



## BUILDING TRUST AND SHARING OUR FAITH

### PURPOSE...

The purpose of having multihousing ministries is to develop and conduct on-site activities that will give Christians opportunities to share their faith in settings other than church buildings.

### THE NEED...

On the average, only four percent of multihousing residents go to any church on a regular basis. Some of the reasons are:

- Lack of transportation
- Uncomfortable in a church building
- Don't want to get up and get dressed
- Feel they don't have suitable clothing
- They want to hide in their "protected" environment

### OUR MISSION...

If they won't come to the "church" then we need to take the "church" to them. Our mission as Christians is to tell the "good news" to whomever will listen wherever we find them. We must care enough to make a friend, build trust and then share our faith.

### HOW DOES APARTMENT MANAGEMENT FEEL?

Management is concerned about their environment. They are concerned about:

- Keeping their housing rented
- Having a stabilized occupancy
- Care of the property
- Complaints from residents
- Knowing what is going on
- Preventing crimes in their community
- Being in control of their housing community

### SUGGESTED MULTIHOUSING MINISTRY ACTIVITIES...

- Bible Study for all ages
- Sunday School/Worship Services
- Children's Bible Clubs
- Vacation Bible School (summer)
- After-School Children's Church

- Tutoring
- Basic First Aid
- Money Management
- Parenting Classes
- Arts and Crafts
- Aerobics/Exercise Class
- Counseling Services
- Security Seminar
- Other programs based on needs of residents
- Furniture, Good, Clothing Needs – as requested or recommended by management (many apartment tenants “skip the rent” and leave good furniture behind. It is the responsibility of the management to get rid of that furniture. Ministry can repurpose the furniture for needy people)

#### ADVANTAGES OF MULTINGHOUSING MINISTRY...

- You don't have to go far to gather prospects
- You are taking the gospel to the residents rather than waiting for them to come to you
- The transportation problem is solved because almost everyone can walk
- You don't have heritage to overcome
- You don't have any church building problems because you don't have any church buildings
- You solve the communication problems because you discuss everything in the language of the people
- You have solved the community identity issue
- You plan church events for the residents' schedule
- The ministry is customized to meet the needs of the people

#### DOING OUR PART...

Through volunteer services, we can be a positive influence in the lives of management and residents. We are going outside the walls of our churches to minister in Jesus' name to those persons who may never come to our church buildings. We are actively demonstrating our Christianity to the world!

#### A MINISTRY

#### HOW TO BEGIN AND CONTINUE MULITHOUSING MINISTRIES

1. Get names, phone numbers and addresses of church members who want to minister to multihousing residents. Determine the times they are available to serve.
2. Select the apartment and /or mobile home community or subdivision you want to help.

3. Contact the manager – by letter or in person.
4. Let the manager know that you want to help management and the residents through volunteer services.
5. Distribute Resident Interest Survey sheets to all residents. This sheet has a list of activities and programs you can offer them.
6. Children are most open to activities, usually. Begin a one-day-a-week After School Program. In the summer, begin with a one week Vacation Bible School.
7. Offer activities and/or programs as learned from interest surveys given to residents.
8. Meet the residents by one on one contact.
9. Work with management to find specific needs. Fulfill needs as they are found.
10. Inform the church of the ministries through announcements in a newsletter, bulletin board, announcements in church services and Sunday School, and by word of mouth.

Compassion Ministry of the Louisiana Baptist Convention...

Will assist your church in starting multihousing ministries by helping you to:

- Develop a strategy for multihousing ministry
- Identify multihousing opportunities
- Identify leaders and volunteers for ministry
- Train and mobilize volunteers
- Determine the needs in multihousing communities
- Engage in multihousing work