

Need A Neighbor

How did we respond?

Dear Pastor or Church Leader,

This is the question everyone will be asking when we look back on this moment.

I hope and pray the answer is we responded with unity in Christ's mission. With love. With compassion. With sacrifice. With courage. With Christ-likeness!

Now is the time for the Church in Greater Evansville to lean into the moment. This is the time for God's people to lead the way in showing what love really looks like.

If you are ready to lead and to serve, to live out Christ's mission of love, let's step into the gritty reality of the needs and the hurts of our neighbors with the hope of a loving touch and the healing balm of Christ's love.

Your Neighbors Need You - We Can Help You Find Them

One way to respond is to join with our community's church families in a focused effort to meet very specific crisis needs such as meals or groceries, for prayer or a friendly phone call, or for referrals for financial assistance. They need a neighbor, and we can be a neighbor, loving them as we love ourselves as Jesus asked.

The *Need A Neighbor* website (www.needaneighbor.org) provides an organized and easy-to-use platform for serving our neighbors with these needs.

We will train your team and provide you with access to this powerful tool that brings simplicity and clarity to the seemingly overwhelming task of knowing who to serve and how to serve them.

We'll provide the tools. You teach, inspire, and send your people out in love.

Let's respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic together
with the love and compassion of Jesus Christ!

Getting Started

☐ Mobilize Volunteer Coordinator(s) at Your Church

Either staff-led or volunteer-driven, the Volunteer Coordinator serves in a key role:

- Support your volunteer recruiting effort
- Screen your volunteers and providing them with your church's registration password for the *Need A Neighbor* website
- Train and support your church's volunteers

☐ Use the Tool Internally with Your Church Family

This is an opportunity to find and meet needs in your church family:

- Ask your church members to share their needs on the website and indicate their church attendance.
- Sort the needs by church in the platform and identify your congregation's needs

☐ Inspire & Send Your People Out to Love and Serve their Neighbors

As the leadership voice in your church, you can lead your people into this work:

- Cast the vision for a Christ-emulating and mission-oriented church.
- Communicate about it often. Stay focused on loving outwardly.
- Complete a project personally if you are able (lead by example).
- Celebrate what's happening!

Define Your Strategy

Build a Response Fund

Some of the projects on the platform require financial investment. Build and launch a Response Fund at your church from which you can reimburse volunteers for their project-related expenses or take on the financial referrals of neighbors in need.

Target a Specific Geography

Does your church serve a particular region or neighborhood? Find creative ways to focus your efforts there, and be sure to share www.needaneighbor.org with them as a way to communicate about their needs.

Identify a Specialty (or more)

Where does your church family already excel in serving neighbors? Is it in providing financial assistance, a food pantry, or urgent supplies? Focus your attention on improving that specialty and shifting your strategy to meet the needs caused by COVID19. Feel free to invent and adapt!

To get started, designate a Volunteer Coordinator for your church and email us with contact information at needaneighbor@community1.org.