TRI-STATE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION PRESENTS

COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER ORGANIZING *Summit*





HOSTS



Dr. Everton A. Ennis
General Vice President



Pastor Calvin B. Preston
President

Scan Me

TRI-STATE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION — NC, SC, GA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!
WWW.TRISTATECENTER.ORG

BENEFITS OF ORGANIZING A COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

- ENHANCED VISIBILITY
- MINGLING WITH THE PEOPLE
- MEETING PEOPLE'S NEEDS
- ACCESS TO GRANTS & GIFTS
- IMPROVED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- EARN TRUST & RELEVANCE

Participants in this summit will discover the benefits of organizing a community resource center to improve the church's impact through funded community initiatives.

SDA Nonprofit Ministry: An Overview of the Community Resource Center Model



Agenda

1. Welcome to the Tri-State Center for Community Action
2. Why SDA Churches, Schools, Alumni Associations in the USA Should Not Incorporate a 501(c)(3) Organization
3. Utilizing Christ's Method Alone in Community Engagement Ministry
4. Benefits of an Unincorporated Nonprofit Organization for Seventh-day Adventist Community Engagement
5. Steps in Organizing a Community Resource Center
6. Your Questions Answered

Welcome to the Tri-State Center for Community Action



The Purpose of the Tri-State Center for Community Action

1. TSCCA, an unincorporated nonprofit organization, was formed by vote of the SAC Executive Committee on September 14, 2025, for:
    A. Training and equipping local churches in effective community engagement work to increase the church's footprint, relevance, and profile toward eventual, more sustainable discipleship outcomes
    B. Training and assisting local churches in organizing unincorporated nonprofit Community Resource Centers (CRCs) to serve as their outreach arm, enabling them to position themselves to qualify for grants and gifts to fund their needs-based community initiatives
2. The Tri-State Center is a strategic response of SAC in lieu of sourcing and sending scarce conference funds back to the local church

Tri-State Center Governance Structure



The tri-State Center is governed by

1. A Board of Trustees
2. A Steering Committee
   - SAC Directors
   - Lay members
   - State Ministerial Association Reps



Why SDA Churches, Schools, and Alumni Associations in the USA Should Not Incorporate a 501(c)(3) Organization

Let’s talk about the legal and denominational policy reasons for complying with the SAC ExCom vote, taken on June 11, 2023

Thou Shall Not Incorporate a Nonprofit

1. Unnecessary – All subordinate entities of the General Conference of SDA automatically qualify as having 501(c)(3) status
2. Legal – There is often misunderstanding about the legal relationship that exists between an additionally formed nonprofit and the church
3. Additionally incorporated nonprofits are required to file annual reports, per Federal and State law, while CHURCH-CONTROLLED unincorporated nonprofit entities do not have similar requirements
4. Adventist Risk Management does not cover entities considered "separate" from the denominational structure (or not found in the SDA Yearbook) – This could result in personal exposure to liability

Utilizing Christ's Method Alone in Community Engagement Ministry

Inspired counsel on how to win the hearts of the people before baptizing them

"The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred [two thousand] years ago—a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is **only through the grace of Christ** that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished."

Ministry of Healing, p. 143







A “Work of Restoration” is Needed in Our Communities

- Physical
- Mental
- Spiritual
- There’s much work to be done (can we add social and legal too?)

“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

Ministry of Healing, p. 143

The Key to Success: Christ's Method Alone!

- He mingled with them
- He showed them sympathy
- He ministered to their needs
- He won their confidence
- He urged them, "Follow Me"



“There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit. ”

Ministry of Healing, p. 143, 144

Ministry Clues in the Ministry of Healing

- The poor are to be relieved
- The sick cared for
- The sorrowing and the bereaved comforted
- The ignorant instructed
- The inexperienced counseled
- We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice




Tri-State Center for
Community Action
Benefits of an Unincorporated Nonprofit

Benefits of an Unincorporated Nonprofit Organization for Seventh-day Adventist Community Engagement

- A Paradigm Shift: Taking Adventist Community Services and other department ministry to another level of community impact – doing good, beyond food
- CRCs help mitigate any societal bias against our faith
- CRCs create/promote innovative ministry initiatives
- CRCs provide a less religiously-oriented and more neutral point of contact with the community
- Greater access to financial and other resources and opportunities needed for effective community engagement and ministry initiatives




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Community
Impact
LOWE'S
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Steps in Organizing a Community Resource Center



The document prepared to guide the step-by-step process (which may now be downloaded from the Tri-State Center website) is the template for **the actual church board agenda**. Each item listed should be voted by the church board, then affirmed by the church in a business meeting.

Resource Center Board Governance

"If the church operates a Community Services center, the Personal Ministries Council is its governing committee. The Council appoints the director of the center, who is a member of the Council as well as the church board."

~ SDA Church Manual (2025 ed.), p. 111.

We have reframed the Personal Ministries Council as the Board of Directors.



Suggested Officers of a Community Resource Center

- Board Chairman
- Vice Chairman for Discipleship
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Executive Director
- Capital Campaign Director
- Food Pantry Director
- Re-entry Support Director

Essential Features of the CRC

- Constitution
- Bylaws
- Policies
- General Conference letter of 501(c)(3) tax exempt status
- EIN
- Bank account
- Website
- Donation portal
- More access to grants and gifts

Scan for Organizing a Community Resource Center





Community Resource Centers in SAC

Organized Community Resource Centers in SAC

1. New Jerusalem, Douglasville GA - Midway Community Resource Center
2. Newnan First, Newnan GA – Yeager Road Community Resource Center
3. New Hope, GA – New Hope Community Resource Center
4. Macedonia, Lumberton NC – Macedonia Community Resource Center
5. Shiloh, Smyrna GA - Church Street Community Resource Center
6. Praise Tabernacle, Whiteville NC – Caring Hands Resource Center
7. Northeast, Charlotte NC – _____ Resource Center
8. Mt. Hebron, Wilson NC – Pender Street Community Resource Center
9. Immanuel Temple, Durham NC – Family Life Resource Center

Organized Community Resource Centers in SAC

10. New Gainsville, Gainsville GA – Gainsville Community Resource Center
11. Voice of Hope, Toccoa GA – Voice of Hope Community Resource Center

COMING SOON…

12. Ephesus, Reidsville NC
13. Market St, Greensboro NC
14. Atlanta Berean, Atlanta GA

Discussion and Q&A



Save the Date!

January 15-17, 2027

TRI-STATE CENTER MINISTRIES

CONVENTION

Plenaries, Mini Sessions, and Breakout Sessions

FOR: Pastors, ACS Leaders, PARL Leaders, Personal Ministries Leaders, Pantry Directors, All SAC members who desire to be equipped for greater service in community engagement.

SAMPLE SESSIONS

- Community Resource Centers
- Partnerships & Collaborations
- Fundraising & Grant Writing Basics
- Doing Good, Beyond Food
- Public Officials & Advocacy
- Intro to Trauma-Informed Ministry
- Community Resource Mapping
- Disaster Response & Management
- Strategic Planning for Actualizing Christ's Method Alone
- SDA-Approved Nonprofit Community Outreach Ministry

River Oaks Convention Center | Orangeburg, SC

REGISTRATION OPENING SOON



Thank you!

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Tri-State Center for Community Action
TriStateCenter.org