



INTRODUCTION TO CODE OF ETHICS

FUNCTION

Administration

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The mission of The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society is to share God's love in word and deed by providing shelter and supportive services to older persons and others in need believing that, "In Christ's Love, Everyone Is Someone."

As we think about the ways we live and work here in the Society, "In Christ's Love" is the best place to begin. God's love for each of us—shown most clearly in the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ—provides the foundation for all we do and say. Our mission calls each of us to follow in the path of Christ and emulate eight traits that Jesus exhibited in his life: compassion, honesty, perseverance, joy, humility, acceptance, courage and love. This way of life within our organization is The Good Samaritan Society Way.

Why should we try to be honest, kind and loving with each other? Because God has been honest, kind and loving with us. God's great love assures us that we are special people. But it also reminds us that all the residents and clients we work for and all the employees we work with are special, too. God's love creates a Christian community in which each of us has both rights and obligations.

Some of the rights we have include the right to be treated with respect, the right to be dealt with openly and honestly, the right to expect fair and just relationships among members of the community, the right to have a voice in community life and the right to be fully accountable for the work we do. The obligations we have mirror these rights. We are obligated to treat others respectfully, openly, honestly and so on.

No community, Christian or otherwise, always lives up to all these rights and obligations. But they are ideals we continue to strive for and work toward. This Code of Ethics, like a map, is intended to give us directions toward these ideals. By taking this code seriously, we each do our part to strengthen our commitment to The Good Samaritan Society Way, no matter the setting or service model, and help make the Society a place where God's love is understood, experienced and shared. When that happens, our mission statement becomes more than words. Our actions give it the power to change people's lives as they see and feel God's love at work in and through us. We know what a difference your words and actions can make and just how important you are to everyone who lives and works in your Good Samaritan Society community.

Please read, think through and accept this Code of Ethics with the understanding that it is much more than a formality. Our Code of Ethics is affirmed and represented in Society policy and standards to which we must all be held accountable.