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Campus Life School Resource Chaplain Program

Truth and Encouragement for Today's Youth

The Campus Life School Resource Chaplain program is an important answer to the call for help for gang intervention in Visalia and throughout Tulare & Kings Counties. Campus Life Chaplains are serving on each of the four high schools in Visalia, two schools in Hanford, five schools in the Dinuba/Orosi area, and reach out to at-risk students including kids involved in gangs. Our chaplains continue to build relationships with these young people by listening, and caring for their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. We befriend, mentor, guide, and care for these kids at their schools, by visiting them in their neighborhoods and homes, and by encouraging them in their educational journey by taking them to the College of the Sequoias for visitations.

Listed below are the objectives and services we offer to the schools and our community.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To provide valuable service to public and private schools and institutions
- 2) To assist school administration in maintaining a healthy, wholesome campus environment
- 3) To be available to address students' emotional and spiritual needs as an optional intervention
- 4) To be an additional professional resource for students and the school

EXPECTATIONS

- 1) They will provide regular campus presence for casual counseling and 24/7 response to any critical incident
- 2) They will be visible with proper uniform and visible identification at all times
- 3) They will assist school staff, administration and law enforcement resource officers
- 4) They will be consistent for students and, if necessary, families
- 5) They understand confidentiality limits and borders

SERVICES OFFERED

- 1) Chaplains will give students their time and show genuine friendship
- 2) They listen to students' concerns
- 3) They support steady attendance and good study habits
- 4) They offer appropriate casual counsel
- 5) They offer caring and consistent follow up
- 6) They can help network with local support services (often free)
- 6) Chaplains encourage and instill moral character and value into students
- 7) They are available to provide truancy assistance to school administration and law enforcement with a "drop by" home check for habitual absentees with the plan to encourage regular attendance

BENEFITS TO SCHOOLS

- 1) Provide temporary counseling until staff counselors are available
- 2) Provide specialized services to students' families
- 3) Alert staff to special problems
- 4) Be part of the team on special problems
- 5) Respond quickly to emergency needs

GOALS

- 1) Assign at least two Chaplains to each school to connect with and assist students on a weekly basis on each campus
- 2) Assist and support school administration and staff with any type of student related service
- 3) Staff any reportable issues with administration
- 5) Document all chaplain activities and interventions to formulate a measurable result to determine the effectiveness of the chaplain program at the end of the year

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

CONSTITUTIONAL LEGALITY

- 1) School chaplains meet the constitutional guidelines for involvement in public schools (Lemon vs. Kurtzman, 403 U.S. 602 {1971}) and are permissible for three reasons:
 - a) Chaplains provide a practical secular service
 - b) They are non-sectarian - able to serve people of all faiths and non-faiths
 - c) They are free from excessive government entanglement by maintaining a history of operational separation between the law enforcement organization's policies and procedures versus matters of religious practice, content, or interpretation.
- 2) Importantly, chaplain programs have existed since the beginning of our nation which gives the existence of contemporary programs historical legitimacy.

SELECTION and TRAINING

- 1) Campus Life Chaplains are individually selected and properly screened
- 2) They have DOJ fingerprinting and background checks
- 3) They have ecclesiastical covering from a recognized religious organization or denomination
- 4) History of working with school aged students from a variety of backgrounds
- 5) Resume' with four professional/personal references
- 6) School Chaplain's Training Certificate (issued by the International Conference of Police Chaplains) awarded by nationally recognized trainers covering matters involving critical stress crises management, trauma intervention, identifying depression, anxiety and anger behaviors, suicide ideology, loss, grief and bereavement issues, and gang awareness
- 7) They volunteer their services at no cost to the school, institution or district
- 8) They regularly log and report their activities to a Senior Chaplain

Liability (Campus Life Chaplains are covered under YFC's liability policy)

- 1) General Liability Limits: \$ 2,000,000 General aggregate (Per Location)
\$ 2,000,000 Each occurrence
- 2) Umbrella Liability Limits:
\$ 10,000,000 Each Occurrence
\$ 10,000,000 General aggregate limit

References upon Request: Bruce Smith, 559-732-5677