



WELS Special Ministries

Looking for a Mission Project?

What do you look for when your school chooses the next mission project, besides just choosing something different from last year? Special Ministries mission projects can support the spread of the gospel, while also giving school children or other groups the opportunity to cultivate compassion for the challenges to participating in your church. Special Ministries projects help students understand that some people in your church or neighborhood need extra help to be part of worship and to find ways to serve and use their gifts in their church family.

Special Ministries has resources to give to students during a mission project. The benefit can flow two ways, as God's work is supported, and God's people learn and grow. Here are some Special Ministries Mission Project ideas:

Mission for the Visually Impaired (MVI): MVI provides spiritual resources for people of all ages who are blind or need large print. **Mission Project resources:** braille bookmarks, a brochure explaining MVI, and the catalog of Braille, large print and audio resources. The catalog and an online Christian audiobook library can be viewed at listen.wels.net.

Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MDHH): MDHH helps congregations serve people who are deaf or have a moderate to profound hearing loss. **Mission Project resources:** Lord's Prayer in sign language posters, fingerspelling bookmarks, brochures explaining MDHH and audio looping, placemats with a table prayer in sign language, and materials for bulletin boards. See wels.net/mdhh.

Prison Ministry Committee (PMC): PMC provides spiritual resources and Christian encouragement to prisoners. Tens of thousands of prisoners have used our correspondence Bible study courses. **Mission Project resources:** guidelines for making greeting cards, bookmarks or writing notes to prisoners, brochures explaining PMC and about forming a local jail ministry, materials for bulletin boards and even a special Bible story lesson available for different grade levels. See welscongregationalservices.net/prison-ministry-awareness/.

Military Services Committee (MSC): MSC provides face to face ministry to WELS military personnel serving at installations in the United States and in Europe, as well as resources for those serving on ships or deployed somewhere else in the world. Mission Project ideas: Invite someone in the military or a veteran to visit the school or include members of your church who in the military in school prayers. **Mission Project resources:** Posters, brochures and guidelines for projects that support the troops, sample "Spiritual Deployment Kit" that is sent to WELS military personnel, and materials for bulletin boards. See wels.net/military.

Conquerors through Christ (CTC): CTC has been taking their message of resisting the temptations of Internet pornography to high schools and colleges, but has sexual purity resources for parents, teachers and children of all ages. With the introduction of smart phones, pornography is becoming a problem at elementary school ages. CTC school resources address problems and prevent Satan from getting a foothold. **Mission Project resources:** Brochures that explain the need for this ministry, resources for teaching children and resources for the spiritual battle, see the CtC website conquerorsthroughchrist.net.

Freedom for the Captives (FFTC): FFTC supplies training and policy development to help Christians prevent child abuse and keep children safe. The FFTC website freedomforcaptives.net supplies resources for families, survivors, advocates and ministry leaders. **Mission Project resources:** A flyer explaining FFTC in age appropriate language.

There is much information on the Special Ministries section of the WELS website (wels.net/special-ministries/). You can also find promotional videos for many of the ministries on this page at vimeo.com/showcase/7572428, password: **Special**. (Some of the videos will provide teachers with information, others are simple and brief for students.)

Other Special Ministries groups that appreciate the support from school students, but don't have resources beyond the WELS website information, include:

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry (IDDM): *IDDM helps families and churches serve people with special needs. IDDM offers resources on autism and the Light for Parents program to help families who have children with extraordinary needs. "He Cares / We Care" sends letters and cards to children and adults who are developmentally disabled. See wels.net/iddm. **Mission Project ideas:** Invite a developmentally disabled adult to help as a volunteer, so that children get to know him or her as a person. Have a Lutheran high school or college student who participates in New Friends talk about the special needs friends they come to know.*

Health and Wellness Committee (HWC): *HWC oversees the development of training of lay people for specialized ministry, such as parish nurses or chaplains or the development of support groups. See wels.net/health-and-wellness **Mission Project idea:** Have children visit a local nursing home or make something for residents.*

Mental Health Needs (MHN): *MHN develops resources for people who struggle with addictions, trauma, or temptations. This committee provides resources to equip churches to support and encourage people in their struggles, helping pastors work with professional counselors and members understand professional counseling. See wels.net/mental-health.*

Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW): *CCCW helps churches provide care for their pastors, teachers, and other called workers. See wels.net/cccw. **Mission Project idea:** have students do something special for a called worker.*

To connect with any of these ministries and receive help for your mission projects, contact WELS Special Ministries (specialministries@wels.net or 414-256-3241).