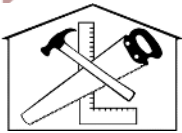




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Our "new to us" 2018 Ford Transit Van !!
See details on the back page.



From an anxious phone call to a satisfied customer

Phone call to our office...



Woman's voice on the line: I heard that I could get some help cleaning out my gutters if I called here. I didn't know who else to contact.

SCCO Staff: Yes, we can help with that. May I get some information from you? I'll need your name, address and phone number, then I can pass this on to our service guy and he will contact you to set up the arrangements.

Woman: Now, what is this going to cost me? I'm 82 years old and I don't have a lot of money.

Staff: We don't have a set price for helping you. We provide this type of service on a donation basis, so whatever you feel comfortable with is what you can give. Christian will explain all of that when he comes to clean your gutters.

Woman: Ok, that's wonderful! I'm so relieved that I called and talked with you.



The next day....

Christian: Hello, Mrs. Smith? This is Christian from SCCO, and I have a note here that says you are looking for some help cleaning out your gutters. What day next week looks good for me to come and take care of that for you? Ok, Wednesday works for me, too. Is morning or afternoon the best time for you? Ok, I'll see you next Wednesday at 1:00, and I'll give you a call beforehand to let you know that I'm on my way.

Mrs. Smith: That sounds really good to me. Thank you so much! I didn't know who to call until my daughter suggested that I contact you.

Christian: You're very welcome, and I look forward to meeting you next week.



The following Wednesday....

Christian calls and arrives at 1:00 as arranged. He gets his ladder out and sets up to clean out the gutters on the house. As he begins, he notices that there are several fasteners which have come loose, allowing the gutter to sag considerably. After cleaning out the leaves and debris, which were packed in pretty tight, he reattaches the gutter with some new straps so it doesn't fall, and helps it to operate properly. He continues to make his way around the house and is done cleaning out the gutters after about 90 minutes of work.

Christian: Well Mrs. Smith, I got your gutters cleaned out and repaired a section where it was sagging along the back by the garage. It looks like it's been a while since they've been cleaned! I've got just a little bit of paperwork to go over with you now.

Mrs. Smith: Oh, that's great. Why don't you come in, and we can get that done here in the kitchen. Would you like a cookie? I just baked them.

Christian: They do smell good! You can probably talk me into that.



Mrs. Smith: So now, what do I owe you for the work you did today?

Christian: Well, I was here about 1 ½ hours and used some gutter hangers to fix that one section. The material cost is your responsibility but the labor is provided on a donation basis, so the only amount you actually “owe” us for is the gutter hangers, which were about \$3 each and I used 4 of them, so let’s call that \$12.



Mrs. Smith: But what about your time?

Christian: So that’s handled a little differently. We let you make a donation for that according to what your income allows. If you were to hire someone to do this type of work, you would probably be looking at somewhere between \$30 and \$60 an hour.

Mrs. Smith: Oh my! I don’t have that kind of money. I live on just my social security, and it doesn’t go very far. I used to have a neighbor man do things for me and he only charged \$15 an hour. What if I gave you \$35 to cover the gutter brackets and the rest for labor, would that be ok?

Christian: That would be fine. As I said, we allow you to make the donation according to what you have to work with. I don’t know your finances and neither do I want to know. We’re just in this to help people out and to show them that God cares about their needs.

Paperwork is completed, cookies are consumed, and a pleasant conversation is had.



Mrs. Smith: Now what if I have a few more things around here that need done, can I call and have you come back?

Christian: Of course. That’s what we’re in business for. There’s no restriction on how many times we help. We have lots of repeat customers who have their “honey-do” list which we work from. These are exactly the types of jobs which we are set up to do. Ones which regular contractors aren’t going to have the time to do or can’t do because there’s no money in them. They need to take on larger projects to make ends meet and keep their workers busy.

Mrs. Smith: Well, I certainly do appreciate you coming to clean out my gutters. My husband used to do that himself every year, but since his passing, I haven’t been able to find anyone to help me. My son lives 150 miles away and only gets here about once every 6 months. My daughter would like to help, but she can’t manage the ladder, and I doubt she would have known anything about those hangers which were missing. You have been a real answer to prayer!

Christian: Well, it’s a genuine blessing to work for an organization which is committed to helping people in need like yourself. Is there anything I can pray with you about? I’d love to say a quick prayer before I go, to ask the Lord to bless you and meet your every need.

Mrs. Smith: Yes, that would be nice!



A prayer is offered, good-byes exchanged and another client of SCCO’s Home Repair Ministry is helped.

Like the example you’ve just read about, this type of work is being done on a daily basis for someone in Shelby County. In order to continue meeting these needs for many years to come, two things are required. A dedicated employee to do the work and a reliable vehicle to carry tools and supplies. **Thanks to a matching funds grant from the Hawks Foundation and some very generous SCCO supporters, we now have both!** Our old van was more than 15 years old and had 260K miles on it, so it was time to upgrade. Pictured on the front page is its replacement and we are very excited to put it into service. This vehicle will be used every week to fulfill our mission of helping those in need throughout the area.

Having a dedicated employee to do the work, is really up to you. Unless you live somewhere outside of our service area, everyone reading this has a vested interest in supporting SCCO’s Home Repair Ministry. We all know someone currently in a situation who could use some help or are in that stage of life themselves or will be in the future. (none of us is getting any younger!) The only way we are able to help people is by having a strong financial base from which to work. Your monthly donations are what we use to pay employees like Christian, to be focused on meeting needs like those of Mrs. Smith, regardless of what they are able to give.

Would you partner with others to make sure we have the capacity to continue on with this ministry? Consider a regular donation of \$5, \$10, \$20 or more a month to help us stay in business for those who are desperate for help.

Blessings to you all in 2026!

Ron French- SCCO Executive Director

