

Stage 2: Building a Culture of Care

As you begin to imagine what Community Care Ministries could look like in your corps, take time to reflect on the people, relationships and culture that will help it flourish.

Community Care Ministries is built on relationships. Before recruiting volunteers or launching activities, consider these three questions together.

Question 1: Who in our congregation has a gift for presence?

Not every volunteer needs to be a leader, teacher or organizer.

Some of the most effective caregivers are simply people who know how to be present.

They listen without rushing.

They notice when someone is struggling.

They remember names, stories and milestones.

They make others feel seen, valued and welcome.

Reflection

Think about the people in your congregation who naturally:

Check in on others

Welcome newcomers

Visit those who are unable to attend

Listen well

Offer encouragement

Build relationships across generations

Who comes to mind?

Remember that effective caregivers are not always the most visible people. Sometimes the greatest gifts for care are found in quiet and faithful individuals who consistently show compassion.

Discussion Notes



Question 2: Are we caring for our volunteers as well as those they serve?

Care ministry can be deeply rewarding, but it can also be emotionally demanding.

Volunteers who regularly support others need encouragement, support and opportunities to share their experiences.

Reflection

Consider:

How do we support volunteers who are caring for others?

Do our volunteers feel appreciated and valued?

Are there opportunities for prayer, encouragement and mutual support?

Do volunteers know who to turn to when they encounter challenges?

Are healthy boundaries encouraged and respected?

A sustainable ministry cares for both those receiving support and those offering it.

Discussion Notes

Question 3: What would make someone want to stay?

Many people will attend an event once.

People stay when they experience connection, belonging and meaningful relationships.

Reflection

Think about your corps and community.

What helps people feel that they belong?

Being known by name?

Having meaningful relationships?

Feeling welcomed and included?

Having opportunities to contribute?

Experiencing genuine care and support?

Now consider:

What barriers might prevent someone from staying connected?

What could we do to create an environment where people feel valued, needed and welcomed?

Discussion Notes

Looking Ahead

Community Care Ministries is not primarily about activities. It is about creating a culture where people are known, valued and cared for.

As you move forward, remember:

The right volunteers are often those with a heart for people.

Healthy ministries care for volunteers as well as participants.

People are most likely to stay where they experience belonging.

The strongest ministries are built not on programs, but on relationships that help people feel connected, supported and part of a caring community.