Van Dyke Church Care Ministries
Care Team Handbook

Mission: Van Dyke Care Ministries exists to turbo-charge the caring culture at Van Dyke Church.

Vision: We envision a day that people at Van Dyke are Intentionally caring for one another or being cared for, nobody’s idle.

Strategy: Simply offering Care Touches continually, creating a ripple of God’s amazing grace across our Van Dyke community & beyond.

- Care Teams
- Care Resources
- Support Groups, Workshops & Conversations
- Stories of Care

“So we cared for you.
Because we loved you so much,
We were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”
1 Thessalonians 2:8
The Heart of a Van Dyke Care Team Member

The heart of a Care Team Member beats strong. With it beats the Christ-filled spirit of service, generosity & compassion . . . and the health and well being of our Van Dyke Church community grows stronger.

When it comes to caring for one another, there are no little things . . . the accumulation of a lot of things over time isn’t little . . . it takes each of us to make a difference for all of us . . . none of us can do everything at once, but all of us can do something at once . . . one person can make a difference, and every person must try.

Just imagine, here at Van Dyke Church, if each of us concentrates on helping just one person, giving hope to one person, and that person in turn may give hope to somebody else, we will create a ripple of care that expands across the Van Dyke Church community and beyond.

Perhaps, this is what Jesus was thinking . . .
when the blind and lame came to Him at the temple and He healed them when He told Jarius, “Don’t be afraid, trust me, she’ll be alright.” She was when He spoke to the paralytic, “Get up, take your mat, go home.” He did when He put mud on the blind man’s eyes, he washed, then he could see when He healed the demon possessed man who was blind and mute when the woman touched the hem of His coat, & He told her go in peace when He spoke with an adulterer, He replaced guilt with grace when He touched the Woman at the Well, she got a taste of living water when He met Zacchaeus, went to his home, & said, “Salvation has come!” when He met in the dark of the night with Nicodemus to explain salvation When He reached out, touched a man with leprosy & said, “Be Clean”

His words, touches & presence are the power to transform individuals and create ripples that have the potential to transform communities. After creating ripples on one such occasion, the Pharisees asked His disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go, learn what this means. I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Jesus touches people with power that saves, heals, redeems, restores, breaths hope, & replaces guilt with grace. Often, it is messy, creating confrontation & questions. He touched anyway. Today, He’s counting on us as His hands & feet to keep the ripple going. Our hearts, filled with His spirit beat full of service, generosity & compassion. Together, we will create a ripple that will touch our Van Dyke Church Community & beyond. There are stories waiting to be told.
C.A.R.E. Teams
Join a Team. Stand Alert. You will to be contacted as needs come in.
Be prepared. Prayerfully enter people’s most vulnerable spaces.
To join a team & find out details: sleatherwood@vandyke.org.

Create: Care by creating in the comfort of your own home.
- Prayer Shawls:* knit & crochet small shawls/blankets
- Caring Quilters:* 2 causes - NICU & Van Dyke attendees in need
- Beads of Care:* bead bracelets of grace for hospital visits
For patterns & team meeting times: sleatherwood@vandyke.org.

Action: Bring hope by action for those in need, stand by until contacted.
- Caring Cards: send cards routinely to those in need
- Caring Cooks: make & take a meal to a family in need
- Care Links: from diagnosis to recovery link with 1 patient
- Care Visitation: hospital visitation – specific location
- Care Resources: assist in providing ongoing resources
- Crisis Care: trained & prepared to respond as needed
- Family Docu Map: assists families in systems of record keeping
- Funeral Care: serve as greeters, ushers, set up & tear down
- Manor Care: 4th Sunday Worship at Manor Care
- New Baby Care: visit new babies & moms during 1st week home
- Transporters: assist with transportation, background check required
- Toolmen: assist widows/widowers with home repairs
- Office Care: assist in the Care Office with a variety of tasks
- Workshops: assist at Marriage Workshops, Lunch & Learns
- Widow Care: adopt a widow to walk alongside monthly

Relational: Building Ongoing Relationships within specific niches
- Adoption Care: meet with birth mothers for a time
- Care Links LT: from diagnosis to recovery – long term visitation
- Care for Caregivers: tend to those who are caring for others
- Divorce Care: on call to walk this journey with others
- Elder Care: ongoing visitation to A.L.F. & home bound
- Loss of Loved One: walk side by side in ongoing bereavement
- Suicide Care: visitation, encouragement, walk alongside
- Tender Care: walking alongside someone in need of accountability
- Widow Care: adopt a widow to walk alongside monthly

Encourage: Extending God’s Grace as broken pieces are put back together
- Prayer: join a prayer team, take tags from Prayer Wall
- Support Groups: serve to support group based on need
- Healthy Staff Care: find ways to encourage all Van Dyke Staff routinely
- Gratitude Team: write cards to volunteers, labels & cards provided
Support Groups

Support Groups are a part of Care Ministry we desire to build. Join us in praying for leadership to emerge as well as attendees to commit. To find out details: sleatherwood@vandyke.org.

Currently, Grief Share is an active Support Group here at Van Dyke Church.

In addition, we partner with Life Connections by referring attendees to support groups under the leadership of Judy Weyand at Life Connections.

Workshops

In May we offer a Marriage Workshop.

In December we offer Night of Hope.

Care Ministry partners with Life Connections to offer Lunch & Learns. These are value adds to those in the “helps” vocation to come & hear from area experts on a variety of topics.

Continuing the Conversations & More

Following major sermon series here at Van Dyke Church, Care Ministry offers a follow up we call, “Continuing the Conversation.”

If you would like to volunteer in any of the above with registration, set-up, etc. email: sleatherwood@vandyke.org.

Care Resources Team

Join a team of resource collectors who research & assimilate information on a variety of topics & needs for our Van Dyke Church community. For current resources, check out www.vandyke.org - search care resources.

Stories of Care

Care Team Members & People They Care for Telling Stories about how God Shows Up & Shows Off!

Submit stories regularly for use on our website, in publications & more to Sherrie at sleatherwood@vandyke.org
“There is a light in this world, a healing spirit more powerful than any darkness we may encounter. We sometimes lose sight of this force when there is suffering, too much pain. Then suddenly, the spirit will emerge through the lives of ordinary people who hear a call and answer in extraordinary ways.”
-Mother Theresa

“The people who make a difference are not the ones with the credentials, but the ones with the concern.”
-Max Lucado

“When the term “community” is used the notion that typically comes to mind is a place in which people know and care for one another – the kind of place in which people do not merely ask, “How are you?” as a formality, but care about the answer.”
-Amita Etzioni

“Live your life so that your children can tell their children that you not only stood for something wonderful, you acted on it.”
- Dan Zandra

“To the world you may just be one person, But to one person you may just be the world.”
-Josephine Billings

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, Because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; Who at best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly . . . . “
-Theodore Roosevelt
Care Ministries seeks to support the ongoing Mission, Values & Vision of Van Dyke Church

Van Dyke Church: Unleashing Hope in Tampa Bay

Mission:
We connect people to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Values:
• **Daring Faith:** We are innovative risk-takers, praying and acting boldly, expecting God to create supernatural breakthroughs.

• **Fearless Service:** We are action-oriented servants, pushing through all obstacles to astonish people with the love of Jesus.

• **Extravagant Generosity:** We are adventurous givers, bravely sharing our resources to punch holes in the darkness with the light of Jesus.

• **Passionate Excellence:** We relentlessly give our very best to honor God and inspire people.

• **Unshakeable Focus on the Future:** We make outrageous investments in the next generation, raising spiritually heroic children and youth.

Vision:
1. We see an unprecedented outpouring of prayer for an outbreak of revival in Tampa Bay.

2. We see every member thriving in a ministry on campus and a mission off campus.

3. We see a flood of compassion for At-Risk-Kids and the Special Needs Community, overwhelming them with the powerful grace of Jesus.

4. We see struggling marriages drawn to Van Dyke Church as a magnet of hope and healing in Tampa Bay.

5. We see irresistible facilities for the next generation, serving the explosive growth in Children and Student Ministries.

6. We see a Courageous Leadership Center, challenging and training lay and clergy leaders to become world-changers.

7. We see a wave of worshippers, compelling us to make room in creative ways on this campus and beyond.
Care Team Member Application

Submit this application via email: sleatherwood@vandyke.org, or

Van Dyke Church 17030 Lakeshore Road, Lutz, Fl 33558 Attn: Sherrie Leatherwood

Date: ____________________

Name: _________________________________

Contact Number: __________________________ Email: _________________________________

Mailing Address: ________________________________

Simply circle the Care Team you are interested in:

Create:
- Prayer Shawls:* knit & crochet small shawls/blankets
- Caring Quilters:* 2 causes - NICU & Van Dyke attendees in need
- Beads of Care:* bead bracelets of grace for hospital visits

Action:
- Caring Cards: send cards routinely to those in need
- Caring Cooks: make & take a meal to a family in need
- Care Links: from diagnosis to recovery link with 1 patient
- Care Visitation: hospital visitation – specific location
- Care Resources: assist in providing ongoing resources
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- Manor Care: 4th Sunday Worship at Manor Care
- New Baby Care: visit new babies & moms during 1st week home
- Transporters: assist with transportation, background check required
- Toolmen: assist widows/widowers with home repairs
- Office Care: assist in the Care Office with data entry
- Workshops: assist at Marriage Workshops, Lunch & Learns
- Widow Care: meet at 8:00 a.m. to serve widows with home repairs

Relational:
- Adoption Care: meet with birth mothers for a time
- Care Links LT: from diagnosis to recovery – long term visitation
- Care for Caregivers: tend to those who are caring for others
- Divorce Care: on call to walk this journey with others
- Elder Care: ongoing visitation to A.L.F. & home bound
- Loss of Loved One: walk side by side in ongoing bereavement
- Suicide Care: visitation, encouragement, walk alongside
- Tender Care: walking alongside someone in need
- Widow Care: a couple will partner with a recent widow for a year

Encourage:
- Prayer Wall: commit to Prayer Wall, taking tags & praying
- Support Groups: serve to support group based on need
- Healthy Staff Care: find ways to encourage all Van Dyke Staff routinely
- Gratitude Team: write cards to vdc volunteers, labels & cards provided

Care Resources: providing, writing, editing, evaluating

Care Support Groups: lead/co-lead a support group
Your Story:
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Your Interests, Passions, Gifts:
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Why do you desire to serve in Care Ministries?
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How can we best Care for the people here at Van Dyke Church?
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What makes you, personally, experience care?
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Submit these 2 pages via email: sleatherwood@vandyke.org, or
Van Dyke Church  17030 Lakeshore Road, Lutz, Fl 33558  Attn: Sherrie Leatherwood