Dear Parent / Guardian:

We are excited that your son / daughter / minor ward desires to volunteer at the Olympia Union Gospel Mission. The opportunity will provide a life lesson in how the choices we all make at a young age can have a lasting impact on our lives, as well as provide him / her opportunity to learn how fulfilling services to others can be.

We also need to point out the absolute need for close supervision of minors both during their volunteer shift as well as traveling to or from the Mission. The Mission’s Day Center is open to anyone who is well behaved. We know that some of the population is made up of individuals who have had a felony conviction(s) for drug, alcohol, and sexual offenses. It is possible that some may be pedophiles. Mission staff members are constantly monitoring client activity and will do their best to ensure that minors volunteering will be safe and be fulfilled in helping others. However, there is a physical limitation on staff’s ability to monitor client activities. Therefore we need minor volunteers to be accompanied by at least one designated supervisor and to observe certain safeguards:

1. Different areas of ministry have differing minimum age requirements
   - Kitchen: 16 years old
   - Clerical help: 16 years old
   - Area clean-up: 14 years old
   - Serving meals: 16 years old
   - Clothing bank: 16 years old
   - Yard work: 14 years old

2. Minors should not be left unattended either inside or outside the Mission.

3. Minors should not be allowed to be alone with clients at any time.

4. Minors should not accept any token of appreciation, or any other item from a Mission client, nor should they give anything to clients.

5. Minors should be instructed to never give out personal information to clients.

6. Minors engaged in meal preparation must be closely supervised because sharp knives and kitchen equipment can pose a risk of injury.

7. Before minor children can volunteer at the Mission, the Mission must receive their parent’s or legal guardian’s signed permission to volunteer and an adult must be named as their supervisor while they are on Mission premises and / or coming to or from the Mission.
Having read the information on this form, I (print name), ________________________________, the minor’s parent / legal guardian (please circle which applies) hereby grant my permission for:

Minor’s Name(s) (print): ________________________________, DOB: ______________

to volunteer at the Olympia Union Gospel Mission on (Date/s): ____________________________

with Group/ Organizations Name: ________________________________________________

During their volunteer time at OUGM, I appoint the following person as their accountable, adult on-site supervisor:

Name/Ph. #: ________________________________________________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian: ________________________________________________

Date Signed: ________________________ Phone No.: ____________________________

Please return this signed permission form to the Group Leader that your minor will be coming to OUGM with. The Group Leader is responsible to have a signed form for each minor volunteering, and have it in the Leader’s possession on the day of the volunteer event and show them to the OUGM Volunteer Coordinator.

Thank you so much for your understanding and cooperation!

Sincerely,

Jerry L. Gatton, Jr.
Volunteer Coordinator
Olympia Union Gospel Mission