

November 2014

PRAYER GUIDE FOR LWML MISSION GRANTS

Prayers for Voice of Care Ministry
to the Developmentally Challenged

PRAYER #1

To God be the Glory!! As we dictate our mites, reaching out to Your people, keep us mindful of the power of mites—Your power! This LWML Mission Grant for 2013-2015 helps provide the opportunity to share the love, promise, and hope to those with developmental disabilities. May the resources made available through this grant give volunteers that extra assistance as the Word of God is told in story and song. We give all thanks to You, our Heavenly Father. Amen.

PRAYER #2

Dear Jesus, over the 70-plus years the LWML has been blessed by You. With this Voice of Care grant, we pray for Your grace on those with developmental disabilities. May the volunteers' patience and love reach into their hearts with Your salvation. You alone know the hearts and minds of all Your children. In Jesus Name, Amen.

PRAYER #3

Our Father in heaven, Holy is Your name. *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future* Jeremiah 29:11. (NIV). VOC has a vision for the future; a vision to reach more of those struggling with all types of disabilities. We ask for Your direction as VOC uses this grant to bring the love, comfort, and peace that comes from You alone. We praise and adore You, gracious Lord. Amen.

PRAYER #4

Dear Jesus, as children and adults, all receive encouragement from the simple song, "Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so." We ask Your blessing on those who struggle with the meaning of those words, due to their disabilities, reach into their hearts and minds and give them comfort. We remember in prayer the many volunteers who share the love of Christ with all they come in contact with. A smile, a hug, the little words, "I love you," can mean so much. The future and vision of VOC is in Your hands. Thy will be done. Amen.

www.lwml.org/missions

PLEASE FOLD OR CUT THIS GUIDE ON THE DOTTED LINE,
AND KEEP PRAYER GUIDE IN YOUR BIBLES
FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.

MISSION GRANT STORY

VOICE OF CARE MINISTRY TO THE DEVELOPMENTALLY CHALLENGED \$50,600

Voice of Care (VOC) began in the Northern Illinois District (NID) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). This district recognized the need to reach and serve the people who are developmentally challenged. Of the 300,000, over 90% of persons with disabilities have been raised without belonging to a church home and have a critical need to know their Savior and receive eternal salvation. With the help of a grant from the LWML NID in the late 1970s, VOC was able to call the first chaplain to this ministry.

In 2002, NID could no longer include VOC in their budget. In 2003, VOC became incorporated in the State of Illinois and was approved in February 2004. In May of 2005, VOC became a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) in the LCMS and a member organization of Lutheran Services in America. In September of 2005, Rev. Donald Kretzschmar was installed as the executive director and also served as a chaplain. Over the years, VOC has had many Deaconess field workers from Concordia University Chicago.

Currently, VOC provides the opportunity to share the love of God to over 600 people with developmental disabilities who reside and work in secular facilities designed for this population. Chaplains and volunteers travel to 18 such facilities and share the Bible through lessons, singing, and prayer. Many residents then share this message to the staff in their own unique way.

Vision for the future ministry of VOC include:

- increase the number of volunteers from local congregations and establish a Volunteer Coordinator to monitor and recruit volunteers;
- increase the number attending the Special Needs Camps to 200;
- maintain a camp fee assistance program for those needing help to afford Special Needs Camps experiences;
- increase the number of individual donors by 10% each year;
- increase the staff;
- increase the number of congregations who will offer disability ministries as an outreach in their community;
- increase the number of facilities for people with disabilities to 25, up from 18;
- work to become a nationwide model for other districts of the LCMS and for the Church at Large.

Do you see a need within your own district? Begin with prayer.

