



Catholic Social Teaching

Volunteer Workers Needed

Sergio and his friends were looking forward to summer. They planned to be in the summer basketball league and participate in other activities offered at the local recreation center. It was a fun place to hang out together. And Sergio's mom, a single parent, appreciated that Sergio had a safe place to go while she was at work.

One Saturday morning, Sergio's mother reminded him that it was time for sign-ups for the summer programs. She and Sergio took the bus to the recreation center that afternoon. To their surprise, it was closed. It had never been closed on a Saturday afternoon.

Other young people were hanging out around the locked doors to the center. Even the gates to the outdoor courts were locked. Sergio peered through the gates. The trash cans were overflowing. It looked like no one was taking care of the place. Sergio wandered back to where his mother stood. She pointed. There was a large sign on the door: to ask about the basketball league. The staff person told him how the staff had been cut and the hours and services reduced to a minimum. He explained that any summer programs, such as the basketball league, would only be possible if volunteers from the community stepped up to make them happen. People power and money were both needed. "Hours and Services Reduced Due to Budget Cuts." Rumors had been going around that the city was experiencing a budget crisis. But no one ever imagined the budget crisis would affect the recreation center.

A smaller sign caught Sergio's eye: "Volunteers Needed." There was a phone number. Sergio's mom gave him a pen and scrap of paper. He wrote down the number.

Later that week, Sergio called the recreation office to ask

about the basketball league. The staff person told him how the staff had been cut and the hours and services reduced to a minimum. He explained that any summer programs, such as the basketball league, would only be possible if volunteers from

Participation in Family and Community

Each of us belongs to a family and to a community. It is our Christian responsibility to be active members of our family and the other communities to which we belong. We are to contribute to the well-being of our family and our community.

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"I'll help!" promised Sergio. "And I know my mom and my friends will help, too. I'll bring as many people as I can down there and we can meet with you to figure out what we need to do."

