

Summary of Fellowship Hour Discussions

Have you had experience with assisting in ministries to the homeless/hungry? Or working with community efforts which assisted homeless/hungry people? If not, other experience?

Served meals at shelter in Tacoma; women's group; shelter; has been recipient; helped homeless veterans at Retsil (fixed meals and determined their needs); backpacks for kids; fixed dinner and got acquainted with guests at Benedict House; Helpline; Coffee Oasis; Mary's Place (where women and children can stay evenings and have breakfast); Kitsap Rescue, Salvation Army, First Lutheran, Stand Up for Kids, Alive Shelter, Compass Center, empty Lowe's store in Bremerton, Gas funds

What has your experience or observance told you?

Quality of services varies; need to be organized; better to coordinate with other churches; no bus comes out here; must have food and time to help in order to make it work; difficult to have a line to shelter unless something is established; taught me appreciation

How would you see yourself involved in this mission?

Bld 9 – Homeless vets

Find out what help agencies need that help homeless

Benedict House

Coffee Oasis – *have representative come and tell us how we could help*

Expand Family Kitchen to more days

Helpline (*invite church members with gardens to bring excess produce to church to be taken to Helpline; assist Helpline in developing clothes closet; stand outside supermarket with a list of food needed and have carts for them to put food into*)

St. Vincent's

Buy a building to house homeless

Summary of Fellowship Hour Discussions

Have you had experience with a community garden, walking a labyrinth, or a prayer walk?

Course in therapeutic and healing gardens; walked Irish cemeteries and prayers; gardens and labyrinths; labyrinth at Harmony House; youth group did game and a walk; foreign country

What has your experience or observance told you?

Labor is both peaceful and spiritual; creates a place for people to come; youth idea was good with implementation of a facilitator; need to think maintenance and who will take care of it; handicap accessible with seating; tax issue if the upper parking lot is not used for public use; might become unsightly; 8-foot fence needed; labyrinth needs clear path and water; how to protect garden from vandals and deer; how to get water to garden

How would you see yourself involved in this mission?

Spiritual support

Help build garden and labyrinth

Volunteers, donations, taking care of one section of garden per person

Invite outside groups to do hands-on lessons (see Facebook group *My Sustainable City* to make connections with like-minded individuals; people who have experience with community gardening may even be willing to help set one up

Explore grant money to deepen well and provide necessary materials for building garden area and labyrinth

Summary of Fellowship Hour Discussions

Have you had experience of being a military family in transition?

Worked with families – many are well-organized, but still packed. Difficult with one parent gone and then coming back; usually took a 3-day vacation. Dads were in service and deployed; families moved frequently; moved from home country.

What has your own experience been when you go through transitions (i.e. moving away from home or long-term residence, starting in a new school or job, etc.)?

What has your experience told you?

Invites to social events; help with household (i.e. loaning coffee pots); open house for singles; sponsors for families/singles; fellowship; difficult in new situations (climates/bugs); nuclear family became important; holidays were very difficult

How would you see yourself involved in helping families in transition?

Talking with shipyard PR person (ombudsman, chaplain)
VA – working with transition of families; husband/wife counseling
Being a liaison regarding schools and kids
Sharing local info with new families
Providing child care
Sponsoring families and singles
Invite people to social events, dinners
Open house for single enlisted folks
USO in Seattle
Birthdays for little ones

Summary of Fellowship Hour Discussions

Have you had experience of being a family who cared for a loved one in hospice care or long-term illness?

Moved in to help family with small children and working full-time (patient given 6 weeks to live; lived for 7 months; hospice were visiting angels; family loses who they are – are on a treadmill, living only to help patient; someone came on Sunday mornings so that caregiver could attend church); going shopping; providing meals, lawn care, laundry; 3-month care of husband; members of our own church may need help.

What has your experience or the observance of other families told you?

Caregivers need care too; respite care is needed so that caregivers can get away; people are reluctant to ask for help; good to team up with others; good to make a date and offer specific help (vacuum, grocery shop, do laundry, stay for a long break)

How would you see yourself or the congregation involved in helping families or patients with respite care?

Listening

Would like training to work with them in listening, calling, etc.

Give communion to homebound

Create team to do housework, grocery shop, do laundry, provide meals and do yardwork

Identify what Elim has to offer (knowledge, skills, music, reading, listening)

Talk with caregivers to discern needs

Be creative in approach (may mean connecting by phone instead of physical presence)

Explore Stephen's Ministry for training