

## Neighbor to Neighbor Network - Sign Up

### Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_, Best Time to call \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Check the boxes for the kind of tithe you are able to make:

#### Assistance to St. Bridget Parishioners

- I would be interested in joining a payer group to pray for the intentions of the parish*
- I would like to go to the BeFriender training to minister to a parishioner experiencing difficulties*
- I would like to be visited by a BeFreinder minister*
- I would like to volunteer to be our Jobs Assistance Ministry (JAM) Coordinator*

#### Assistance to a woman who needs help making a decision for life or who has made the decision and needs assistance

- I would like to help form a leadership team to help support a woman to make a decision for life*
- I would like to participate in ministry to support a woman who needs help making a decision for life*
- I would like to participate in a baby shower to support a woman who needs help making a decision for life*
- I would like to make a monetary donation if needed to support a woman who needs help making a decision for life*

#### Assistance to refugee families

- I would like to participate in mentoring a refugee family*
- I would like to donate a vehicle*
- If we sponsor more refugees I will help donate stuff and set up their apartment*

To share your ideas or Interest in keeping this project going call Paul Amrhein at 282-9511 x311 or email at [paul@saintbridgetchurch.org](mailto:paul@saintbridgetchurch.org) or even better fill out this form and put it in the collection basket next week, or fax to 285-7227, or mail to 6006 Three Chopt Rd, Richmond, VA 23226, or drop your registration off at the parish receptionist.



## WHAT IS THE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR NETWORK?

Our Neighbor to Neighbor Network initiative is St. Bridget's response to an increase in the number of our parishioners seeking financial assistance and to the financial crisis as it is impacting our community. The idea of the Neighbor to Neighbor Network is to connect the members of the St. Bridget community with our parishioners who find themselves in a time of crisis or transition, with members of our local community facing a problem pregnancy which often increase in difficult economic times and refugees fleeing from their country for fear of their lives.

### WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY

The Samaritan parable is known for its social implications today, and provides us a very important contextual spiritual message. During his ministry Jesus was often accused of associating with the tax collectors and sinners by the Scribes and Pharisees (Luke 5:30). In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus reaffirms his reasons for doing so. The stricken figure in the parable represents all those who are spiritually sick, such as the gentiles and the sinners. That it was a priest and then a Levite (members of a tribe charged with temple duties) who first passed by is significant beyond the irony of the situation: people who were expected to help, did not, while someone whom the victim (and Jesus' audience) despised, did. And so Jesus gave his questioner a very broad definition of who his neighbor was (Luke 10:29). The priest on the other hand may have had an "excuse" not to help since touching a dying or badly wounded person for someone so "holy", while not forbidden, would have burdened him due to all the necessary cleansing rituals prescribed by Mosaic Law. The priest therefore decided that being ritually clean and "priestly" was more important than saving someone else's life. Jesus' unspoken challenge to all seems to be: would we help only if it is convenient, or are we willing to go out of our way to show compassion to a stranger?

### WHAT DOES THE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR NETWORK LOOK LIKE?

We take care of our own first as they are our closest Neighbor to us. We reach out to those in a crisis pregnancy because we believe in the sacredness of life in the unborn and we want to insure that life is a blessing to the mother. As in the Good Samaritan story we believe no life is too inconvenient. We reach out to the refugees of other countries as even more now than in Jesus' time, in a globalized world, we are all neighbors and the diocese has asked us to help resettle a large number of refugees slated to be resettled in Richmond.

Our hope is to involve everyone in the parish including children in this initiative. You have the opportunity to participate through prayer, visitation, mentoring, solidarity, and alms both financial and with resources you may be able to donate.

The Network had three initial areas of focus but is trying to expand to include a Jobs Assistance Ministry:

- 1) Help our own St. Bridget Parishioners who are experiencing financial, medical and spiritual difficulties. What we ask of you is:
  - Join a prayer group to pray for the intentions of the parish
  - Call or visit a member of our faith community and become trained as a Befreinder Minister to do so
  - Provide financial assistance for rent, mortgage or utility by donating in your Human Concerns envelop each month
  - Volunteer to be our Jobs Assistance Ministry (J.A.M.) Coordinator

- 2) Help women who need help making a decision for life or who have made the decision and need assistance. A bad economy usually means an increase in abortions. We can help. What we will ask of you:
  - Put the effort in to help create this ministry – if enough people volunteer we could form a team
  - Help throw a baby shower and befriend a woman making a choice for life when it is not easy
- 3) Help settle a family of refugees – helping those who are in crisis in their own country only to come here and find this country in a financial crisis. What we will ask of you:
  - Mentoring which may mean preparing them for their driver's test, inviting them to your house to share a meal and play games, take them for an outing to a local park (their only means of getting around is public transport)
  - If we decide to sponsor more refugees donate household goods – everything from appliances to vehicles