



## Servant's Corner

June 2012

### **The Upside To Group Service** By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

*And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs...Mark 6:7*

There is a Biblical precedent for group ministry. Jesus sent the Twelve and later the Seventy out in pairs. Paul always had at least one companion on his missionary journeys, sometimes a whole team. It is not unusual for Love INC Network Churches to send out a group of volunteers to meet a client's need. Yard work and housecleaning are needs that are particularly suitable for groups. Here are some advantages to serving as a group:

- It allows one member of the group to focus on listening to the client while the others accomplish the task at hand. Both actions, listening and working, demonstrate God's love.
- It can be a great way to build unity in an already established group.
- Small groups have a tendency to become inward-focused. Doing service together helps keep an outward focus.
- It's easier to serve as a group. It's not as intimidating as serving a Love INC client by yourself, partly because you have other people to talk to. Plus, you've got other people to encourage you if the work gets hard. Whoever said, "Many hands make light work" knew what he was talking about. Group service is a great onramp to a lifestyle of service for those who aren't in the habit of serving.
- Serving in a group protects individuals from false accusations that could be raised if serving alone.
- Group service can model Christian fellowship for an unchurched client, making them thirsty for such fellowship themselves.



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