

Ten Things Your Congregation Can Do NOW in the Arena of Human Care

- 1.** If one does not exist at this time, begin a Board/Committee for Human Care.
 - a) If a Human Care Board exists, consider expanding its responsibilities.
 - b) Think outside the box – especially in the areas of inreach to your congregation, outreach to your community, and global involvement.
- 2.** Provide annual classes in First Aid including CPR (for adults and infants) taught by the local Red Cross Chapter or your local Fire Department.
 - a) Encourage as many congregation members as possible to receive training.
 - b) Consider opening the training to the community at large.
- 3.** Purchase an AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillation) Unit and provide training in its use.
 - a) Check local ordinances governing use and liability.
 - b) AED units are becoming more common and have reached the point of development that they are almost foolproof. First responders credit AED units with saving many lives.
- 4.** Interview your pastor to determine the areas of counseling in which he has received training and feels competent.
 - a) Consider beginning a Stephens Ministry or Christ Care.
 - b) Especially make note of the areas where outside counseling resources will need to be attained.
 - c) Complete a list of competent, trained Christian counselors noting their areas of expertise and their customary fees.
 - d) Ascertain the availability of pro-bono services in cases of emergency.
- 5.** Produce and maintain a clearing house type document of all existing social service agencies within the community. Interview each agency to determine the scope of the services. Determine opportunities for volunteer service by members of the congregation. Think outside the box. This may include:
 - a) Emergency food and housing for the poor and homeless
 - b) Health care clinics and physician services
 - c) Mental health services
 - d) Crises pregnancy and infant nurseries

- e) Drug and alcohol rehabilitation
 - f) Transportation services
 - g) Services to returning military including PTSD services
- 6.** Produce and maintain a clearing house type document for Senior Services.
- a) Include:
 - 1) Senior housing, assisted living, nursing home facilities
 - 2) Economic services, e.g. trusts, tax preparation, etc.
 - 3) Social services, e.g. senior centers, respite care, etc.
 - 4) Maintain a current list of ombudsmen in the community
 - b) Interview each agency to determine accessibility to low income seniors and the extent of services
 - c) Determine opportunities for volunteer service
 - d) Contact the Social Security Administration and schedule regular information gathering sessions in the areas of Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid especially as it relates to the Affordable Care Act.
 - e) Conduct informational presentations in the End-of-Life decisions. Include:
 - 1) Living wills, Durable power of attorney for Health Care, Do not resuscitate orders, POLST, etc.
 - 2) Contact local funeral directors to present options available for final earthly rest.
- 7.** Become familiar with the Human Care ministries of the LCMS, LWML, LLL, LSS, LIRS, and LWR.
- a) Know what services are available in each organization and auxiliary and what materials are available to you.
 - b) Determine what volunteer opportunities are available.
- 8.** Meet with the Disaster Response Council of your community.
- a) Know and publish the community's plan to your membership
 - b) Determine where your congregation can be involved in the master plan and take part in any training exercises scheduled in your community.

9. Determine what pan-Christian Human Care activities would be appropriate to advocate to the members of your congregation locally and globally. These may include: Habitat for Humanity, Doctors without Borders, Compassion International, The Asante Network, SEERV, CWS/CROP, etc.

10. Consider making your facility available to community agencies at low or no cost—using the gifts of property with which God has blessed your congregation to provide Human Care and ease the suffering of multitudes in your community. Community agencies may include: AA, NA, ESL projects, Adult Literacy projects, Neighborhood Watch groups, etc.

AND....

Pray for the needs of others

Work with the prayer circles in the congregation to make needs known

Publish a weekly prayer list in your bulletin and/or newsletter

Messages should always include prayers for larger social needs

PRAY – use words if necessary