

Suggested Benevolence Guidelines to be given to those asking for help.

Following example paragraph provided by Fellowship Bible Church, Tukwila, reprinted with their permission, you can alter or replace with your own text.

In the interest of helping others, we do have a small "needy fund". God's people have lovingly donated money to this fund and we view it as God's money not ours. Therefore, it is not to be given away unwisely, but with loving discernment.

Here are some important principles that are essential for you to understand. These policies are not intended to burden you - but to simply be a responsible way for us to discern needs and use God's money wisely.

We may help you, and this is how we will do it.

- We will encourage you to walk with God. That's the main reason we exist. We would love to help you come to know Jesus as your Savior and come to walk in God's way.
- We will treat you with dignity and respect. Therefore, abuse or aggressive language or actions will never be tolerated.
- We will never give cash.
- We do not say "yes" without prayerful evaluation that includes asking you to fill out a request form and giving us permission to verify the information you have stated. The process takes at least 48 hours.
- Our intention is to help with what we deem as needs not wants or desires. That means we don't pay bills we deem are unnecessary.
- We will ask for you to take primary responsibility for your needs, and then turn to your family, **BEFORE** we involve church funds.
- Because of limited financial funds and the great need in our community, we will not help a family more than once a year, and we will probably only help you once.
- God has placed our (name of church) in THIS community. There are churches in other communities who minister to those in their area. Therefore, unless you are a member of this congregation, we only help those people in our zip codes (listed here) in the area of (names of communities). Photo ID will be required to process your request.
- We will check with other area churches to see if they have helped you. If we choose to help you we will notify other churches of the help given. Your request will be shared with G.G.I.A. (God's Grace In Action) and will be entered into their database.

We don't want to see you continue in a bad financial situation. Therefore we want you to know:

- Other agencies and help programs from which you have sought help
- Your job and family situation
- Why you chose to seek help from this church
- How you met this need last month and how do you plan to meet it next month

If you wish to continue with this process please:

1. Sign below to indicate you accept the policies stated above
2. Fill out the Client Assistance Application Form
3. Sign the Release of Information Form

(Other needed application forms provided on the GGIA Website-Forms)

We will begin seeking ways to help you meet your needs.

This is not a contract for assistance. I understand the terms stated above under which I may seek assistance from (church name).

Signature of Candidate for Assistance

Signature of Spouse (if applicable)

Date: _____