

CHARIS TEAM APPLICATION

Charis is an ecumenical Christian prison ministry in which no particular denomination, theology, or tradition is expressed, implied or permitted. Charis is a volunteer ministry for our incarcerated brothers and sisters and is funded by individual contributions. Team members are selected by the Lay Director.

Applicants must:

- a. Complete a Cursillo, Walk to Emmaus, Tres Dias, Via de Cristo, Unidos en Cristo or similar weekend.
- b. Accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and recognize Him as the One and Only Way to the Father and salvation.
- c. Attend all required team meetings and show continued support to the insiders by attending monthly reunions following the weekend.
- d. Be actively involved in church fellowship and a prayer and share group.
- e. Abide by all the institution requirements and guidelines and accept any consequences that may occur for not following them.
- f. Abide by all the policies and procedures of Charis as listed on Page 2 of this application.

Please print:

Name _____ Phone _____ Cell _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Church/Denomination _____

Describe Cursillo-type weekend you attended and when: _____

Describe past team experiences: _____

_____ Clergy _____ Lay _____

Any other gifts to share? (Music, speaking, multi-lingual etc.) _____

How were you recruited for the Charis team (i.e., friend, Cursillo weekend, Lay Director, website, etc.)?

Please check the facility for which you would like to be considered:

FCI Sandstone _____

FCI Waseca _____

FMC Rochester: Feb _____ Oct _____

MCF Shakopee: Spring _____ Fall _____

MCF Faribault _____

I agree to commit fully to the above criteria, have read the Charis policies and will follow them.

Signature _____ Date _____

I understand that this is an application only and that team selection will take place at a later date.

All Charis volunteers must complete an application.

Return this application to Charis Minnesota, P.O. Box 102, Hopkins, MN 55343 or team Lay Director or email to info@CharisMN.com. Any questions may be directed to Charis board members at www.charismn.com.

Charis Policies:

Act of Remembrance:

Because of denominational diversity within our community, Charis conducts the breaking of bread in a way that is affirming to all believers. Charis agrees on the need for a service which reflects the inclusive nature of Jesus' invitation to His followers and which joins the members of the community in a shared meal. Therefore, we have the Act of Remembrance to remind us of this invitation. It is necessary for team and weekenders to concentrate on the spirit of unity that the shared meal in Christ offers to all members of the body. All team members are required to share in the Act of Remembrance. Because the Act of Remembrance is non-sacramental in nature, it may be conducted by a Spiritual Director or a lay person.

Covenant of Christian Conduct:

Using the Holy Scriptures as our guide, we, as prospective team members, will embrace and follow the teachings of Jesus Christ and use them as a model in all that we do and say in our daily lives and on a Charis weekend. For example, Charis of Minnesota believes that a sexual relationship belongs within the boundaries of a publicly committed marriage between one man and one woman.

Mentoring:

Charis is a group ministry, not a one-on-one ministry. Working spiritually with offenders is our primary focus and is always conducted within a group setting on Charis weekends and at Ultreyas. Charis volunteers who wish to pursue a one-on-one mentoring relationship with an offender after release may not do so in the name of Charis. If a Charis volunteer should decide to mentor someone who has been released from prison, they should check with that prison to insure compliance with the institution inmate contact policies.

Team Selection:

The Lay Director of the weekend should make every effort to **FIRST** utilize the people who have submitted an application. The next priority in filling a team should be to seek new members. Only after these two actions, should the Lay Director call on previous team members who have not filled out an application. The Charis Board encourages volunteers to work only one weekend per year, so that all have an equal opportunity to serve.

It is important to have a good mix of people from different churches and different denominations on each of the teams. This is important so that cliques aren't formed, and to insure that denominational practices do not become part of the weekend. All team members must have submitted an application form prior to the start of the weekend. During the selection process a mixture of 70% experienced and 30% new team members is desired.

Team Commitment: All team members must be made aware that they are required to attend all team meetings as well as monthly Ultreyas for the year following the weekend. If team members know that they cannot make this commitment they should not serve.

Team Training: The Day 2 training and Institution training are mandatory training. It is important that all know the rules and are reminded of them, even those who have served many weekends. If a team member misses this training, the Lay Director must insure that person receives the necessary information. Team members must have attended a 3-day Cursillo-type weekend before serving on a team. This requirement must be fulfilled before team meetings begin. All first-time Charis volunteers should be assigned an experienced team member for guidance.

Offender Contact:

It is Charis policy to strictly adhere to Federal and State policies regarding contact with offenders prior to and after release.