

Love

CEDAR VALLEY



April 21, 2012

www.lovecedarvalley.com

The mission:

A day to partner with area churches to extend the love of Christ in real and practical ways in order that our community would take a step in being reconciled to God and one another.

The vision:

- **Churches uniting to pray, serve, and worship together.**
- **Cedar Valley neighbors being touched through the kindness and service of the Church reaching out in Christ's love.**
- **Participating churches building relationships and striving for unity year round.**
- **Ongoing servant evangelism happening within the local church context.**

How to involve your church...

Packet Purpose

The purpose of this packet is to provide pastors and church leaders with helpful suggestions regarding their involvement in Love Cedar Valley.

Steps to Church Involvement

Over the next four weeks, before the next meeting on February 27, 2011:

1. Pray. Pray over our community. Pray for unity among believers. Pray that Jesus would help His Church pray, serve, and worship together. Pray about your church's involvement in LCV.
 2. With your church leadership's blessing, build a LCV planning team from your congregation. *See the included hand pages in this packet of possible descriptions for a team.
 3. Identify a Love Cedar Valley coordinator for your congregation. Email or phone this person's name and contact information to Laura Hoy at laura@lovecedarvalley.com or 269-7534.
 4. As you build a team, please send your prayer coordinator's contact information to Celeste Bembry at celeste.bembry@uni.edu or call 213-864-5088.
 5. Begin to cast the vision in your congregation for Love Cedar Valley.
 6. Meet and begin to consider your church's plan for service projects and kindness outreaches (see pages in this packet for explanation and ideas) on April 21, 2012.
- Send your church's team to the next meeting on **Monday February 27, from 7-8 p.m. at Harvest Vineyard, Waterloo (715 E. 4th St).**

Love Cedar Valley Church Planning Team

Role descriptions

Church coordinator:

- This person loves and follows Jesus, has desire for unity of the Body and for impacting our community with the love of Christ, and can help carry the mission and vision of Love Cedar Valley into their congregation.
- This person will attempt to attend the three LCV planning meetings (monthly) for participating churches.
- The coordinator will work to build a team at his/her church that will cover the other roles listed on this sheet.
- This person will be the contact and communication link between the Love Cedar Valley core team, their church team, and the leadership of their church.
- This person will support his/her team in the following: prayer, building a timeline for promotion, making decisions regarding service project and kindness outreaches, and facilitating a participation process at their church.
- The coordinator encourages and supports the church team and helps to ensure that the planning process is moving along smoothly.

Prayer coordinator:

- This person loves and follows Jesus, has a heart for unity and for reaching out into our community with the love of Christ, and will engage people into praying for our community, for unity, for Christ's Church, and for Love Cedar Valley.
- This person will be connected with LCV's prayer coordinator to help make prayer a foundational priority of Love Cedar Valley.
- This person will faithfully pray and lead others in their congregation to pray for unity in the Body of Christ, to pray for a transformed community in Christ, to pray that God will be glorified and hearts will be grown in love through Love Cedar Valley.

Projects/outreaches coordinator:

(might choose one coordinator for service projects, one coordinator for full kindness outreaches, and one coordinator for walk-up outreaches)

- This person loves and follows Jesus, has a desire for unity and for reaching out in Christ's love to our community, and will also catch and carry the vision of Love Cedar Valley into their congregation.
- This person is responsible for facilitating the decisions and coordination of service projects and kindness outreaches (full and walk-up) for Love Cedar Valley.
- This person may sit down with a mission team or brainstorming team to discuss what the church might feel led to do as a part of Love Cedar Valley. See the notes and ideas in the packet under the headings **Service Projects** and **Kindness Outreaches**. This should help to get the ideas flowing!
- There will be an opportunity at the February meeting to get coaching on outreaches, training leaders, choosing locations, getting supplies, etc...
- This person will oversee the individual leaders of outreaches and service projects...supporting, training, encouraging them in what they'll need in order to lead the specific outreaches and service projects.

Publicity/promotion coordinator:

- This person loves and follows Jesus, has a desire for unity and for reaching out in Christ's love to our community, and will also catch and carry the vision of Love Cedar Valley into their congregation.
- This person works with the team and the leadership of the church to discuss and implement a promotional plan for the congregation that may include verbal and bulletin announcements, a

special information table or bulletin board, promotional video, opportunities to talk to small groups and ministries at the church about Love Cedar Valley, website and newsletter information, etc.

Administrative assistant:

- This person loves and follows Jesus, has a desire for unity and for reaching out in Christ's love to our community, and will also catch and carry the vision of Love Cedar Valley into their congregation.
- The coordinator may choose to recruit an administrative assistant that would help to buy and gather supplies for the outreaches and service projects.
- This person could also help keep track of people in the congregation who are planning to participate in Love Cedar Valley and who are signing up before the event to do a church-specific service project with your church.
- This person would be responsible for t-shirts and the kindness card orders for participants.

Planning your church's service projects and kindness outreaches

Your church can partner in Love Cedar Valley by:

1. Coordinating church-specific service projects for April 21.
2. Coordinating kindness outreaches (full and walk-up), many of which will take place between 12:00-1:30 p.m. on April 21.

Please see the Church Partnering Covenant and attached forms. You may fill those out and turn in at the Feb. 27 or Mar. 26 meetings. Or you may mail them to Laura Hoy, 3900 Orchard Hill Dr., Cedar Falls, IA, 50613. Don't forget to email Amy Williams with all of your outreach/project information before you turn in the forms. Her email is awilliams3538@yahoo.com. (You can always add more service projects and kindness outreaches even after you fill in the forms.)

1. Service Projects

Service projects are pre-planned projects in which people within your congregation can serve in the community on April 21. These projects may likely go beyond the 1½ hour kindness outreaches that will happen between 12:00-1:30.

Here are a few examples of past LCV service projects:

- One group painted a wheelchair ramp, porch, and fixed gutters for a bachelor with a disability.
- One church served at their "partner in education" school, Lou Henry.
- One church had a group that served at Alternatives Crisis Pregnancy Center for the day.
- One group served at ASPIRE therapeutic horse riding program.

Your church might plan a project in your church's neighborhood or at a school or an organization in which you have an existing relationship, or you can use the following ideas to help you plan:

- The **Cedar Valley Volunteer Center** (www.vccv.org) connects volunteers with member agencies in our community. Jean Seeland is the volunteer coordinator of CVVC and is willing to assist your church in finding a service project. There are 56 member agencies such as Exceptional Persons, Inc., Hartman Reserve Nature Center, Cedar Valley Hospice, and Jean will work to connect you with an agency and its needs. Jean is working to set up family friendly projects with agencies so that children can serve alongside their parents on Love Cedar Valley Day. **Please call or email Jean at Jean_Seeland@vccv.org or call her at 272-2087.**
- You might consider calling the principal of a school near your church and ask if there is a way your church can serve the school. There might be some other agency/organization/business or resident in your church's neighborhood whom you can serve that day.
- You may have families, small groups, or Bible study groups who come up with their own ideas of service projects. A few years ago, one small group did yard work and home repairs for a family friend whose husband/dad was serving overseas in the military.
- Other ideas: yard work, home repair, landscaping, painting, organizing a party or game day for a group of children, etc.

We are also encouraging some mixed-church service projects this year. We'd like to raise the value of the Body of Christ coming together across churches, denominations, and race to serve together side by side. We encourage your church to invite another church to do a project together in the community this year!

2. Kindness Outreaches

These are acts of kindness extended out into our community, many of which (but not all) take place within a 1 ½ hour “kindness explosion” on the day of Love Cedar Valley.

Here are some examples from past kindness outreaches (for a full list go to www.lovecedarvalley.com and click on the list of outreaches):

- Bottled water giveaways at intersections and various locations.
- Hot dog, snacks, and lunch giveaways at various locations.
- Some 5,000 carnations were handed out at multiple locations.
- Snack baskets were delivered to fire stations, police station, veterinary clinics, etc..
- Visits to nursing homes.
- One church does a free car wash each year.
- Toilet cleaning and window washing at local businesses.
- Slices of pie were delivered to staff and caregivers at many area nursing homes.

Your church can go about planning kindness outreaches by:

1. Planning at least one or two **walk-up outreaches.**

Since we announce to people around the community to come join the day of Love Cedar Valley even if their church didn't participate, we need about 25 walk-up outreach opportunities the day of April 21 at Five Sullivan. **If your church** could plan one or two of these walk-up kindness outreaches with a leader only, that would be great! Recruit only a leader (or a couple or family) to lead an outreach. Plan what to do and where to do it. Send your leader to Five Sullivan on April 21, at 10 a.m. with a sign, supplies, and location determined. Walk-in's to the event can sign up during the gathering time that morning of Love Cedar Valley to go on the outreach with this leader during the “kindness explosion”(usually 6-8 people per outreach). **This allows for people from different churches to mix and serve side by side together during Love Cedar Valley! And it allows for people to come participate and serve without prior planning. Glenda Husome is the leader of walk-up outreaches. She will work with your leaders to help them successfully lead a kindness outreach. Glenda's information is glenda@fccouncil.net or 319-939-1592.**

2. Planning **full kindness outreaches.**

There may be small groups or families and friends within your congregation that wish to do a kindness outreach filled by just their group. These groups need to plan what it is they'd like give away or do, and where they'd like to go in the community that day. You'll report these outreaches as “full outreaches” and report where the group will be going, what they'll be doing, and if they'll be doing it during the 12-1:30 p.m. kindness explosion or during a different time frame. The ideas for serving and giving are endless!

**** Some service projects and kindness outreaches stretch longer on either side of the 12:00-1:30 p.m. “kindness explosion” time frame. We acknowledge this but also want to encourage groups to strongly consider finishing their project/outreach of the day by 1:30 p.m. in order to join the closing worship at Five Sullivan from 1:45-2:30 p.m. This time together has been a powerful experience as we join as one heart to worship Jesus Christ and celebrate as a unified body of believers.**

Statement of Faith

For the purpose of unity in Christ, partnering churches agree on the following fundamentals of the Christian faith:

- 1. The infallibility of Scripture**
- 2. The deity of Christ**
- 3. The Virgin Birth and miracles of Christ**
- 4. Christ's substitutionary death and atonement**
- 5. Christ's physical resurrection and eventual return**

Our Key Values

1. Love Cedar Valley is based on the generosity of God spilling out of our lives, and out of our churches into the lives of the people in our communities. The method we're using is called "servant evangelism" which is offering people free gifts or services to show God's love in a practical way - no strings attached!
2. Love Cedar Valley is based on the belief/assumption that church unity and cooperation is central in reaching our communities for Jesus. For this reason we ask that this outreach express the desire of a number of churches and denominations in the community and not just one or two.
3. Love Cedar Valley is based on the two commandments of Jesus - to love God with everything, and to love our neighbor. The kindness explosion is our expression of the second one, and a worship celebration is our expression of the first. These two work very well together!
4. Love Cedar Valley is based on the belief/assumption that experiencing the kindness of God is a key step in people moving towards repentance. For this reason we do not want to attach other messages, tracts, or church distinctives beyond that for this event. Having your church's name, phone number, website, etc. on the back of the kindness card can provide a helpful link for those wishing to take "a next step".
5. Love Cedar Valley expresses kindness to people by giving people goods or services for free. Why? To express to them the free love of the Father. For this reason we do not receive donations from those we've served.
6. Love Cedar Valley is based on the belief/assumption that showing love needs to cost us something. Therefore we do not solicit money from people or businesses to offset our costs, or try to get goods or services for free. We say this, because often our first reaction is to see what we can get donated to us, so that our outreach won't cost as much. It needs to cost us something! Having said that, businesses may donate some items or give them to us for a cheaper price, but with no expectation of advertising for them. We suggest you start from this point - that all costs for the outreaches be born by the participating churches and/or members within those churches - and see what happens after that.
7. Love Cedar Valley is done in the name of Jesus. We are doing this because of the kindness of God expressed through his son, Jesus. Although we make the use of products and donations toward this purpose, we desire to make the name of Jesus famous, not advertise or build up corporations or local businesses. For this reason we want to avoid the type of underwriting that many businesses provide if there is an expectation of exposure or promotion as a return benefit.

**Love Cedar Valley
Saturday, April 21, 2012**

***10:00-10:45 a.m. Kindness Outreach leader prayer and training**

***10:45-11:30 p.m. Walk-ins sign up for kindness outreaches**

***11:30-Noon Welcome and Opening Worship**

12:00-1:30 p.m. Kindness Outreach Explosion

***1:45 p.m. Return and refreshments**

***1:45-2:30 p.m. Closing Worship**

***Five Sullivan Brothers, Waterloo**

Next planning meeting.....

Monday, February 27, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Harvest Vineyard Church, Waterloo

715 E. 4th St.

Send your church's Love Cedar Valley Team!

At the Feb. 27 Meeting, you will receive:

A promo packet with posters, dvd, window clings....details about how to order t-shirts and kindness cards....service project opportunities....coaching, if needed, on how to plan and lead a kindness outreach...how to register people from your church...there will also be an opportunity to pray for our community and for unity in the body of Christ.

Mark your calendar: Monday, March 26, will be the 3rd planning meeting.

6:00-7:30 p.m. at Harvest Vineyard

It's a potluck...(Please bring a side dish/dessert to share). We'll eat a meal together, wrap up planning details, and spend time together in praise and prayer.

Love Cedar Valley 2012 Core Team

Chassidi Martin	shout.ministries@yahoo.com	287-5711	Harvest Vineyard
Laura Hoy	lhoy@orchardhillchurch.org	269-7534	Orchard Hill Church
Reggie Hovenga	rhovenga@heartlandvineyard.org	290-4561	Heartland Vineyard
Judy Marshall	judyandgeorge@mchsi.com	287-5711	Harvest Vineyard
Glenda Husome	Glenda@fccouncil.net	939-1592	Heartland Vineyard
Armond Floyd	praisemonkey@msn.com	830-3238	Bridge of Hope

Please contact the core team with any questions you may have.

And take some time to look at www.lovecedarvalley.com!

Leadership for LCV 2012

Point leader/programming	Laura Hoy, Orchard Hill Church
Prayer Coordinator	Celeste Bembry, First Congregational, Waterloo
Finances	Latricia Hylton, Christ Temple Apostolic
Walk-up Kindness Outreach Coordinator	Glenda Husome, Heartland Vineyard
Projects/Outreach Administrator	Amy Williams, Harvest Vineyard
T-shirts/Kindness Card Coordinator	Amber Lange, Orchard Hill Church
Hospitality Coordinator	Julie O'Connor, Orchard Hill Church
Promotion and public relations	Chassidi Ferguson, Harvest Vineyard and SHOUT! Ministries
Graphics and Marketing	Kaytlyn Webb, Orchard Hill Church
Worship	Armond Floyd, Bridge of Hope