

☞ Help bring together a playgroup for young children and their moms.

☞ When a neighbor stops by invite them in. This will usually be when the house is not very clean or when you have company - however, this openness will make you a real friend!

☞ Mow the lawn of a neighbor who is traveling or is ill.

☞ Rake their yard. Get your children into the act!

☞ Plow or shovel a neighbor's driveway or walkway when it snows.

☞ Spend a Saturday morning helping someone in need with their "to do" list of chores around their home.

☞ As students return to school in the fall, purchase a small gift such as a folder with an inspirational saying, to let them know you're praying for them as the new year begins.

☞ Plan a holiday drop-in at your home. It's a wonderful opportunity to visit with your neighbors and to let them visit with one another.

☞ You and your children can offer a free car wash, or a lemonade stand. If someone offers to donate money, give it to the local homeless shelter, food shelf or church.

One Final Thought . . .

A Lighthouse from California writes, "One thing the Lord has taught us is it is easy to be so busy, too busy, for the most important things in life." She adds, "We need to always be aware when we are rushing off to that meeting or church thing, to watch. Often this is when a neighbor needs that I-o-o-n-n-g hello and time to share with you. Don't allow our enemy to make anyone think you don't have time for them. People need time and God has a way of stretching our time when we are sensitive to what HE wants us to do." Take time, make time, to be the caring person - and Lighthouse - God has called you to be!

The Mission America Coalition

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For Resources to help you Care go to:

☞ www.lighthousemovement.com ☞



☞ NEIGHBORHOOD IDEAS FOR CARING ☞

As a Lighthouse you've committed to praying for, caring for and sharing Jesus Christ with those around you who don't know Him personally. As you pray, you are also seeking ways to care, allowing God to use you to plant the seeds of His love in your neighbor's hearts.

We've put together some simple ideas on how to begin caring for your neighbors. Some of these ideas take a little planning while others are a matter of becoming aware of opportunities to show you care:

☞ Meet new (just moved in) neighbors with a plate of cookies, a warm welcome and a 3X5 card with your name, address and phone number. Suggest they call you with any questions about the neighborhood such as garbage collection, post office, etc.

☞ Put together a neighborhood directory of names, addresses and phone numbers. This helps you pray more specifically for your neighbors and assists everyone in getting to know each other.

☞ Take dinner to new parents. Use disposable containers so the clean up is quick and easy.

☞ Plan a neighborhood baby shower for the new baby. Invite several neighbors to assist you.

☞ Baby-sit for your neighbors. In many cases, families don't have grandparents or relatives in the area who might be able to help out. Many young parents rarely have extra time or money to go on a "date." Make sure they - and you - are comfortable with the arrangements and that you know how to contact them should an emergency arise. Can you organize a baby-sitting co-op?

☞ Call on housebound neighbors. They might enjoy a personal visit or may just want to talk with you on the telephone. If you do visit, take a little something such as a desert, fruit or a book.

☞ If you have children or grandchildren, consider taking them with you when you visit. What joy for an older person to just see and