

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910454764703321
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Titolo	Visions of Charity [[electronic resource]] : Volunteer Workers and Moral Community
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, Calif. ; ; London, : University of California Press, c2000
ISBN	0-520-93532-2 1-59734-980-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (300 p.)
Disciplina	261.8/325/0979454 361.7
Soggetti	Church work with the homeless Church work with the homeless-- California-- Sacra Helping behavior Helping behavior - Religious aspects - Christianit Social movements Voluntarism Voluntarism - Religious aspects - Christianity - C Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminaries; CONTENTS; Preface; Acknowledgments; Introduction; 1. Performing Personalist Hospitality; 2. Administering Salvationism; 3. Moral Selving within Personalist Hospitality; 4. Moral Selving within Salvationism; 5. The Politics of Charity; Epilogue; Notes; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	In the United States, public talk about charity for the poor is highly moralistic, even in our era of welfare reform. But how do we understand the actual experience of caring for the poor? This study looks at the front lines of volunteer involvement with the poor and homeless to assess what volunteer work means for those who do it.