



## Information on our Resource Clinics for the homeless

### What is a Resource Clinic?

A resource clinic is a one-day event that we put on to truly bring hope and help to those experiencing homelessness. The events usually last from 4-6 hours and during that time our staff and volunteers work hard to provide critical resources that people experiencing homelessness need. We also serve a meal and have a lot of fellowship. There will be singing and preaching as our main objective is to present the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our team strives to make each Resource Clinic a great event. Each guest is treated with dignity and respect. We spend a lot of time so it is never a rushed feeling of simply doing our "duty".

### What resources are provided?

Sometimes the resources we offer will vary from one place to the next. This may depend upon the need in a particular area or the available funds to provide resources.

These are the resources that are generally offered at resource clinics.

- Hot meals
- Resumes
- Birth certificates
- Reading glasses
- Haircuts
- Gospel preaching
- Prayer and counseling
- Emergency contact cards
- Bibles and health literature
- Local shelter information

## Where are they held?

Normally these events are done in conjunction with a local church or homeless ministry. We have held resource clinics in Alabama, Indiana, and Georgia. We are growing and looking for churches who want to conduct resources clinics in their own city.

As far as the venue goes, we use what is available to us. Most resource clinics are held outdoors. Sometimes we have them under a bridge or under our 50' by 100" tent. We have also done them inside of a shelter. The most important element seems to be the location. The event needs to be accessible for people to walk to.

## Who can volunteer?

Almost anyone can volunteer at a resource clinic. In fact, without volunteers, they simply cannot be done! There is a lot of physical labor setting up tables, chairs, etc that takes an army of volunteers to accomplish.

## Can children volunteer/attend?

Yes. There are a few stipulations however. Children 17 years old or under must be accompanied by their parent or be a part of a youth group with appropriate chaperones.

We discourage bringing infants and toddlers. You will not be able to volunteer to your fullest potential if you are parenting your young child at the same time.

## What do volunteers do?

Lots of cool stuff! Volunteers can help at the resource stations with tasks such as writing resumes, filling out paperwork, or fitting someone with new reading glasses.

Volunteers also help with setting up tables and chairs, emptying trash, serving meals, cooking, praying with people, singing, greeting, hosting, and a whole lot more!

The most important thing to remember as a volunteer is TEAMWORK. When we all work together the day goes very smoothly.

## What should volunteers wear?

Our dress policy is modesty. Here are some guidelines.

**Men:** Dress comfortable and appropriate for the weather of the season. You will be on your feet a lot so good shoes are a must. There is no need to "dress up" as you are likely to be sweating a lot as you help lift things and set up/break down the event.

We suggest jeans or Khaki's and a polo style shirt or tee shirt. Please no tank tops.

**Ladies:** Dress comfortable and appropriate for the weather of the season. You do not have to “dress up” but please use common sense and modesty as you select your clothing. Good shoes are a must because you are likely to be on your feet a lot.

We suggest Capri’s or dresses/skirts of similar length. Any skirts or dresses should be below the knee while sitting. Jeans or pants are fine as long as they are not tight fitting and are modest. Low cut tops or tight fitting clothes are inappropriate.

## **Local shelters/ministries/agencies that help the homeless**

We try to get local homeless shelters or other local homeless ministries at each resource clinic. This is a great way to connect the people on the streets to the services that the shelters/ministries/agency offers every day. In addition, this is often the best starting point for follow up and discipleship.

Many of the people who attend the resource clinics are unfamiliar with local agencies and what they provide. Many times people attend our events that are new to the city and therefore are unfamiliar with the help that is available to them.

We want local shelters/ministries to set up a table and be on hand to speak with people concerning the services they offer. We do like to speak to the shelter/ministry/agency before hand to ensure our purposes are similar.

If your shelter/ministry/agency would like to be a part of a resource clinic please contact us at 1-877-277-5838 for more information.

## **Safety concerns**

There are always some safety concerns to be aware of. Please remember that although these events are very well structured and thoroughly planned, we are operating in uncontrolled environments where incidents are possible. Here are some guidelines pertaining to safety.

- Always stay with the group. Do not wander away from the event or out of sight.
- Children must be supervised every second by their parent or guardian. Do not leave them unattended for any reason
- Ladies should not engage in any type of questionable behavior or conversation with male guests.
- Ladies should not leave the event area or go “off to the side” with male guests for any reason.
- Personal valuables should be left at home or in a safe place like the trunk of your car.
- Flashy jewelry should not be worn.
- Report any questionable behavior to an Unsheltered International staff member immediately. This would include things like someone cursing you or someone else, someone making threats, any lewd remarks or gestures, etc.
- We advise that you avoid giving away money during the event.

- We advise that you avoid letting someone use your cell phone. If someone asks you to use your phone, just take them to an Unsheltered International staff member and we will be happy to let them use ours.

## How are Resource Clinics funded?

All of the resource clinics are funded through donations. One resource clinic can cost anywhere from \$1,500-\$6000.

The cost depends on variables such as location, type of meal, number of services provided, lodging for the Unsheltered International staff, etc.

If you would like to donate you can do so at [www.unsheltered.org](http://www.unsheltered.org) or just give your donation at the event. Every little bit helps!

## Other guidelines and information

- Do not make any promises that you cannot keep. For example, if someone asks you for a blanket, don't tell them that you will bring them one tomorrow. This type of thing is harmful if you do not do it and if you do come back you would need the proper people with you because of safety concerns.
- Be respectful at all times. The guests at our events need to feel loved, and wanted.
- Be very cautious with your camera. Do not get in someone's face and take a picture. Use extreme wisdom and common sense if you are going to take pictures. We do not want to exploit someone's plight.

Contact Information for Unsheltered International

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