

# Wednesday Community Fellowship

## Volunteer Handbook



Grace Community Church

*Making disciples who live from the gospel, crossing ethnic and  
economic lines.*

***Thank you for your interest in being a part of the Wednesday Community Fellowship (WCF) at Grace Community Church!***

***Our mission at Grace Community Church is to make disciples living from the gospel while crossing ethnic and economic lines.***

***On Wednesday nights we provide a community meal for anyone who would like to come. Many of our guests are food insecure and are experiencing homelessness. Our meal provides a time of fellowship, an opportunity to worship and a message of hope.***

## WHY VOLUNTEER?

All people are image-bearers of God, our Creator. Our goal is to build relationships and deliver messages that help people see themselves as image-bearers.

A person experiences **material poverty** when they lack adequate material resources such as food, clothing and shelter. Material poverty is one of the possible symptoms of relational poverty.

A person experiences **relational poverty** when they are unable to enjoy a proper relationship with God, their self, other people and the rest of creation.

Restoring relational poverty helps restore material poverty long-term. As volunteers, we strive to restore relational poverty through fellowship and prayer.

Our prayer for relationships between volunteers and guests... "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God." (Romans 15:5-7)

We trust that this witness of reconciliation across economic lines will result in many more women and men worshipping around the throne of God, celebrating His Kingdom and His reign (Revelation 7:9-10).

## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

There are individual, systemic and spiritual roots of material poverty. Our job is not to alleviate poverty but to be ambassadors of Jesus Christ as He reconciles all things in heaven and earth. (Colossians 1:15-20, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) We ask that volunteers educate themselves in order to build healthy relationships.

Suggested reading:

***When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert**

***Helping Without Hurting in Church Benevolence: A Practical Guide to Walking with Low-income People* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert**

There is intersectionality between ethnicity and economics in our community. We suggest using this devotional during your quiet time or studying it together in your Bible study/ministry group:

***Multiethnic Conversations: An Eight-Week Journey Toward Unity in Your Church* by Mark DeYmaz and Oneya Fennell Okuwobi**

## HOW CAN I HELP?

Most people have visited other agencies such as Greensboro Urban Ministries or the Interactive Resource Center, before arriving to Grace. They may already have case workers that are helping to secure housing and other needs.

You can help by building relationships with our dinner guests. Knowing that someone cares can help brighten someone's day. Remember names of regular guests. Many guests don't often receive hugs or human touch in their daily lives. Consider placing a hand on someone's shoulder as you talk with them or pray for them.

You can offer a listening ear and a word of prayer. Be clear and honest about what you can and cannot provide.

"I'm sorry we do not have any financial assistance at this time. May I pray with you?"

"I'm sorry, we do not have any bus passes."

Prayer **is** help. Do not discount the power of prayer!

Grace Community Church staff and the WCF discipleship team are aware of many needs. We do our best to help with benevolence when we are able, according to church policy.

## **WHAT SHOULD I SAY?**

As ambassadors for Christ, we treat everyone with dignity and respect. We are all equals and image-bearers of God. Smile and introduce yourself. Offer a polite compliment. Begin a friendly conversation and don't forget to talk about yourself as well.

### **Conversation starters**

How is your day going?

What's your favorite part of today's meal?

Are you from around here? Where is home for you?

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Who had the biggest impact on you growing up?

Did you have a pet when you were a child?

What inspires you the most?

Are there any kinds of recreation you enjoy but don't do very often?

What's a favorite job you've had? What did you like about it?

What is your favorite type of music? Do you sing or play instruments?

What's your favorite season of the year? Why?

Do you have a favorite sports team? Player?

What is the one thing you would love to experience in your lifetime?

How can I pray for you today?

### **Conversation wrap-up**

Thank you for sharing with me. May I pray with you?

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

I'm so glad you had dinner with us tonight.

It was great talking with you.

I look forward to talking with you again.

## **Here are some general guidelines to assist you while serving at WCF.**

1. Our mission at Grace Community Church is to make disciples, living from the gospel while crossing ethnic and economic lines. WCF is a disciple-making opportunity.
2. Please notify your group ahead of time to wear comfortable shoes and dress modestly.
3. Please ask your group to silence their cell phones. We don't want calls or texting to be a distraction to what the Lord wants people to hear, see, and experience while they are at church.
4. There are lots of different jobs to do on Wednesday, so just show up and we will plug you in!
5. Volunteers should report to the set of doors on the back side of the church labeled "Entrance C" and knock loudly. It may take a minute, but someone will let you in. Please do not knock on the other doors.
6. Volunteers must wear a nametag with first name only.
7. Most volunteers arrive between 5:15 and 5:30 pm.
8. Individuals and groups smaller than 5 can serve on any Wednesday night. For larger groups, please email [volunteer@gracegso.org](mailto:volunteer@gracegso.org) to schedule your group. We would like to know when you are coming so that you have the best possible experience.
9. We do not allow children under the age of 13 to serve in the dining room area.

## **Our schedule is as follows:**

- 5:00 Ice cups and food prep stations are set up.
- 5:30 All volunteers gather in the sanctuary for announcements and group prayer.
- 5:45 Sanctuary doors open for our guests. A short message is given, preceded by worship.
- 6:00 "To-go" meals are given out to those who choose not to stay.
- 6:15 Food is served (plating takes place from 5:40-6:00 with food served after the speaker finishes).
- 6:45 Guests finish eating. Volunteers begin clean-up.
- 7:00 Clean-up is normally finished.

## **VOLUNTEER DUTIES**

- 15-20 volunteers to plate the food in the hallway. It is best to have a leader who watches portions, troubleshoots, and keeps the volunteers fairly quiet while they are plating the food. All volunteers handling food must wear plastic gloves.
- 1 or 2 volunteers at each set of double doors to serve as ushers inside the sanctuary. They will be posted there during the entire evening to help keep our guests from coming through the doors and into the back hallway where the food is being plated. The usher may also help guests who have questions or need something.
- 1 volunteer to serve as a bathroom monitor. An arrow sign is placed outside room 103 directing guests to the bathroom. We use the women's bathroom for both men and women. The bathroom monitor needs to sit or stand at the corner near the bathroom and make sure that no men go into the bathroom when there are women using it and vice versa. This is a great time to talk to folks if they have to wait.
- Bike check: We have guests who ride their bikes, or come with large bags of their belongings, and so we offer a "coat check" type system where we will store their bike or their belongings in the stairwell. We tag the belongings with a number, give them the corresponding number, and store the items over the course of the meal. They may bring back the number and pick up their items at the end of the evening.
- 1 volunteer to pass out to-go meals and count number of to-go meals given out with the counter.
- We need volunteers to greet our guests and give cups of ice and bottled water.
- We need volunteers to take the food into the sanctuary. All servers must wear plastic gloves.
- Volunteers must wash all the trays, pitchers, and any other serving pieces that can be reused.
- All the prayer baskets are gathered and someone goes through each basket, pulls out the ones that have been written on, and stacks them



together. The office staff will scan and post to the prayer team. The baskets need to be replenished to ensure that there are at least 4-6 prayer slips in each basket and 1 -2 pencils.

- All unused utensil packets and hand wipes are collected.
- The tables are wiped off and sprayed with a sanitizer spray. They are stacked 6 to a cart with the legs all going in the same direction.
- All the chairs are stacked on the carts.
- All the trash cans should be emptied in the dumpster in the back parking lot and the yellow cans should be returned to Room 105.
- There is a basket for dirty towels in room 105. All used towels should be squeezed out of water and left in the basket. The WCF Coordinator (or a volunteer) takes the towels home and washes them and brings them back the following week.
- All items that can be recycled are taken to the recycling bins behind the Eagle's Nest.

Thank you and we look forward to serving Christ with you!

Jennifer Holloway, Staff Deacon of Shepherding Ministries  
[jholloway@gracegso.org](mailto:jholloway@gracegso.org)  
336-455-9334

Mack Knotts, WCF Coordinator  
[mackmknotts@gmail.com](mailto:mackmknotts@gmail.com)  
336-676-7262

## **LOCAL RESOURCES**

Mental Health Emergency /Suicide Prevention **988**

Medical Emergency number **911**

**Greater Guilford County Food Finder App-** <https://findfood.ghpfa.org/>

**Greensboro Urban Ministry GUM** – food pantry, meals, shelters, emergency financial assistance

305 W. GATE CITY BLVD. GREENSBORO, NC 27406

336.271.5959

**Interactive Resource Center (IRC)** – showers, laundry, mail, classes, white flag warming center (in the winter months)

407 East Washington Street, Greensboro NC (336) 332-0824

**Salvation Army** - resource center

1311 S Eugene St Greensboro, NC (336) 273-5572

**Affordable Housing Website** <https://www.myhousingsearch.com/>

**Daymark Recovery** (336) 633-7000 (does not require insurance)

110 West Walker Avenue

Asheboro, NC 27203

**24-Hour Crisis Hotline**

866.275.9552

**Suicide Prevention Lifeline**

800.273.8255

**North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness**

<https://www.ncceh.org/bos/ehv/>

**NC FIT (Formally Incarcerated Transition Program)** 336 840-9621

**Triad Adult & Pediatric Medicine** (336)355-9921 (sliding fee scale)