

Compassionate Care Team

Purpose and Programs

Purpose

To strengthen the care in the Grace family for those who are going through difficult situations and long-term challenges.

- To provide learning opportunities for the Grace family regarding mental illness, depression and long-term illnesses.
- To develop a system to best communicate need in the Grace family for those going through these challenging times. (Connection Cards, e-mail, website)
- To assemble a list of volunteers who can meet various needs and a way to connect them with the needs shared.
- To find appropriate ways to share successes as we seek to be the Body of Christ to one another in this way.

Programs

1. **Blessings.** Seeking to meet the everyday and long-term needs of members of our Grace family as called upon by those that would like to bless others in this way.
2. **Challenges.** Seeking to match those persons who have endured the same challenge for connection and support.
3. **Grief Books Ministry.** When someone loses a loved one, our team pairs them up with another individual that meets with them at 3 weeks, 3 months, 6 months and 11 months to connect and to give them the next Grief Book in the series. The books are written by Stephen's Ministry.
4. **Special Needs Blessings Baskets.** Provide baskets semi-annually to families with children with special needs to encourage them and to remind them of Jesus' love and that they are not alone in their journey.
5. **New Babies Blessings Baskets.** Provide baskets to families with new babies 8 - 10 weeks after the delivery (or the week before they return back to work) to connect, provide them information about post-partum depression and to see if there are other needs the Compassionate Care Team can help meet.
6. **Card Ministry.** Send cards of encouragement to those that have lost a loved one on the anniversary date of their loss the first year after loss. Also send cards of encouragement to the Grace family as they face life's challenges.

Programs continued

7. **Comfort Cove.** Provide a room where children of all ages can come to recharge on Sunday mornings and youth group nights.
8. **Mini Books Display.** Provide four different mini books for the foyer display each quarter regarding issues of mental health and special needs.
9. **5th Sunday Seminars.** Provide an opportunity for awareness, education and ministry training in the area of special needs, depression, mental illness, etc during the Sunday school hour every 5th Sunday throughout the school year.
10. **Freezer Meals Ministry.** Will have 10-20 meals in the freezer at church for anyone in the Grace family to use whenever - sickness, busy week at work and no time to cook, single parents and others outside our church as well.
11. **Alcoholics Anonymous.** Providing a location and prayer support for a member of our Grace family to start and hold an AA group for the Ballard community at our church.

Programs in Process of Development

1. **Respite Care.** Provide Saturday morning activities for children with special needs to give their families some much-deserved respite time.
2. **Stephen's Ministry.** We have purchased the rights to this program and are in the process of asking people to become Stephen Leaders who will receive training and come back to the church to teach the Grace family how to become Stephen ministers.

To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the Unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ephesians 4:12-13