

Community

Churches Connecting to Their Communities

There are many doorways into the community that God opens for churches and deacons. A community opportunity scan (*see below*) can assist your church and its deacons to discern God's leading in the following ways:

- *Awareness*: Help your members become aware of the life experiences of the people who live in your community.
- *Service opportunities*: Identify opportunities for your members to become personally involved in ministry while building relationships with people.
- *Partnerships*: Work out ways in which your church can work with other agencies/churches on a joint project.
- *Target ministries*: Discover a new, church-based ministry that intentionally responds to a particular need or opportunity.
- *Side door ministries*: Identify how your church building could be shared with others for a specific program.

Community Opportunity Scan (COS):

- will guide a church to see and hear what God is already doing in the community,
- will help a church understand its community,
- will reveal ministry opportunities,
- will challenge a church to become involved in the community, and
- will nurture a heart for the harvest.

If your church wants to be involved in the community, and is looking for opportunities to partner with other organizations, start new ministries, or make changes to existing programs, contact Diaconal Ministries Canada about a community opportunity scan.

Operation Manna (OM):

Operation Manna is a program of Diaconal Ministries Canada that provides funding and development services for community ministry based in local churches and non-profit Christian agencies.

Some recent projects of OM include youth centres, adult literacy programs, job-readiness training, pregnancy centres, community ministry coordinators, and support services for people with mental illness.