



Helping Hands Ministry

Purpose

The purpose of the Helping Hands Ministry at Lifepointe Christian Church is to help meet some of the physical needs faced by members of the church. The Bible tells us that we should help members in need...

- Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? James 2:15-16

And it tells us that we need to encourage each other to work hard to meet their own needs...

- We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." 2 Thess. 3:9-10

The Helping Hands Ministry strives to help encourage those in our church who are in need of help. This program is intended for church "owners" or regular attenders. Non-members or non-regular attenders in need of support may be directed to local community mission programs that are supported by Lifepointe through our local mission funds or other community organizations that Lifepointe is familiar with.

Process

Generally the following steps should be followed in using the Helping Hands fund:

1. An Owner or regular Lifepointe church attender inquires about help.
2. The Owner/ attender with the need should first speak with his/her Lifegroup Leader to determine if their Lifegroup might be able to help the situation.
3. The Owner / attender should contact the Helping Hands Ministry Coach to confidentially discuss the need and situation.
4. The Ministry Coach for Helping Hands Ministry will call or meet with the Owner / attender in need to discuss the request for funds, pray for the situation in hand and make a determination as to whether funds can be disbursed. Situations requiring a disbursement of over \$500.00 to one recipient during any annual period will require approval by the Helping Hands Ministry Coach & staff oversight person.
5. The attached information sheet will need to be filled out in its entirety and returned the Helping Hands Coach, and the Owner must reach out to one of our Financial Coaches before any determination of funds disbursement can be made. You can contact one of our Financial Coaches directly, on our website, at <http://www.lifepointecc.com/form-financial-coaching/>
6. The Ministry Coach for the Helping Hands Ministry will follow-up to ensure that funds are disbursed to cover the approved needs and that the person in need is aware of the status of the disbursement. Generally, checks written will be given to the member in need (the member will then need to make sure that the checks get to the appropriate vendors).

Source of Funds

The funds for the Helping Hands Ministry come from a percentage of what is given to the church in tithes each month. Support provided by the program is limited to the funds available in the account.

General Guidelines

The Helping Hands Ministry should adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Church Membership (Ownership)** – recipients of the LPCC helping hands assistance should be active in the church (those who have attended the Next Steps Event Owner gathering and signed the Ownership covenant) who are regularly attending the church, serving in a ministry or have been coming to Lifepointe on a regular basis **or have signed up to attend an upcoming Next Steps Event.**
- **Lifegroups** – the role of the Lifegroup in pastoring the flock will be supported by the program. Recipients ideally should be in the care of a Lifegroup. **Recipients for additional assistance (more than one-time) must be in the care of a Lifegroup.** Please contact LPCC Journey Pastor- Chris Ruppe (chris@lifepointecc.com) to get current info on ongoing Lifegroups
- **One-time Assistance** – the program is targeted to providing one-time financial assistance to help the person/family in need get back on their feet. LPCC has partnered with R.O.C (renew our city) in Rock Hill SC. ROC will be the first place the Helping Hands Ministry Coach will direct you. ROC is almost always able to provide immediate assistance with food, rent and utility bills help.
- In exceptional situations, assistance can be provided by LPCC after the first occasion. Candidates for additional support must demonstrate that they are doing all they can independently for themselves (e.g.,
 - Agree to accept employment (of any kind) if unemployed. This is for emotional well being as well as financial. Generally, a recipient must be employed (at some level) to receive additional assistance.
 - Demonstrate that the individual or family is reducing personal expenses in an effort to improve their financial situation (e.g., terminate cable TV service). Candidates must be willing to sell personal assets to improve their financial situation if so warranted.
 - At the time a benevolence gift is determined, a recommendation for financial or other counseling may be made. Care will be taken to help the recipient follow through with counseling as needed.

- **Needs** - 'physical needs' will be considered such as food, shelter, clothing, and medicine but we must be open to direction by the Holy Spirit to help in other areas as we are led to do so. The program is intended to meet personal not business needs.
- **Independence** - checks for assistance must be written to vendors rather than to church members.
- **Documentation** - invoices from vendors will be needed to support all requests for assistance.
- **Accountability** – the program may request that an accountability partner be identified to help the candidate in efforts to get back on their feet.