



The Coffeehouse Startup Manual

*A Program of the Serving Cup
Building a Community of Unlimited Possibilities*





Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest in being a host organization for a Coffeehouse in your community. The Coffeehouse is a program of the Serving Cup and literally began as a Coffeehouse. It has evolved into a monthly social gathering promoting community building. This manual represents the experiences of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Raleigh, NC while building their Coffeehouse program. Hopefully, it can be easily adapted to fit your situation when building your Coffeehouse program.

The Serving Cup was established to address needs of Coffeehouse attendees. We believe that linked through www.servingcup.org, each Coffeehouse can share information and experiences with one another strengthening each location. It is the hope of the Serving Cup that each Coffeehouse will post information, updates, schedules, activities, and photos on the Serving Cup website thereby facilitating growth and improvement in each program.

Bringing together people of all backgrounds, interests, and abilities through a Coffeehouse is not only a fun event but a wonderfully enriching experience. Everyone who attends a Coffeehouse leaves with an open and understanding heart.

Thank you,

The Board of Directors

Serving Cup

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:10-13



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Philosophy of the Coffeehouse

Serving Cup Background

The Serving Cup is a non-profit organization established in January 2000 to empower adults with special needs to live independent and productive lives through supportive programs in two areas: community building and housing. (Please contact a Serving Cup representative if you would like more information on housing.)

Community-building, a mission of the Serving Cup, provides a meeting place for those with developmental disabilities while seeking to build bridges and dispel barriers, allowing people of all abilities to join together in friendship and understanding. The community-building mission of the Serving Cup is realized through the Coffeehouse program. The Coffeehouse program provides a meeting place for those with special needs.

Coffeehouse *Mission Statement* and Philosophy

Mission Statement: The Coffeehouse is designed to provide and support understanding and fellowship among people of all abilities through regularly scheduled community-based meeting events.

It's recommended that each Coffeehouse adopt this mission statement. Each Coffeehouse will then develop their own goals to help them achieve this mission.

Four components of each Coffeehouse:

1. **A vision or concept of building community.** This can be accomplished by choosing one of many monthly options (for example, a shared meal, entertainment, BINGO, exercise followed by snacks, Bible study, etc.)
2. **A host organization.** One or more people interested in living out the mission of the Coffeehouse (for example, a church outreach committee, a Boy Scout eagle candidate, a group of parents, a service organization, a high school Key Club, etc.)
3. **A Coffeehouse location.** A host organization may have an available location but if not, consider meeting places in your community (for example, a YMCA, a neighborhood clubhouse, a church social room, etc.)
4. **A Coffeehouse Director.** Someone responsible for producing a regular Coffeehouse event. Job descriptions can be found beginning on page 11.

Some successful host organizations and location pairings might include: church Outreach Committee and church, local Arc chapter and church, parents and YMCA, friends and neighborhood community center, Key Club and Women's Club. In the case of the Coffeehouse at Good Shepherd, the host organization is the Outreach Committee of the church and the location is the church fellowship hall.