

## Neighborhood Assistance Committee

**Purpose:** To provide for a neighborhood committee to organize assistance to families in need due to unexpected hardships.

**Committee:** A small committee of volunteers to be contacted for arranging meals, doing errands and the like when a neighbor needs help.

**Process:** A homeowner becomes aware of a hardship someone else is experiencing or is in a situation themselves where they need help. The homeowner contacts the committee chair or co-chairperson.

The committee develops a plan of support with the recipient. Then the committee calls volunteers with specific requests and coordinates the response.

Example: Sue finds out she needs surgery and will be on bedrest for 4 days. She contacts a chairperson and they discuss what would be helpful. The chair then leads the effort to find volunteers to meet her needs, possibly meals and help with kids in the afternoon after school. A list is made with names, phone numbers and what type of assistance is being offered and is given to Sue. Sue's contact info is passed onto the volunteers who then complete the plan of action in which they have committed.

**Volunteers:** Volunteers will be sought to become part of the support group. The goal is to have at least 20 volunteers so that there are plenty of people to help with different situations.

Volunteers will be advised that certain help may be more suitable for them than other types of help and we would encourage all volunteers to say yes or no depending on their own situations.

Example: In the example with Sue above, some people may want to make a meal, but not be available to help with kids. There may be a volunteer who can't help at all at this particular time, however, when another neighbor needed a ride to a doctor appt. this volunteer is happy to help.

**Committee Co-chairs:**

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