

## *DCCW Service Commission Chair*

### **SERVICE COMMISSION CHAIR**

Three commissions, Family, Community, and International, are now grouped under the Service Commission. The aim of this Commission is, therefore, threefold:

Support and enhance the importance of family life within the Church and society. The Commission works to assist families in achieving a truly Christian life and to carry out their responsibilities within the Church, the civic community, and the world.

Engage the members of NCCW and all people in working to address the needs and concerns of their communities. It focuses on the action that affects the life, growth, productivity, and well-being of all people, especially women and children, and the communities in which they live.

Promote global solidarity and the conviction that our wealth and resources must be shared with all people. The Commission creates awareness and educates about the needs of women and children throughout the world. The Commission encourages NCCW members to support generously the Works of Peace and the Works of reconciliation implemented in partnership with Catholic Relief Services and other programs through Catholic Charities and other similar groups.

#### ***Diocesan Service Commission Chair:***

Service Commission Objectives (NCCW Guidance and Resource Manual p.88) Review your affiliation's current service programs and determine how the Commission will facilitate the programs. Consider partnering with other organizations in your parishes, such as the respect life and youth groups.

Utilize information received from regional and diocesan service commissions.

Learn about resources available from NCCW such as:

- Campaign for Human Dignity Resource Packet
- Make the CASE for Children's Health Resource Packet
- Respite Manual, 2nd Edition
- Mothers Outreach to Mothers Resource Manual
- Women Healing the Wounds brochure
- Domestic Violence Resource Packet
- Educate members about the NCCW – Catholic Relief Services partnership programs and support these programs.
- Read Catholic Woman, NCCW Connect, and Bulletin Board for information on current issues and programs.
- Service Summary (Guidance and Resource manual p.90)
- Family Awareness programs on wireless technology and family values
- Community assistance to domestic abuse shelters
- International NCCW Day of Prayer and Fasting to End World Hunger

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- CRS Programs

### **RESOURCE DOCUMENTS AND WEBSITES:**

- [MENDING THE BROKENNESS](#)
- [WOMEN "HEALING THE WOUNDS" DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESOURCE](#)
- [WOMEN "HEALING THE WOUNDS" BROCHURE](#)
- [4 WAYS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION & HUMAN TRAFFICKING](#)
- [DIGITAL APPS FOR KIDS & TEENS - TIPS FOR DANGEROUS APPS TO WATCH OUT FOR](#)
- [FAMILY CONCERNS, RESOURCES, AND LINKS](#)
- [HAC Haiti Sponsorship](#)
- [HAC Haiti Update](#)

### **10 Things that the Service Commission Can Do:**

1. Have a program on mental health for an affiliation meeting, concentrating on its effects on women and children. Be sure to have handouts listing local agencies which can assist. If there is a residential treatment center or hospital for the mentally ill in your area, arrange for your group to visit and host a party for the residents.
2. Sponsor, or co-sponsor, with your parish family ministry, a program on domestic violence. Ask those attending to bring in clothing for women and children, used cell phones, bedding, and used suitcases for a shelter or safe house. Make sure your parish office staff knows the number for a shelter for women in need.
3. Have a food drive for an affiliation meeting in the spring and arrange to collect canned goods and paper products during the summer. Thanksgiving and Christmas collections will not last the year.
4. Contact your local parks and recreation agency to see if there is a "Park Cleanup Day" in which your affiliation can participate. Supply sunscreen and bottled water to members.
5. Sponsor a "Back to School" safety day for your parish in mid-summer. Have a qualified person check car seat installations and handouts on vaccinations, nutrition, and household safety tips.
6. Have seasonally appropriate clothing drives for underprivileged children. "Back to School" in August, winter coats, hats, and gloves in November, and summer clothing in May.
7. Arrange for members of your affiliation to regularly visit a nursing home, assisted living facility, or adult daycare center. Take time to talk with residents but remember to ask them questions. You can learn much from their life experiences.
8. Plan a program on "Preparing for Life Alone" for women in your parish. Invite speakers to address topics such as health issues and insurance, getting a will, financial planning, and avoiding scams. Provide a list of resources and persons willing to assist on a sliding fee basis.
9. Co-sponsor, along with your youth or life teen group, a program on safety and social issues for teenagers. Topics should include alcohol and drugs, dating relationships, managing money, applying for a job, and preparing for life after high school.

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10. Begin or join your parish's prison ministry program. Contact local authorities to see how you can help women in prison and those coming out to halfway houses. Consider having mothers in prison record children's books on tape, which can be given to their children, or sponsor an NCCW book collection for a prison children's visiting room.