



Diaconal
Summit II

Long-Term Needs Case #1 Worksheet:

Tim

Situation

Tim has been a member of your church for the past five years. He has been in a wheelchair for almost 10 years following a skiing accident. He receives disability payments from social security and is living on that plus what is left from the equity when he sold his house after the accident. He had been working as a high school science teacher and football coach but has been unable to find employment since the accident.

Tim has no family living at home. He cannot walk but can use his hands and arms and can generally take care of himself, though he often needs transportation to get to church and to run errands. He needs to have help cleaning his apartment (twice a month). The church has a schedule to help with both of these recurring issues.

Although he has been trying, Tim has not been able to find another career. He has become discouraged and really doesn't look as actively as he used to. He is running out of funds and will soon need to live only on the disability payments.

Think About...

You don't know the details of Tim's condition – he may or may not have future complications as a result of his injuries. It seems likely that there will be some medical issues down the road, due to his long-term confinement to a wheelchair.

He tries, but it is difficult for Tim to participate actively in the church because transportation is a challenge. He really doesn't feel comfortable having people visit him at home because he has difficulty cleaning his apartment.

You don't know if he has health insurance. He doesn't really like to talk about his condition (physical or financial). You assume that the situation may be worse than he is admitting.

Tim is requesting assistance for help with his rent payments until he can find employment.



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Long-Term Needs Case #2 Worksheet:

Alice

Situation

Alice has been a member of the church for five years. Two years after joining (along with her family), her husband unexpectedly left her with her four-children (aged from 8 to 17 years old). She has completed some college classes but does not have a degree. She worked for one year for an insurance company before getting married, but hasn't worked since (approximately 15 years).

Her husband does occasionally provide financial support but not always regularly – only when he is working.

Alice was able to find a job at the local grocery store and had been working there about 18 months before she became unable to stand for an entire shift. She went to part-time but is now no longer employed there. Most of their household income is from the irregular child support payments and the 17 year olds part-time job. She is almost at the end of her unemployment compensation and has just started the process of applying for welfare and disability.

Think About...

She seems to have lost interest in church activities. She has been neglecting her appearance and seems to have very little energy or enthusiasm. According to one of the women in church who has been trying to befriend her, it is possible that the kids are falling behind in school. When she picked Alice up to drive her to the Women's Bible Study, her house appeared quite messy, though she didn't get much of a look.

One of the church members gave Alice some suggestions for possible job opportunities but she didn't pursue them. When asked, she said she hadn't contacted the sources but gave several reasons why the opportunities would not have worked anyway. In one case, the work would have been second shift (3 to 11) and she couldn't leave the kids home alone that long. Another was a company she had heard doesn't like to hire single moms because they take too many sick days.

Alice is requesting assistance for help with funds for some prescription medicine and assistance with rent until her aid application is approved.



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Long-Term Needs Case #3 Worksheet:

Dave and Jane

Situation

Dave and Jane are outgoing and active members in the church since joining seven years ago. They were married two years ago and both had well-paying jobs until Jane cut back to part-time when their first child was born.

Dave's company has been downsizing and flattening their organization recently and he didn't get a raise last year. While he is relatively secure in his job, he has much more responsibility (and work) than he used to.

Their house is big enough for the three of them but they will probably need more space in the future if they have another child. Until they came in to talk to the deacons, everyone would have assumed they were doing well, in fact, better than most. They often go out for dinner two or three times a week and enjoyed one or two vacations a year. They are always willing to host get-togethers in their home.

Think About...

Dave and Jane are a little embarrassed but have requested assistance for help with some of their credit card debt. They owe approximately \$12,000 from some home repairs, a (minor) emergency room visit, and just miscellaneous charges ranging from weekend home improvement projects and other expenses.

They recently became concerned about their debt and have been trying to cut back but can't seem to make any progress. They are hoping that if they can get help with the credit card debt they can reduce interest costs and get out of debt more quickly.



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Long-Term Needs Case #4 Worksheet:

Sue

Situation

Sue has one full-time job as a bank teller, one part-time job as a retail salesperson (Saturdays only), and one full-time job as mom for two sons, ages 12 and 14. Her husband passed away two years ago and she has been really struggling to keep things together. She is getting by but just barely...actually, not really. Things are running down. For example, she drives a nine year old car. One of her children needs braces but it won't be happening soon. She hasn't had a vacation for over two-years. She is always tired.

In spite of all this, however, she maintains a positive, faithful demeanor. She prays faithfully for others in the congregation and never misses church on Sundays. (She occasionally misses the Women's Bible Study but not often.)

Think About...

Sue is a great asset to the church. And, she is in difficult circumstances that are not the result of her doing.

Sue has not requested assistance but, based on conversations you have had with her, you know she could use some. Up until now, the deacons have almost without exception provided assistance to people upon request – you have never proactively approached a member to offer help.

But, even if you decide to offer help, what could you do?