

do you know Him?

James 2:15-17

Ministries

info@doyouknowhim-nh.org

www.doyouknowhim-nh.org

Ministry and Fellowship Guidelines

When we provide food for our neighbors, they are hungry again in a few hours. When we feed them the Word, they have food for eternity. Although we recognize the need for breakfast on the weekends, the greater mission is to share with them the life- saving message of Jesus Christ.

Fellowship - Some of our neighbors come only for a cup of coffee and don't eat breakfast. They come for fellowship, to see some of their friends they may not have contact with during the week. They also come to see us – a friendly, supportive face that they have become comfortable with. Many of them are lonely and very bored, and look forward to someone taking an interest in them.

It is preferred that you establish a personal relationship with our neighbors, so that you become trusted and someone they enjoy being with. As you earn their trust, the relationship deepens, and will naturally progress into opportunities to share the Word. The more frequently you are able to serve on the ministry team, the better it is to build relationships and earn their trust. Each of us has different personalities that will “click” with some neighbors and not with others. Try to find a common ground or an interest in their lives. Are they looking for work or an apartment? They may want to talk about medical issues, family or other issues that are going on in their lives. Sometimes it is common interests like sports, politics or weather.

Ministry – Ministry opportunities may come immediately or after developing a relationship. Almost every weekend we have someone in a “crisis” situation that comes to us for help. They are often referred to us by other neighbors, as people that will care for and love them. That is a different relationship than they are used to with the agencies they may see during the week. Whenever someone is in a crisis situation always call another volunteer or leader over to help.

As your relationship deepens you will find opportunities to share the Word. It may come as a discussion about the Message that was given that morning. As they share their problems or hopes, we have an opportunity to share God's love for them, and the incredible eternal life available to them through Jesus Christ.

Guidelines

1. Develop relationships with a few regulars, but each time you come try to meet someone new. Look for people who are alone or off by themselves.
2. **NEVER** – give money. Sometimes they will ask you for \$2 for a copay for a prescription. \$2 can buy a can of beer, so if you want to help, go with them and pay the vendor directly.
3. Never give your home phone number or address. If they need to call you, give them your cell phone number.
4. If you are giving them a ride always be gender appropriate – men should drive men, women drive women, unless you have others in the car. This is an obvious safety issue, but there also could be “mixed signals” if you are driving someone of the opposite gender by yourself. Always dress appropriately. We prefer that those who serve on the ministry team wear our purple shirts so that you can easily be identified and approached as a volunteer.
5. When praying with them, always have another volunteer or two pray with you.
6. Keep a small notebook and pen with you. It can be very busy some days, and you want to make sure you follow up on prayer requests, personal needs, etc. You don’t want to promise something and not follow up, as it will damage the integrity of your relationship.
7. If a crisis occurs that requires immediate attention, please make sure you contact one of the leadership team.
8. Volunteers should never have one of our neighbors stay in their homes. It is too much of a safety and liability concern. If a situation develops that one of our neighbors needs to be cared for, please contact one of the leadership team first!
9. Volunteers should always carry copies of our resource guide. It is a 4” x6” postcard that lists important resources for our neighbors. The front side lists agencies they should contact first - Manchester Homeless Resource Center, New Horizons and the Way Home. The back side is a listing of Christian organizations that provide food and clothing on the weekends.