



*The Church has realized that the need to heed this plea is itself born of the liberating action of grace within each of us, and thus it is not a question of a mission reserved only to a few: "The Church, guided by the Gospel of mercy and by love for mankind, bears the cry for justice and intends to respond to it with all her might."*

*In this context we can understand Jesus' command to his disciples: "You yourselves give them something to eat!" (Mk 6:37): it means working to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor, as well as small daily acts of solidarity in meeting the real needs which we encounter. The word "solidarity" is a little worn and at times poorly understood, but it refers to something more than a few sporadic acts of generosity. It presumes the creation of a new mindset which thinks in terms of community and the priority of the life of all over the appropriation of goods by a few.*

*– Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium #188*

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Faith in Action

Community

# Helping Hands Program

There are countless reasons why people fall into difficult times. Each person's story is unique and often includes a series of unfortunate struggles. What is universal to all people in need is the fight to maintain dignity and hope for a better life. Prior to encountering these circumstances, the neediest members of our communities represented all socioeconomic levels. They were once referenced by their name but are now often viewed as nameless people that exist among us.



This program is an opportunity for members of the Knights of Columbus and of their parishes to put their faith into action and provide the dignity, hope and love that all our neighbors in need desperately deserve.



## Why Should I Help?

- More than 40,000 young people under 25 are experiencing homelessness on their own.
- Families make up one-third of the needy population in the United States.
- In Canada, almost 20% of the needy population are unaccompanied youth ages 13-24 and almost 30% are women.

***"In the poor and outcast  
we see Christ's face;  
by loving and helping the poor,  
we love and serve Christ."***

— Pope Francis

Sources:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>  
[http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/SOHC16\\_final\\_200ct2016.pdf](http://homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/SOHC16_final_200ct2016.pdf)

## How Can I Help?

Many parishes offer volunteer opportunities to help those in need through local nonprofit organizations. Activities include cooking soup kitchen meals, volunteering at or operating a food pantry, organizing mission trips, fundraising efforts (financial or resource collections) and much more.

In an effort to provide the needy with hope, dignity, and love, Knights of Columbus councils encourage parishioner participation in parish programs that assist the disadvantaged. Where no programs are currently in place, councils are leading the effort to coordinate these important outreach activities.