



Scientologists', Community Activities

As Scientologists continue to improve themselves spiritually, they assume more and more responsibility for both themselves and their fellow man. Thus the Church and its members have initiated a number of social benefit programs to accomplish Scientology's mission to better society.

The Scientology religion has a strong ethical and moral component that offers very workable guidelines for improving one's own life as well as the lives of others. This reflects the very essence of Scientology teaching: to go out and improve conditions to make this world a better place for all.

Scientology Scripture repeatedly emphasizes the need for individuals to

apply its wisdom to better the conditions of their family, neighbors, their friends and society at large.

Thus, Scientologists are not following the scriptural mandate of their religion to the extent they seek only the spiritual enhancement of themselves. As Scientologists continue their spiritual ascent up the Bridge, they assume more and more responsibility for both themselves and their fellow man.

Church of Scientology

Volunteer Ministers are involved in a variety of community assistance programs such as working with the Red Cross to provide food and clothing to those in need (right). Volunteer Ministers teach study skills to teachers and pupils (center and bottom right). Using techniques known as “assists,” a Volunteer Minister can bring spiritual and physical relief to a person suffering trauma. (bottom left). Others help the elderly with entertainment, visits and good cheer.



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As the *Scientology Handbook* explains:

If no dynamic other than the first existed, you would have no responsibility other than to help yourself. But there are seven more dynamics and, as you have read, if you reduce them to nothing, sooner or later the first dynamic reduces to nothing. Therefore, one cannot sit back and watch his family, his work environment, his community, even his society or culture go downhill. The most wrong thing one can do is to do nothing. (*Scientology Handbook*, 1994, page 764)

Scientologists® translate this teaching into direct action by working with other individuals and organizations in broad-based public benefit programs as well as through their own volunteer community activities.

Churches of Scientology are naturally a focal point for their members' volunteer actions, and provide encouragement and guidance to these efforts. Churches also sponsor their own public benefit activities for members' involvement, from drug education and crime prevention campaigns to community improvement projects and charity drives.

VOLUNTEER MINISTERIAL PROGRAM

One way Scientologists help their communities is through the Scientology Volunteer Ministers Program, which is sponsored by every local Church of Scientology.

Volunteer Scientology ministers offer care and aid to neighbors, friends and fellow employees, even strangers.

Volunteer ministers may work on their own or together with other volunteer ministers, attending to those in need at hospitals and retirement homes, providing succor and entertainment. They have aided residents in places as diverse as Japan, Germany, France, United States, Italy and the Olympic Village in Atlanta, Georgia, and victims of every possible tragedy, whether natural or man-made.

In their ministries, volunteer ministers use the fundamental Scientology principles and techniques found in *The Scientology Handbook*. One very important technique every volunteer minister uses is the Scientology "assist," a procedure L. Ron Hubbard developed to alleviate the spiritual component of physical pain, shock and emotional trauma. Assists work on the principle that one tends to withdraw spiritually from an injured area of the body. By restoring communication with this area, one can bring the spiritual element into healing, thereby greatly speeding the healing process.

Volunteer ministers also gather to help improve their communities through special projects such as cleaning up parks, revitalizing neighborhoods and erasing graffiti from public buildings. They may scour parks and beaches for used syringes as they do in Spain and Italy, to help alleviate the threat of AIDS infection to people at play. Or they may distribute food and clothing to the poor, as they do in France, Germany and all over Europe.

Volunteer ministers often join with their churches to support other established community benefit programs such as the Red Cross, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Salvation Army and local community groups by participat-

ing in drug-free blood drives, collecting holiday toys for needy children, and donating food and clothing for underprivileged families.

SCIENTOLOGY SOCIAL BENEFIT PROGRAMS

Scientists and others soon found that the principles and techniques discovered by Mr. Hubbard that form the foundation of Scientology Scripture and practice also could be adapted for use in two broad-based areas of significant social concern — drug rehabilitation and education. Over the years, the various activities Scientologists have conducted in these two areas have become the cardinal points of extensive social benefit programs churches of Scientology and individual Scientologists have undertaken to accomplish Scientology’s mission to better society.

Another social benefit program that has popular support among Scientologists centers on a non-sectarian moral code that Mr. Hubbard wrote called *The Way to Happiness*. Scientologists use the code in social benefit programs that have helped raise moral standards throughout all levels of society.

DRUG REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

One of the most widely known of these social benefit programs is the residential drug rehabilitation and public education program conducted under the name “Narconon” (meaning “non-narcosis” or “no drugs”). The Narconon drug rehabilitation program uses a detoxification procedure

that Mr. Hubbard originally developed for use in churches of Scientology as a means of overcoming chemical deposits in the body — often the result of prior drug use — that serve as a barrier to spiritual development.

Other Scientology techniques and principles used in the program address the causes and effects of drug addiction and help participants become contributing members of society. These program components include helping participants learn how to communicate, cope with the pressures of life, and regain higher standards of self-esteem and honesty.

This program has been proven to be highly successful. Independent studies have shown that as many as 76 percent of Narconon participants were still drug-free four years later. Penal program administrators have found that *not one* of their inmates who graduate from a Narconon program returns to a life of crime.

It therefore is not surprising that Narconon programs have received the imprimatur of many governmental bodies. Narconon programs in Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands receive public funding. And judges and governmental agencies in countries such as Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United States are now referring drug addicts to Narconon for rehabilitation, rather than to jail or prison.

It is not unusual for a highly successful Narconon program to be started by the efforts of just one individual. For example, one Scientologist decided to do something about the conditions in a Mexican jail where almost every inmate was a heroin user. When he began discussing the possibility of starting a Narconon program with the prison’s officials, he was warned not only that it would be difficult, but that his life could be in danger. Nevertheless,

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Scientologists around the world are involved in many different anti-drug efforts. Children in Spain receive special recognitions from a mayor for their anti-drug activities (top left). In Germany, Denmark, Canada and in many other countries Scientologists hold special events to promote the benefits of drug-free living and invite those in their communities to sign the "Say No to Drugs" pledge.



he went ahead. Today, illegal drug use in the prison has virtually stopped and the inmates are learning valuable life skills to prepare for their re-entry to society.

Stories like this have happened around the world. At present, there are 32 residential Narconon programs in 15 countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, France, Germany, Sweden and Denmark. In all, more than 30,000 former drug addicts have graduated from the Narconon program since its inception.

Scientologists, working in conjunction with Narconon, conduct a wide variety of public drug-education programs. One of these, "The Truth About Drugs," has been presented at schools, corporations, correctional institutions and rehabilitation centers in 11 countries, including Sweden, Brazil, Russia, Holland and Mexico. Started in 1979, this program has reached more than 1 million individuals, primarily children.

Churches of Scientology throughout the world also conduct their own drug-education program separate from those conducted by Narconon. In 1993, the Church of Scientology International launched an educational project called the Drug-Free Marshals Campaign to encourage young people to take responsibility for creating their own drug-free generation. Today the program is one of the most successful campaigns of its kind — more than 20,000 school children and adults have signed pledges to remain drug-free. International in scope, it goes by a variety of different names in many countries. "Ambassadors for a World Without Drugs" in France, "Drug-Free Kids" in Germany, "Guardians for a Life Without Drugs" in Switzerland, "Drug-Free Sheriffs" in Belgium and "Drug-Free Youth" in Denmark.

Churches of Scientology also sponsor an international anti-drug program that



Students in schools throughout Europe, the United Kingdom and around the world use the educational breakthroughs developed by L. Ron Hubbard and sponsored by Applied Scholastics — a separate and autonomous charitable program independent of the Church of Scientology but supported by the Church and its members.

enlists celebrities to give concerts with anti-drug themes, as well as high-profile conferences of community leaders involved in anti-drug activities.

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EDUCATION

In the early 1960s, Mr. Hubbard conducted extensive research in the field of learning in order to develop better ways to instruct Scientologists in the tenets of the Scientology religion. Through this research, he discovered a number of basic yet powerful and widely applicable principles that he developed into a technology of study.

Scientologists have utilized these techniques in grassroots educational programs in various areas of education. These include teacher training, schools, community educa-

tion programs, English as a second language programs and tutorials.

These programs can consist of an entire school of professional educators or just one or two concerned individuals. For example, one British Scientologist took it upon herself to do something about the plight of young children in Zimbabwe after she learned of the severe inadequacy of the educational facilities and resources there. Over a three-year period she made it her personal mission to bring to as many children as possible the rudiments of education and the encouragement to continue. By 1997, after constant travel between her home and Zimbabwe, she had trained more than 1,000 teachers. Local officials estimate that through her efforts alone more than 30,000 students have been reached with her program.

Today, more than 3 million people have participated in these educational programs. Mr. Hubbard's study technology is used by hundreds of organizations and schools in 30 countries on six continents, including China, Pakistan, Australia, South Africa, the United States and much of Europe. The study technology has recently been introduced in Russia and Uganda.

IMPROVING PUBLIC MORALITY

In 1981, Mr. Hubbard wrote a basic, common-sense moral code of fundamental principles and values for living an ethical and happy life that has been published as the book *The Way To Happiness*. This moral code consists of 21 precepts such as "take care of yourself," "be temperate," "love and help children," "set a good example," and "fulfill your obligations." Because the code is entirely non-religious in nature, Scientologists have been able to use it as the genesis of numerous nonsectarian community programs to combat moral decline.

Church
of Scientology



Churches of Scientology and their members have received thousands of awards from local, state and national officials and community leaders in recognition of their valuable outreach contributions.

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Through the efforts of thousands of Scientologists, more than 53 million copies of *The Way to Happiness* have been distributed throughout the world in 23 languages. In many countries, Scientology volunteers have formed The Way To Happiness organizations and groups to distribute the moral code locally. Often these groups work closely with other local charitable organizations, media and governmental bodies to maximize distribution to the public.

CRIMINAL REHABILITATION

Scientologists also have adopted principles from Mr. Hubbard's writings to help prison inmates and juvenile delinquents become productive members of society. This social benefit program called "Criminon" consists of a series of supervised and self-directed courses that help program participants develop communication skills, learn how to study, identify anti-social traits, and adopt higher standards of honesty and integrity. An integral part of the Criminon program is a correspondence course based on *The Way to Happiness*.

Since the Criminon program officially began in 1967, it has reached more than 10,000 prisoners and juvenile offenders in prison facilities in the United Kingdom, United States, Mexico, Argentina, Hungary, Poland, Sweden and Africa.

Feedback on the program's results has been overwhelmingly positive. Without exception, graduates of Criminon programs report a new feeling of self-respect, a new sense of meaning in life, and a

newly found commitment to do better in life. Prison officials and probation officers alike note a marked improvement in the behavior of the offenders in their charge as well as significant drops in recidivism.

COORDINATION AND GUIDANCE

In 1988, the Church formed a separate, non-profit charitable organization called Association for Better Living and Education ("ABLE") to provide overall guidance of the various social benefit programs churches of Scientology and individual Scientologists had been conducting over the years. This enabled the Church to concentrate its charitable and social benefit effort in a separate organization that could focus exclusively on accomplishing these

goals. Since then, ABLE has continued to support and promote the public benefit programs with which the Church traditionally has been concerned and enabled them to expand greatly.

ABLE assists local social betterment programs through four social benefit organizations that are international in scope. These are Narconon International, which works in the field of drug abuse and education; Criminon International, which works in the field of criminal rehabilitation; Applied Scholastics International, which works in the field of education; and The Way To Happiness Foundation International, which seeks to raise society's moral standards.

Although the social betterment organizations are organized as separate, independent entities, they work closely with

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local churches by coordinating their activities wherever possible.

Churches of Scientology organize and coordinate a wide range of public benefit activities as diverse as the needs of their communities and the talents and skills of the membership. Among the common activities are community beautification projects to transform public eyesores into pleasing environments, fundraisers for police-sponsored youth programs, blood drives for the Red Cross, holiday toy and clothing drives, neighborhood anti-crime programs, entertainment for children's hospitals and elderly homes, and assistance to local government and civic community betterment campaigns.

CONCLUSION

Churches of Scientology and individual Scientologists work tirelessly to improve mankind's spiritual and moral well-being. Many work in the formal social betterment programs described above. But Scientology's greatest impact on society may well be at a much more personal level, through the one-on-one interaction that happens every time a Scientologist helps one other person in the community. It is these individual instances of seemingly small benefits that truly affect the spirits of others. Although unsung for the most part, they are certain never to be forgotten by the person helped.