



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".

These events are a time of soul winning, bonding, and worship.

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.

This is a great way to get people in your church involved in serving!

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.

Working with others

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.

These local ministries that are in your area work hard each and every day of the year. Therefore, it is courteous to speak with them about the resource clinic. They might have valuable insight that will be very helpful for the event. Whatever we do, we do not want to “undermine” in any way the hard work they are doing.

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.

GETTING READY FOR A RESOURCE CLINIC

What the church will need to provide

Because the resource clinic will be done in your own area, it is very important for your church and people to be in the forefront of this entire process.

We will provide the experience, knowledge, leadership, and participation to help YOU be successful. You will be there long after we are gone. Therefore, we want to “give you the tools” so that you can serve your community well. Your church will have more invested in this event than anyone else, as it should be!

Here is what you will need to provide:

1. Event team that can commit to leading the event as well as the pre-event work and post-event work. For one resource clinic, this is a five month commitment.
 - Minimum of two people, maximum of six
 - One leader for the team who can communicate with their church leadership and the Unsheltered International staff. This leader will need leadership ability and support from the church pastor and leadership. He/she will be responsible for organizing everything before and after the event (see pre and post event timeline for more details).
2. Volunteers to staff the event, about 50-75. Minimum of 40 adults.
3. Meal and accessories for meal such as drinks, plates, utensils, ice, etc.
4. Tables, chairs, coolers, porta-potties, etc.
5. Location to hold the event
6. Funding for the resources (amount will vary depending on number of guests at event)
7. Funding for the UI staff travel and lodging for pre-event visits and the event itself
8. Banners, flyers, promotional materials

What Unsheltered International will provide

We will walk through the process of conducting a successful resource clinic in your area with you! It is our desire to help your church learn how to minister to the homeless in your community.

Here is what you can expect from us:

1. Staff members for 2 days to guide the event team through the area assessment. This needs to happen a minimum of 3 months prior to event but could be done much earlier also.
 - We help your event team gain a working knowledge of the homeless community in your area by personally visiting homeless camps and areas. This is valuable one-on-one type training for the event team.
2. Training for event team and all volunteers. This happens 7-5 weeks prior to event.
3. Staff members to manage and direct the event along with your event team
4. Phone and email support for the event team during the entirety of the process.
5. Items needed for the event that the church may not have. These might include:
 - Tent
 - Our resource unit (motor home)
 - Generators
 - Computers and printers
 - Misc. items for the resources such as resume paper, birth certificate applications, etc.
 - Sound system
 - Food prep equipment, menu ideas
6. Setup instructions and assistance for the event. (Layout of the event is crucial.)
7. Forms and supplies that are needed to make the planning of the event go smoothly

Pre and Post event timeline

Hosting a successful resource clinic is a big undertaking for sure! But don't worry, we are there for you! Below you will find a timeline of everything that needs to happen before and after your resource clinic.

3 months prior to event- Two days of on-the-ground research by UI and local event team

- Complete area assessment worksheet

5-7 weeks prior to event- Homeless Interaction training and resource clinic training by UI staff.

- HITT course
- Resource training. Resume's, birth certificates, emergency contact cards, etc.
- Hosting

5 weeks prior to event- Contact shelters/other ministries and invite/give flyers

4 weeks prior to event- Begin visiting and passing out flyers

3 weeks prior to event- Visit and pass out flyers

2 weeks prior to event- Visit and pass out flyers/Contact shelters and or other ministries for the second time

1 week prior to event –

- Visit and pass out flyers
- Make sure event location is ready (cut grass, clean, etc.)
- Begin to fine-tune the job assignments
- Purchase last minute food items, etc.

1 day prior to event-

- Gather and load all supplies needed for event. We have a checklist for this that includes things such as tables, chairs, food serving items, plates, bowls, cups

Day of event-

- Pre-trip meeting and instructions
- Setup
- Final instructions

- Event
- Debriefing with event team and Unsheltered International staff

1st week after event- process birth certificates/follow up visits

2 weeks after event- follow up visits, field phone calls

3 weeks after event- follow up visits, field phone calls

After 3rd week- continue to follow up as needed with the people who desire an ongoing relationship.

If you are ready for this commitment and your church is on board, let's get going! Hosting a resource clinic is a great way to practically help people, inspire your congregation, and win souls. Contact Travis Sharpe or Tim Barbee today!

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