

## *Torch Relay Outreach Opportunities*

Torch Relay Outreach will look different in each community. Tap into your community's special interests and passions. Tap into unique needs. Take this opportunity to engage with your community in meaningful ways that will bring transformation and revitalization.

Here's some ideas:

- # Find out what City Hall is planning and offer The Salvation Army's support in the form of people and other resources
- # Plan a full-blown indoor or outdoor community festival with balloon-sculpting, face-painting, circus skills, big games, etc. Plan for follow-up festivals during the Games periods.
- # Support Canada Ablaze, the More Than Gold Torch Relay Prayer initiative
- # Hold a mock Torch Relay in a local hospital, hospice, or homeless shelter
- # Help neighbourhood kids create signs and paper torches in anticipation of the Relay
- # Organize musicians to play for the torch bearer and spectators
- # Organize some unique mock Olympic events – e.g. almost-luge tubing races
- # Check with community schools to see how you can help them with special torch-related activities
- # Plan some mini round-robin sports tournaments, promoting Salvation Army sports outreach in your area
- # Collect and distribute gently-used sports equipment for needy kids
- # Raise funds for community sports fees for kids that can't afford to participate
- # Offer to help with street clean-up before and after the Relay
- # Coordinate transportation for spectators
- # Offer refreshments (cold and hot) along the route. Use TSA's mobile canteen!
- # Run a sports camp for kids before the Relay, and run one again during the Games
- # Create an "I Saw the Torch" photo booth offering free pictures for spectators
- # Distribute Faith & Friends Olympics Edition and other More Than Gold resources to spectators
- # Shovel snow for people as an Olympics Act of Kindness
- # Offer free Christmas gift-wrapping services to Torch Relay supporters (if the Relay visits your city before Christmas)
- # Hand out free care kits along the Relay route
- # Have people knit More Than Gold scarves and pass them out to spectators at the Relay. (They tell the Gospel story!)
- # Offer informal sports 'clinics' near the route to keep people active as they wait for the Torch's arrival
- # Host a health and fitness seminar at a local community centre or in your church, and challenge participants to commit to a more healthy lifestyle
- # Offer a special sermon series or study/discussion group on the Christian and sports and invite your community to join you
- # Invite spectators to attend a Big Screen Viewing of Cool Runnings or other Olympic-themed movies at your church. Hand out personal invitations! (Invite them to attend Olympic and Paralympic Game viewings at the church when the Games are on.)
- # Contact the individuals who coordinate, lead and/or coach in community sporting programs and offer to pray for them. Hold an event to honor them!
- # Conduct an informal community survey to see what other community events would be welcomed in future
- # Encourage people within your congregation to apply to be a Torch Bearer