

Congregations Supporting **COMMUNITIES**

THIS FALL- STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND FAMILIES NEED YOUR HELP.
HOW CAN YOUR CHURCH RESPOND?



1.) **START WITH WHO YOU KNOW**

Talk with the parents, students, teachers, administrators, and social workers you already know in your congregation or community. Don't know any? Then now is the ideal time to call the nearest school and introduce yourself!

2.) **BRING QUESTIONS, NOT ANSWERS**

Be a listener. Ask questions like - "How are you?" "What's challenging right now?", "What would be helpful?", "What would NOT be helpful?" Listen carefully to their responses. Write them down.



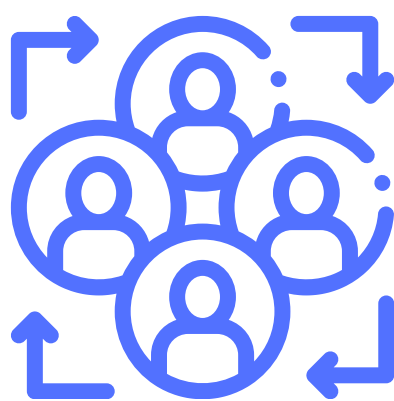
3.) **GIVE A REALISTIC YES**

Compare expressed needs to your resources and strengths. Consider them in the context of one-time, short, or long-term commitment. Can you actually meet this need? Offer only what you can realistically deliver, and don't try to meet needs they didn't ask you to. Build trust and meet need, even if it feels small - every little bit helps!



4.) **WORK AS A TEAM**

Bring others in and empower them. Don't try to do it all yourself! Partnering with others takes more time and effort, but creates better dignity, investment, sustainability, and trust.



5.) **CELEBRATE THE WINS**

Set goals. Measure your impact. Share good stories. Put people first. This season is hard, and no one has all the answers. But remember that transforming the world can start with the care you give to the student, teacher, and family right in front of you.



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