



Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. - Galatians 6:9-10

Dear Friends,

In 2013 we celebrated the 7th anniversary of ACTS Ministries. It has been an amazing year in so many ways, and also a year of changes. We're sending this letter to remind you of all the good you have been a part of this year, and of course, to invite you into joining us for even more in 2014.

Last year at this time we told you that we wanted to focus on a few key areas for 2012. We felt that God was leading ACTS toward an even greater role in modeling God's love, building stronger Christian relationships, and promoting servant leadership in the communities we serve. I think it's prudent to share what we've accomplished together in these areas, and for some, what we've learned.

2013 Key Goals:

Our key goal for 2013 was to simplify our "service equation" to the following:

A black rectangular box containing the text "Relationship + Service = LOVE". The words "Relationship" and "Service" are in a white, handwritten-style font. The plus sign is a red cross. The equals sign is white. The word "LOVE" is in a large, bold, red, sans-serif font.

We executed that in a number of ways in 2013. While we continued offering our weekly opportunities to serve, we also introduced a new format for the Service Surge events you've come to love. This year we held 6 Service Surge events, in 6 communities, simultaneously! Chariton, Knoxville, Melcher, Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, and Pella all partnered to bring a Surge event to their community. We also worked to improve the process for signing up for these events, allowing volunteers to "pick their own adventure" prior to the day of the event and use the day of the event to focus on working hard, serving well, and building relationships with their community members.

Fundamentally, we're trying to live out our mission every day through keeping the mission equation in mind. When we:

- ...combine our current relationships with an act of service, we tangibly show our **love** for others.
- ...serve those we do not know and take the time to get to know them as a person, we show them the **love** of Christ.
- ...serve with others we build relationships with each other, strengthening our communities and **loving** on its' people.

ACTS wants to continue to be the "plus sign" in that equation, equipping you to connect relationships and service to show the love that is so badly needed in today's world. That could be through connecting you with opportunities to serve, or providing you the tools or extra volunteers to serve

those you are already walking with. Please use us as a tool in your "toolbelt" to help you share God's love in your community.

So what's in store for 2014?

Our success with the multi-community Service Surge proved that type of event was possible, so **we plan to invite multiple communities into the Surge process again** in the coming year. We also plan to **utilize some new technology to make signing up for the Surge, and other volunteer events, easier and more secure.**

Over the years we have tried to improve the mix of volunteer opportunities we offer to allow more family friendly events. At the same time, we also know there are plenty of folks who see us as a "construction group". We're trying to change that perception by offering other ways people can assist in the community without swinging a hammer or strapping on a toolbelt. Look for **more opportunities in the "softer" skills**, like cooking food items for volunteers or community members, assisting homeowners with physical limitations with basic cleaning or organizing, or just dropping in to chat for those who may not get many visitors.



We hope you'll join us again in the New Year and be a part of what God's doing in our communities!

Thanks & God Bless,

The Board & Staff of A Call To Serve (ACTS) Ministries of Iowa

How Can I Help?

As a supporter of ACTS, we'd like to understand how you want to partner with us in 2014. That will look different for each person, but the reality is **we cannot do any of it without you**. Please prayerfully consider the following commitment options:

- ☐ **I commit to pray** for ACTS, its leadership, its volunteers, and the people it serves on a weekly basis.
- ☐ **I commit to being an active volunteer with ACTS**, volunteering where my skills allow, and making service a priority in my life.
- ☐ **I want to serve on the planning team for the next Service Surge**.
- ☐ **I would like to serve as a church liaison for ACTS**, connecting my home congregation with ACTS service opportunities and being a champion for service in my church body.
- ☐ **I would like to share the financial gifts that God has provided me in support of ACTS.** *(tax deductible)*
 - ☐ I commit to a (1) Year Financial Partnership with ACTS. Please contact me to set up monthly contributions to support this ministry at the level of:
☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ other \$ _____
Don't want to write monthly checks? We have ACH and credit card options available.
 - ☐ I would like to share a one-time gift with ACTS. I'm including my donation of \$ _____ to support your ministry efforts.
 - ☐ My employer matches gifts I give (Pella Corporation, 3M, ING, etc.).
 - ☐ I'm including the matching gift form with my check
 - ☐ Please contact me to complete the matching gift process.

Contact Info

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ I do not currently receive your service opportunities email newsletter. Please add me.



Please return this and any other necessary information to:

ACTS Ministries, 608 E 13th St., Pella, IA 50219