

# Chapter of Excellence

## *Ohio Region – 2007*

**To achieve recognition as a Chapter of Excellence, chapters in the Ohio Region must attain 10 of the 12 standards listed below.**

**(1) Hold a minimum of 8 chapter meetings and report them online.**

Report meetings online using the "Report Locally Supported Activity Results" option in Chapter Leaders Only. Select the Activity Focus (\_None) and Activity Type (Meeting-Regular Chapter). Remember, to qualify for a meeting, a simple majority (quorum) of the elected leaders must attend and participate. Meetings can be conducted through the use of any means of communications where either:

- All participants simultaneously hear each other during the meeting (e.g., face-to-face meetings or teleconferences)
- OR
- All communication during the meeting is immediately transmitted to each participant, and each participant is able to immediately send messages to all other participants (e.g., online chat room on chapter Web site).

**(2) Maximize “Care for Others.”**

Encourage and approve activities that maximize the following: supplemental funds, volunteer hours, Thrivent Financial member involvement, and awareness of Thrivent Financial. Specifically, we’re asking you to meet or exceed the national average of care for others as listed below

- **Hands-on service activities:** Provide, on average \$2 in supplemental funds for every hour of volunteer service.
- **Fund-raisers:** Provide, on average, \$1 of supplemental funds for each \$3 (or more) raised.

**(3) Hold and report at least two Join Hands Day (JHD) events and utilize the entire JHD budget.**

“Join Hands Day” provides a way for youth and adults to work together to help others. For 2007, JHD activities can take place between April 1 and June 30; they must be reported July 31, 2007.

To achieve this standard, you must use all of your JHD funding to support at least two activities in your chapter. In addition, you must properly report the JHD activities online using the "Report Locally Supported Activity Results" option in the Chapter Leader Administration area. Be sure to select the Activity Focus (Join Hands Day) and Activity Type (Local Hands-on Service Activity or Local Fund-raiser).

**(4) Elected chapter leaders participate in 50% or more of the chapter leader training sessions / teleconferences offered by the LCS Team in 2007.**

Participation in at least one a training session (face-to-face or teleconference) is a critical way to review current information, receive new information, and share ideas with other chapter leaders. There will be multiple training/teleconference opportunities available in 2007.

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### **(5) Conduct one training or recognition event for congregational coordinators in your chapter.**

Congregational coordinators are a critical link to the churches within your chapter. Providing a yearly training session for them keeps them informed so they can feel more involved. Recognizing volunteers shows them how much you appreciate their involvement and value the time they spend caring for others.

### **(6) Plan and hold or plan at least one social event for chapter members.**

This social event does not have to be entirely funded by your chapter. Here are just some examples:

- Your chapter decides to invite members to attend a local sporting event, play or festival; the chapter pays for 75% of the cost, and members pay the remaining 25%.
- Your chapter pays for group transportation (bus, vans, etc.) to an event for which members are paying their own admission; riding together on the bus and attending the event provides time for socializing. You could even play games and give away small prizes during the trip. Or, invite your local Thrivent Financial representative(s) or Lutheran Community Services Team member to talk about the many benefits available to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members.
- Your chapter hosts a picnic, and provides the hamburgers and hotdogs. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass. This is a great event at which members could also participate in a hands-on service activity (e.g. put together disaster response kits, hygiene kits, school kits, new baby kits, etc.).
- Annual chapter leader elections are held at a single place, such as a park or local museum; members can vote and then enjoy a picnic lunch or a tour of the museum.

### **(7) Utilize and report 100% of Care Abounds in Communities funding by Dec. 31, 2007.**

It is important that you budget, track and report outstanding projects in a timely manner. If, by October 2007, you think you will have funds left in your Care Abounds in Communities® allocation, please contact a member of the Ohio Region's Lutheran Community Services Team. Many chapters have a need for additional funds and would be glad to work with you to support projects they cannot do so on their own.

### **(8) Have seven (or more) elected leaders on record as of July 30, 2007.**

### **(9) Utilize the Chapter Mailing Service to send four mailings (newsletters or postcards) to the general chapter membership and at least two mailings to congregational coordinators.**

Use of the chapter mailings is an important way to communicate with members of your chapter. Establishing a regular mailing schedule and using pre-written articles make this process a win-win for you and your chapter members. Communicating to congregational coordinators ensures a better relationship with them, and their church.

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**(10) Post a minimum amount of information on your chapter's website, including the items listed below, by July 30, 2007:**

1. Current chapter leader names and contact information
2. Chapter meeting dates, locations and times
3. Request form for Care Abounds in Communities® activities (or a link to it on [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com))
4. Where to send the "Receipts, Funds Raised and Expenses Report" and copies of receipts for completed Care in Congregations activities
5. List of churches in the chapter

Keeping your website up-to-date is important because chapter members are directed to it via the Members/Chapters area of [thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com). The website can be a great place to post meeting dates and locations, advertise upcoming activities, and provide important messages to members and congregational coordinators.

You might want to consider inviting two or more youth from one of your congregations to work together to keep the website updated. This is a great way to get younger Thrivent Financial members involved in the chapter, and youth are more likely to work together in pairs or groups.

**(11) At least 85% of the congregations in the chapter must have three congregational coordinators in place by November 30, 2007.**

**(12) Nominate at least one Financial Associate candidate directly to the Ohio Region LCS Team.**

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**Recognition:**

- The Chapter of Excellence logo will be sent to you for use on your chapter website identifying your chapter as a Chapter of Excellence.
- A financial gift (\$25 per current elected leader) will be sent as a gift from your chapter to the charitable organization designated by the 2007 leaders.
- The Lutheran Community Services Team will send a news release to the major media in your chapter area announcing that your chapter has been recognized as a Chapter of Excellence.

