



SUCCESSFUL Human Care Programs and Services

The Indiana District Treatshop was held August 19, 2017 at Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Carmel, IN. In the Human Care Session, Pastor Geoff Robinson, Outreach Executive and Human Care of the LCMS Indiana District, gave a presentation on his duties and shared guidelines for choosing whom to support in Ingathering's and Servant Events. He highlighted many RSOs (Recognized Service Organizations), agencies that ensure their programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the LCMS, and therefore, organizations we can confidently support. For more information on RSOs, see <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/recognized-service-organizations/directory>.

The LWML Human Care Committee then led participants in listing ways God's love is shared through programs and services provided in our congregations, communities, and beyond.

Definitions

Human Care: Encourages and challenges congregations and individuals in proclaiming the Gospel through compassionate ministry to the human needs of ALL people. ALL people includes many different areas. Our Human Care session focused on:

IN-REACH: This is looking at the members in your own congregation and how you might provide programs that support their physical and emotional well-being.

OUTREACH: Proclaiming the Gospel where you live or beyond by supporting or developing compassionate outreach programs and service in your community and/or globally.



OUTREACH

1. Neighborhood gathering with food
2. International Dinner
3. Meal Ministry
4. Food Pantry
5. Food Collections for Community Food Banks
6. Community Garden Contact *Sharon Shediack, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ft Wayne, 260-744-3228 ext. 307*
7. “Little Food Pantry” – Small box mounted on Church property containing donated food for community to take
Contact Shirley Paul, Zion Lutheran Church, Wabash, shirlpau@comcast.net
8. Invite neighborhood children and families to Vacation Bible School
9. Blessing of school supplies/backpacks
10. Oktoberfest
11. Host Fine Arts Academy for children – crafts, acting performance
Contact Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Carmel, 317-814-4252
12. OCC – Operation Christmas Child
Contact Amy Leineweber, amygenealogy1@aol.com
13. Baby shower for those in need
14. Fort Wayne Seminary Food and Clothing Banks
15. Collect seasonal wear for Clothing Pantry
16. Day Care 6-6 Monday – Friday, PreK through 8th Grade School.
Currently working on more ways to connect families with our Christian beliefs as most of the families are not church members, and bringing in more children.
Contact Sonnie Cook, Trinity Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, 317-897-0243
17. Donate money to local charities
18. Military and college care packages
19. Bloodmobile uses church facilities every other month
20. 5K Race – T-shirts
21. Homeless youth
22. After school instruction
23. English conversation with Chinese community
24. Veteran support

25. Trunk or Treat at Halloween
26. Christmas Gift Tree – for disabled, pregnancy center, etc.
27. Quilts for Lutheran World Relief
28. Sponsor free medical clinic for church's neighborhood
29. "Lutheran House" – Collect money to build a house
30. Collect used needles to exchange for new
31. Invite the public to church's Game Night, Movie Night, Fireworks
32. Block Party handing out church brochures



IN-REACH

1. Visitation and/or card ministry for elderly, ill, homebound
2. Involve elderly/shut-ins in sharing their skills and abilities in service, concentrating on what they CAN do, not what they CAN'T DO, such as:
 - food preparation
 - writing cards
 - making phone calls

Contact Pat Potratz, rp-potratz@sbcglobal.net
3. Prepare meals for shut-ins
4. Hold informational meetings for senior church members on:
 - Wills and trusts
 - End of life issues
 - Living wills
 - Care options – assisted living, nursing homes, etc.
 - In home health care
 - Financial assistance
5. Nurse in parish provides monthly blood pressure checks
6. Food Pantry for members
7. Help send member children to camp
8. Provide home repairs
9. Garden plots
10. Provide meals for crisis situations

Contact Libby Moeller, libby0704@gmail.com
11. Make "Busy Bags" for young children to use in church
12. Provide crutches, walkers, lift chairs

13. Youth Club
14. Church at the Lake
15. Local activities for Seniors
16. Young at Heart Group with lunch and informational sessions
17. Meals of Love – casserole meals in freezer ready when need occurs
18. Funeral dinners
19. OWLS – Older, Wiser, Lutheran Seniors – provide transportation, get together for lunch, dinner, night out.

Contact Gloria Field, St. Peter Lutheran, North Judson, 574-896-2025

20. Senior Group Monthly pitch-in with guest speakers, topics such as:

Divorce Care

MOPS – Mothers of Preschool Children

Grief Share

Autism

21. International Friends – English classes. 50 individuals meet every Thursday...example, Thanksgiving dinner and explanation of holiday

22. Underemployed or unemployed ministry

23. Wellness/exercise class on Saturday morning

In these and other examples of willing service, it is most important that we share the Gospel message. As noted by Rev. Robinson in *Caring for every human – in body and soul* in the *June/July 2017 edition of The Lutheran Witness*,

“Human care is how we show genuine love for others. But it is a rather hollow love if we don’t share with them the Savior, Jesus the Christ!

LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison reminds us that we have not done all that we should do as Christians if we simply show mercy to others without sharing with them the greatest news of all time. Harrison writes: “This fundamental truth of the Bible, that there is no salvation outside of faith in Christ and His merits, animates the church’s work for those in need. If this is not so, such work becomes merely secular, and may be performed by any entity in society.”

Provided by LWML Indiana District Human Care Committee

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