



COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT GUIDELINES

Christians are called by God to reach out to their communities and to make a difference in the lives of their neighbours. While ready to embrace this call, many congregations question how to begin this process. These guidelines provide some suggestions to fuel your congregation's imagination as you explore the types of outreach your church is being called to offer.

Nursing Homes & Assisted Care

- Provide fresh flowers and a "listening ear" to the residents
- Provide a church service at a nursing home
- Offer to read short devotionals and pray for residents
- Throw a "Seniors Party" complete with live music, food, games, and decorations

Kids or Adults with Special Needs

Hold fun days for children with special needs and their families to relax and enjoy themselves

Baby Shower

Plan a baby shower for a local pregnancy center

Becoming Tech Savvy

Privacy settings, instagram accounts, Skyping grand-parents/children, daily we are bombarded with new technology and many people need some assistance as they navigate through all that is available. Set-up a few sessions to answer group questions or provide one-on-one help for people living in your community.

Sunday Brunch

Deliver invitations to homes located near the church building inviting neighbours to a Sunday brunch before the worship service. The goal of this brunch should first and foremost be to get to know your neighbours and to introduce the congregation. At the brunch let your neighbours know about the programs and services offered through your congregation and warmly invite them to attend the worship service. This is especially effective on days like Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Car-Care Clinic

Enlist the help of mechanically inclined folks in your congregation to set up a free oil and lube change and general car maintenance operation at your church for your community in your community. Pay as you can.

Adopt an International Student

A majority of international students who come to Canada to study are never invited into a Canadian home. Work with your local university or college to host an international student



throughout the year. Offer to pick them up at the airport when they arrive. Invite them to dinner once a month and spend time with them during the holidays.

Wardrobe Spring Cleaning

Does your wardrobe need a small overhaul? Might you have gently used clothing that would be of assistance to a local outreach partner? Challenge your congregation to "raise a ton" of clothing and make a connection with a local organizations that assist men and women returning to the work force.

SOME LOGISTICS TO CONSIDER

Start with a plan:

- Discuss the needs in your community. Which one do you feel God is calling your congregation to address?
- Identify the kind of outreach that will best respond to the need identified
- Assemble the right team and foster the best community relationship—the group should bring the gifts and talents that best match the need.
- Know your audience – your plan will need to be on target, and so adjustments may need to be made depending upon the age and culture of the individuals you want to reach. Not every plan is going to work for every audience.

Know your existing resources: facility space, budget, supply requirements, timing (what else is on the calendar?). Who might you partner with?

Putting the plan into action—consider factors such as parking, seating, a/v needs, child care and coordinate with the right individuals

Keep fellowship and hospitality at the forefront of your project—interaction and relationship-building should be the foundation of outreach initiatives.

Put the word out—announcements are not invitations! Ensure that your messages reach their mark. Let the community both inside and outside your church building know what you are doing.

Pray: for the plan, for those you are serving, for those offering their service.

Evaluate: did the initiative fulfill the goals you originally set? As for objective feedback and be willing to receive it. Evaluation is always necessary to refine our work and service