note that our preference is for you to serve as a small group together in one of these ways:

- A project that you developed on your own (**most meaningful and impactful**)
- Adopting one of the projects on our list (from Care Ministry and local non-profits)

Please note that the Our Connections Ministry is sponsoring Feed the Hunger project to help connect new folks at Grace, so please don't sign up for those slots.

CHLB26 PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Step 1: Form your Team (May - July)

Network within your large group, align with your small group, and/or recruit your friends and family to form a team that will serve at CHLB26!

Step 2: Discuss Service Projects (July - August)

Talk about where the Holy Spirit is calling your team to serve on this day! Be a blessing to someone in need of a hand! See the CHLB26 Project Idea List section below that lists ideas you can consider, and also includes, at the bottom, a way to adopt a project.

Step 3: Scope your Project (August - September)

Outline the scope of work and estimate your project costs. Define the equipment and/or supplies you will need to complete your service project to help determine the budget and time required. We recommend projects that can be completed in 3-4 hours.

Step 4: Nominate/Adopt a Project (May - September)

Beginning on August 1st, you will be able to nominate your project at [PROJECT NOMINATIONS](#). Missions Ministry will provide up to \$650 for each approved project.

Step 5: Detailed Planning (September)

After getting approval from our CHLB26 planning team, work out the details of when you will start and what everyone needs to bring. We have lots of equipment at the church you can borrow, and we are a member of the Houston ToolBank. Also, purchase the required materials, have someone bring snacks/drinks, and assign initial responsibilities so the project

goes smoothly. For more ideas, see the section below on planning an excellent group project. Remember to register by September 29 if you need childcare (see above).

Step 6: Execute your project (October 18)

Start your project with a prayer and a safety briefing! Have fun and enjoy fellowship with your team! Share your faith with those you are serving!

Step 7: Glorify God together (October 18 or a time of your choice)

Celebrate and glorify God together! Send pictures of your team during your project, AND a group picture of your team, AND a group picture with the person you are serving!

Step 8: Project Wrap Up (by October 25)

Return the equipment and submit your receipts for reimbursement to the church office, c/o Grace Fellowship Church, Attn: Local Missions/CHLB26, 2655 S Mason Rd, Katy, TX 77450.

CHLB26 PROJECT IDEA LIST

There are many ways that your group can be a blessing in our local community. We offer the following brief list to kindle your thoughts on possible service projects for your team:

- Help an elderly, widowed, or single-parent neighbor – landscaping, organizing, repairing their home or fence, spring cleaning, tree trimming, garden planting, pressure washing, etc.
- Assist a veteran or military family with one of the ideas listed above as a way of thanking them for their service to our community and/or country.
- Bake some goodies for our police officers, firefighters, EMS staff, or teachers -- thank them for their wonderful service to our community.
- Look for a neighbor who might be having issues with their job or health and ask how you can help.
- Organize a clothing or food drive in your neighborhood for our local ministry partners.
- Lead a vacation bible school for children or hold a picnic and share your faith at a picnic area in your neighborhood.
- Prepare “blessing bags” for a community partner – snack or hygiene bags for the homeless, essentials for expecting mothers, welcome kits for foster children, etc.

- Host a block party or a neighborhood party on your street or at the park of your neighborhood community center (offer food, prayer tent, prayer walking, and faith sharing, kids' games).
- Host an International Festival in your neighborhood. Deliver a flyer invite to your neighbors, inviting them to bring their favorite dish to a lunchtime festival on your block or your neighborhood's community center.
- Adopt a project at a local church or non-profit ministry and help them with work they need completed.
- Offer free car washes, prayer, and conversation.
- Do a project at a Katy ISD Title 1 (under-resourced) school – repair fencing, beautify grounds, repair or paint playground equipment, etc.
- Volunteer at a local senior citizen home – play games, give manicures, offer a music program, hold Sunday service/prayer, organize a meal or snacks, etc.
- Repackage rice and beans or other food items for the local food pantry.
- Build a community garden with the permission of your partnering community.
- Pay for everyone's laundry and soap at a local laundromat, assist with folding, clean restrooms, and the common area. You should contact the laundromat's management for permission beforehand.
- Help a local church with repairs.

If you can't come up with a project idea on your own, don't worry! Our Local Missions ministry will also have a list of projects that your team can adopt (email CHLB@WhatisGrace.org or call Kip Thomson at 713.416.7761).

PLAN AN EXCELLENT GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITY

Groups that have a great experience serving together are more likely to repeat it. Here are some tips for planning an excellent serving opportunity:

1. SET THE EXPECTATIONS.

How many hours? What type of work? Who will be involved? Where will we go? Will you meet and ride together, or meet at the location? What time will you meet? When will you be finished? Answer these questions ahead of time. Ambiguity is the enemy of excellence.

2. INVOLVE EVERYONE.

Serving as a spectator is no fun, so make sure that everyone has a chance to participate as their gifts and abilities allow.

3. LOOK FOR A FIT.

Given the time available and the abilities represented in the group, what opportunities are available? If everyone is "all thumbs," helping build a Habitat for Humanity House is probably out, but sorting donations at Clothed by Faith might be perfect.

4. BE FLEXIBLE.

Inevitably, things change or fall short of expectations, so instruct the group to accept those changes with grace.

5. PRAY.

Before you begin, circle up with your group and pray. Use the CHLB Prayer Card as a key resource, as it offers many ways to pray and scripture that may relate to what your team is doing.

6. CELEBRATE TOGETHER.

After the opportunity is over, go out for lunch, dinner, or coffee to celebrate the time of service. Alternatively, celebrate and debrief during your next group meeting.

**MORE INFO AT: [WHATISGRACE.ORG/CHLB26](https://www.whatisgrace.org/chlb26)
QUESTIONS? EMAIL CHLB@WHATISGRACE.ORG**