

What is the role of Starfish Ministries?

Our staff...

- screens the family and their needs to gauge their level of motivation to change.
- helps the family identify their initial goals and identify the kinds of resources they will likely need.
- assists the church in recruiting volunteers.
- provides a 2-3 hour orientation and initial training for coaches.
- facilitates the get acquainted gathering.
- introduces the coaches and the family.
- acts as a resource to the coaches and family.
- monitors the relationships through quarterly meetings with the coaches and family.
- facilitates the ending of the formal relationship, even if the friendships continue.



Why does Starfish Ministries do this?

Christ calls us, His followers, to help the “poor” in our midst. Most churches and church members want to help but lack understanding, confidence and a working structure. Generally, there are adequate financial and material resources in our communities to meet needs. What many in poverty lack are relationships with healthy, caring and committed people. We want to help connect caring churches with families within a structure that works.



Do you want to help families who are caught in the current economic crisis but you're not sure how?

We might have the answer for you!

Starfish Ministries
Bonnie Smith, Ministry Coordinator
3540 75th Street East
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

What does the family bring?

Every family brings some level of motivation to make positive changes. They bring experiences and skills which are different than ours but equally impressive. They bring little support and the need for much encouragement. Finally, they bring the potential to be much more than they currently are.

How do I learn more?

Contact Bonnie Smith at 651-457-2477 or Bonnie@StarfishMN.org.

In the current economic environment, many families in our communities are struggling to get by. I'm sure you hear of needs but are not always confident how best to help nor do you have resources to help everyone.

But, there are probably two or three members of your church who would be willing to give 4-6 hours a month to coach a family, especially if the family is demonstrating a desire to make positive changes. We can help you bring that about.



What do you mean by coaching?

Coaching is simply sharing what you have learned during your lifetime with someone who has not had the same advantages in their lives. It involves listening, asking good questions, and helping others identify the steps they need to take to reach their goals.

"Coaches are not experts or know-it-alls – they are ordinary Christians who have the opportunity and privilege of coming alongside others and helping them succeed in fulfilling their God given potential." [From Coaching 101, Discover the Power of Coaching, by Robert E. Logan and Sherilyn Carlton with Tara Miller, published by ChurchSmart Resources, 2003.]

Who are the families?

The family could be one already being given relief by your church. Inviting one of these families to come under our umbrella can help define the relationship, provide accountability, and allow the family to move toward self-reliance.

Or, they could be a family on our waiting list. We have families in your community who are waiting for a church to adopt them.

How do we get the volunteers on board?

First, set a date and time for an informational meeting for interested members of your congregation. Our staff will share the goals of the ministry, the responsibilities and the commitment. Posters and flyers advertising this meeting will be made available to you.

If there is adequate interest, a date and time is then set for coach orientation.



Next, your church hosts a meal where the potential coaches have the

opportunity to meet and get to know the potential families. Childcare will be needed. Our staff will facilitate the get-acquainted meeting which will follow the meal.

After the meal, the volunteers will be asked to make a commitment to work with a family. Our staff will then arrange a meeting to introduce the coaches to the family and to review the goals the family has set for themselves.

What other volunteers or assistance will be needed?

It is helpful to continue the monthly meeting at the church; it makes the families more comfortable with the church and its members. So, there will be opportunities for volunteers to: :

- provide meals,
- provide childcare
- provide transportation,
- perhaps teach a skill,
- perhaps do simple repairs, or
- a variety of other tasks.

They may have physical needs, such as household goods, clothes, furniture or even specific, short-term financial needs. If the resources cannot be found elsewhere, this may be an opportunity for the church and its members to help.



Making a difference one family at a time!

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