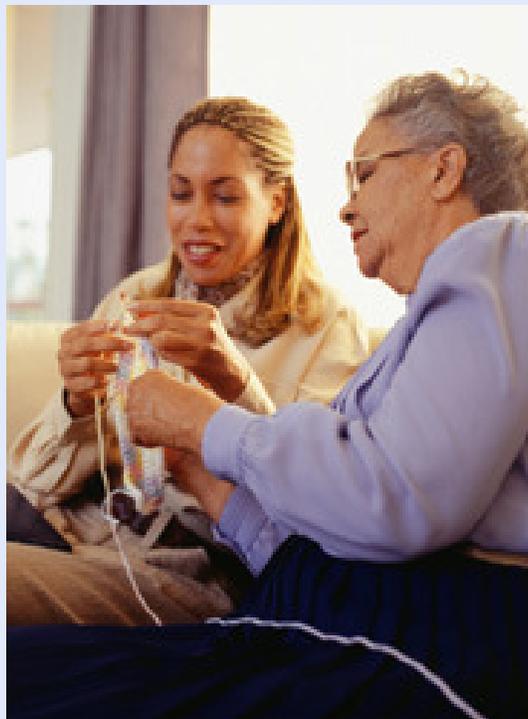




Ministry Module

Ministry Modules are intended for use with the Leader's Guide. Appendices and Resources referenced in modules can be found within the Guide.

Handy Helpers Ministry



This Mission Module is provided through a Partnership with Aging with Significance, of the Women's' Missionary Union of Virginia and the Virginia Baptist Union Board; and Caregiving Ministries, a division of FamilyCare America, Inc.





Ministry Module Handy Helpers

Purpose

The mission of the Handy Helpers Ministry Team is to assist those who need help with managing their homes and household affairs due to changing needs brought about by aging and/ or declining health through adaptations, minor repairs, grounds and garden care, budgeting, help with taxes, and other such needs.

Goals

- To enable members to remain in their homes longer by providing counsel and planning for needed adaptations and repairs

Objectives

- Listen to members to determine what they feel their needs are
- Assist them in prioritizing immediate needs
- Develop a long-range plan
- Determine resources available to meet the needs:
 - What the individual and/ or family can do
 - What friends or church members can do
 - What community resources are available

Parameters and Limitations

This module may involve fees or cost to the individual, depending on the service provided. Before beginning this ministry, the church should determine how to handle costs. If the individual is expected to pay part or all of the cost, a contract should be signed by both parties— the church and the recipient. The financial ability to pay for services should be considered in determining what help is given. The ability of family members to assist should be considered. However, this module can become an effective opportunity for ministry for those with skills such as carpentry, plumbing, electrical, landscaping and budgeting who have the time and desire to participate. It should be clearly understood that these volunteers will not attempt projects that require meeting city/ county codes unless they are licensed to do so. Aging, declining health, and disabilities should be determining factors for recipients of this ministry. Also, teams in this ministry should not duplicate services provided by the Department for Social Services or other agencies, but cooperate with them.



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SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR THIS MINISTRY

1. Survey the church for people who are able and willing to work with this ministry (see Appendix A).
2. Educate the church family as to what can and cannot be expected from this ministry.
3. Prepare a list of services to be provided. Understand that nothing can be forced on a person and all services require the recipient's approval. Having the recipient sign the written list will avoid confusion later when a family member comes for a visit and notices changes. Some suggestions for Handy Helpers Ministry services are:
 - Replace burned out light bulbs and check or install smoke detectors.
 - Rearrange and/ or discard furniture to make living areas safer and user-friendly.
 - Remove and discard or store area and scatter rugs to improve safety.
 - Arrange kitchen to make dishes, cooking utensils, food, etc. accessible.
 - Arrange clothing closets to make dressing easier.
 - Change doorknobs to lever types.
 - Increase widths of doorways to accommodate a wheelchair.
 - Build a wheelchair ramp to specifications.
 - Install grab bars in bathrooms.
 - Secure handrails on stairs.
 - Repair plumbing problems.
 - Perform light housekeeping.
 - Perform light yard work.
 - Offer assistance in such matters as preparing a household budget, writing and mailing checks for bills, tax preparation, organizing records



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4. Prepare a list of people to call as resources to meet specific needs. Include in the resource information whether these people are licensed or insured. Determine also whether their charges are reasonable and fair.
5. Provide training to volunteers.
6. Using the Handy Helpers Assessment Tool, determine members with needs.
7. Locate individuals who have interest and/ or skills to meet discovered needs.
8. Determine what services can be provided. Avoid taking on a project that requires more than your team can accomplish.
9. Determine from city or county officials if licensing or bonding is required.
10. Schedule regular meetings for volunteers to increase knowledge of aging issues and disease processes through in service training. Allow for opportunities to discuss and solve problems.
11. Periodically evaluate the ministry. (See Evaluation Tool, Administrative Guide.)

RESOURCES

- Department for Social Services emergency heating/air conditioning programs
- Local weatherization and home repair agencies
- Cooperative Extension System for budgeting
- Local property tax office for reduced rates for senior citizens and the disabled
- Cooperative Extension Services
- List of licensed, bonded workmen with excellent reputations for reasonable charges and dependability
- Habitat for Humanity (some affiliates provide renovations).
- World Changers
- Area church youth groups offering home repairs, yard work, housekeeping, etc



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HANDY HELPERS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Basic Information

Name:

Phone:

Address :

Directions to Home:

1. Circle your age group:

- a. under 60 b. 60-64 c. 65-69 d. 70-74 e. 75-80 f. 80-above

Living Arrangements and Household Needs

2. Check all choices which describe your current living arrangements:

I live in my home/apartment with my spouse

I live in my home/apartment alone

I live in my home/apartment with a relative

I live in my home/apartment with a friend

I own my home

I rent my home

I live in a retirement community

I live in an assisted- living setting

I live in a nursing home



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3. Circle all areas where you may need assistance

Gardening and landscaping

House cleaning and window washing

Minor Home Repairs

Hard to turn door knobs

Bathroom safety grab bar

Unsanitary conditions

Poor bathing facilities

Lack of, or broken stove, refrigerator, or freezer

Painting

Wheel chair ramp

Hand rails Smoke alarms

Fire hazards

Plumbing

No water or hot water

Electrical problems

Air conditioning/heating

Unsafe or poor lighting

Rearranging furniture, kitchen cabinets, or closets for easier access