

Care Group Leaders

We are in the process of launching this and will be updating this document as we move forward.

We are learning as we speak with other churches around the nation that finding the needs by directly talking to the residents is critical. Because we have 500 homes, this is more daunting for us, but we think doable. We hesitated on how to do this as information initially was conflicting about what is a safe practice.

We divided the homes into 40 contiguous zones. Like Nehemiah putting families to guard the wall near their homes, we want the Care Group Leaders, if at all possible, to take care of people in homes near theirs.

We are in the process of seeking Care Group Leaders through

- People we know
- Those who have seemed interested in the ministry
- Asking for volunteers on Facebook and in a neighborhood flyer.

Those being recruited will be given the “Care Group Leader Roles and Responsibilities” on the next page so it is clear what they are expected to do.

We also want to make this role as easy as we can for the Care Group leaders by providing them with text for weekly encouragements and making it clear where they go if a need surfaces.

What to do with requests

If they need....	Send them to....
Prayer	Prayer Team co-leaders
Help grocery shopping	Needs Team Co-Leaders
Running an errand (getting a script)	Needs Team Co-Leaders
Medical help	Have them call their primary care physician or urgent care
Emergency help	Call 911 (shortness of breath, high fever,...)

Care Group Leader Role & Responsibilities

Thank you for considering this role. It is so critical that everyone feels “looked after and cared for by someone,” especially during this crisis.

Purpose of Care Group Leader: Show God’s love to a group of residents in Thornbrook by checking in on them, encouraging them and linking them to resources.

Commitment Required: You will be assigned (with your input) a group of 10-20 contiguous homes to look after. We would like a commitment through mid-August unless, of course, your situation changes. The expected minimum time per week commitment is about 1 - 2 hours. You will be given information (like sample encouragements) each week and other tools to make this as simple as possible. That said, you can add your own touch and do more as you feel led.

Qualifications

- You care about others and want them to know they are cared for and aren’t alone
- You have a servant attitude
- You can connect people in need to those who can help (quick text/email as you will be given a resource list)
- You have 1-2 hours per week to devote to this
- You follow through on commitments, and if they become too much, you are willing to share that (we know situations change and we want to support you)
- You are “in tune” with the Holy Spirit to respond when He shows you needs or actions to take.
- You care about safety and the safety of those you will serve and act accordingly.

Initial Responsibility

- Once your group is identified, you will receive a plot of those homes and addresses
- Find contact info on people in homes that you can in the neighborhood registry (sort by name or street)
- Visit each home, ring bell and from a safe distance, chat with people if they are home (make multiple attempts, pray on that house, and leave flyer)
 - Where you don't have their names and phones, ask for this info.
 - Make sure they have your contact info (cell/email)
 - Let them know
 - They can contact you with needs and you will connect them to resources
 - You will check on them weekly (unless they want more often)
 - They can sign up on the FB Group for daily encouragement, asking for prayer or help. They can also offer to help on that site
 - Ask if they need anything right now and how they are doing.

Weekly Responsibility

- **Text/call each home** to see how they are doing and ask if they need anything (do an actual voice call at least every other week)
 - Pay extra attention to those with the disease, quarantined, or home with family member in hospital alone as they will likely need more caring
- **Text an encouragement via text or email.** You can find your own or use ones that will be sent to you weekly
- **Reach out to those with special needs that you might be alerted to by the Care Group Director**
- **Let the Care Group Director know if there is any new type of need** brewing or any ideas you have of new ways we can support our neighbors, emotionally, physically, or spiritually
- **Pray over your care block.** It doesn't have to be long, just a simple prayer with eyes wide open asking God to watch over them and help as you go about your day (no one in the Bible ever closed their eyes to pray - it's just a chat with Jesus who is ready to listen).
- **Be watchful of and lean into opportunities to organically share with people about Jesus and** where your peace comes from. You might even share a piece of your testimony as you relate a similar hard time you dealt with in your past. Keep it short, sweet but let them know about Jesus.

Below is how we divided the subdivision into care groups. You could do this with an apartment building or streets in a town. Some groups are smaller for people who might not be able to handle as many homes. We wanted to keep the homes contiguous so it feels like a natural cluster.

