

Ways To Serve During COVID-19 Pandemic

Christians throughout the centuries have had a rich track record of running toward disaster to help instead of running away from disaster in fear. Ironically, the primary way to love our neighbors amidst a global pandemic is to stay physically distant from our neighbors. However, there are various (safe) ways to be on the front lines of serving our neighbors in this unprecedented season. We ask that you would (1) pray, (2) remain safe by adhering to expert advice, and (3) consider one of the following options as an individual or family to serve your neighbor in the name of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Brandon (847.244.6606 x181 or brandon.smith@vcgurnee.org).

Congregational Care Fund: We are directing members and regular attenders who are facing a unique season of financial reversal to fill out an application for the congregational care fund. This is money given by village church for the people of village church. If you are in need, please email Wendy (wendy.pellitteri@vcgurnee.org) to get the process started. If you want to help, please consider making an above-and-beyond financial contribution to the congregational care fund to help people in our congregation who are going through tough financial times both now and in the weeks and months ahead. [Click here to give.](#)

ElderCare - *New opportunity to serve without leaving home*

ElderCARE operates in Northern Lake County and is a non-profit, volunteer organization that helps adults ages 65+ remain as healthy and independent as possible. It typically provides door to door medical transportation, shopping trips and friendly home visits to all who apply. All of the personal contact services have been suspended but wellness calls are being made. Rev. Jackie Lynn, who is the Executive Director of ElderCare stated today that the need for people to make calls to seniors to ease the pain of isolation is great. Potential volunteers can call 847.406.4683 or email info@eldercarelakecounty.org

Northern Illinois Food Bank (NIFB): NIFB is responding to the pandemic emergency by providing ways for people to donate cash, to volunteer by packing food to distribute, or even by participating in a virtual 5K run in early June! [Click here to learn more.](#)

NIFB Urgent Opportunity – Food Distribution

- Tuesdays, **starting** April 14 (until shelter in place is lifted) from 9am-noon
at Mt. Moriah Christian Center parking lot, 524 10th St, Waukegan, IL 60085
- If interested in serving, contact Scott at sjewitt@northernilfoodbank.org and 847.525.7721

COOL Ministries – coolministries.org

This ministry, based in Waukegan, is looking for food donations, specifically canned vegetables, canned fruit, and cereal (family size box). All donations can be dropped off at 800 W. Glen Flora Ave., Waukegan, go to the back of the building in alley, Monday-Thursday from 8:15-10am.
Contact phone: 847.662.1340.

A Safe Place – asafeplaceforhelp.org

Looking for volunteers to help distribute food and other donations to clients. If interested, contact Damaris Lorta – dlorta@asafeplaceforhelp.org, x109 or Christine Luchek – cluchek@asafeplaceforhelp.org, x205 (phone: 847.731.7165).

Your Own Ways: Initiate contact (via call, email, text, FaceTime, etc.) with your neighbors, family, co-workers, and others in your circle of relationships! If you want to reach "the" world with the love of Christ, you must start by reaching "your" world with the love of Christ. Follow the Holy Spirit's leading in being an ambassador for Jesus during this time whether it's by offering to pray for others, by finding specific ways to help others, or perhaps by reaching out in some other unique way!