

A close-up photograph of two hands holding a piece of light brown cardboard. The word "support" is written in a dark, cursive script on the cardboard. The hands are positioned to frame the cardboard, with fingers visible on the left and right sides. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light gray.

NEIGHBORHOOD

CANVASSING

TRAINING

support



NORTH TEXAS TORNADO DISASTER RELIEF

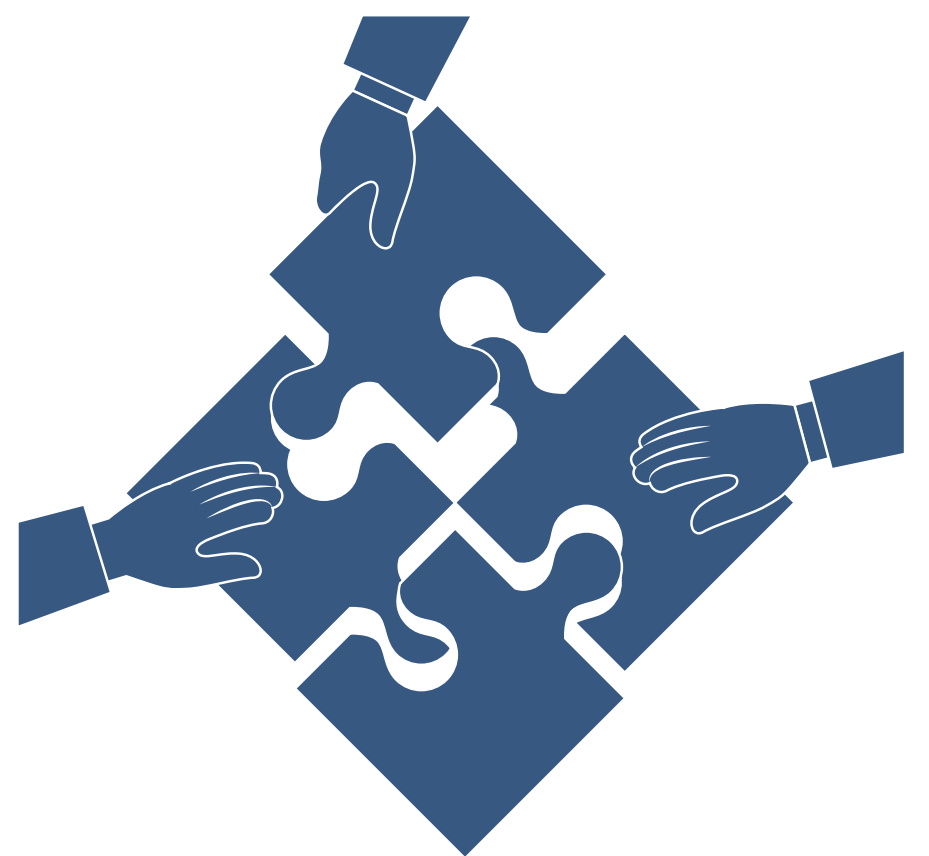
THE UNIFIED BODY OF CHRIST

NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASSING TRAINING


ON OCTOBER, 20, 2019, 10 TORNADOES TORE THROUGH NORTH TEXAS. NO LIVES WERE LOST IMMEDIATELY LOST BUT THERE HAVE BEEN FEW RELATED DEATHS. NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITIES SUSTAINED DAMAGE TO HOMES, BUSINESSES, CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS WERE EXTENSIVE.

WE GRIEVE WITH THOSE WHO ARE HURTING A ACCEPT THE CALL TO RESPOND TO SERVE FAMILIES IN AN INTENTIONAL WAY WHO WERE IMPACTED BY THE TORNADO, WHICH LEFT MANY WITHOUT SHELTER AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS.

WE ARE CALLING ON THE WHOLE CHURCH TO RALLY AROUND THE 15 MILES OF DEVASTATION, SO THAT THERE IS NO NEED AMONG THE VICTIMS. GOD PROMISES SUPERNATURAL POWER WHERE THERE IS CHURCH UNITY. ALTHOUGH IT'S EASIER JUST TO DO IT YOURSELVES, IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO. WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY COMMITTED TO RESPOND IN LOVE.



Did You Know?

- Hundreds of Dallas/Richardson families who were already struggling financially before the storm lost their homes, all their belongings, and/or their vehicles.
 - Other low-income families' homes were badly damaged leaving them living in unsafe/unsanitary/uncomfortable conditions.
 - Other families lost wages when their employer or daycare was closed either temporarily or still to this day.
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- Almost 3,000 mostly low-income Dallas ISD children lost their schools.
 - Over 30 total school facilities were impacted to some degree.
 - Several churches were badly damaged.
 - At least 2 congregations are still totally displaced.



According to Houston Responds, heavily-impacted families can expect a 6 to 12-month recovery process. Families are stressed, overwhelmed, scared and isolated. For additional resources and information, please visit www.unithechurch.org.

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Rules of the Road

Canvassing 101

RULES

OF THE

ROAD

NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASSING TRAINING

WHEN GOING DOOR-TO-DOOR, ENGAGING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES FACE-TO-FACE GO CURIOUS. LEARN ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL JOURNEY TO RECOVERY OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS AND WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE TO FULLY RESTORE THEIR HOMES AND LIVES.

LET US ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS AND ON OUR OWN ACCORD WE ARE UNABLE TO MET EVERY NEED. WE BELIEVE NEVERTHELESS, TOGETHER THE UNITED CHURCH CAN WALK ALONGSIDE FAMILIES AS THEY REBUILD THEIR COMMUNITY.

FIRST, LET'S REVIEW A FEW RULES OF THE ROAD. THESE ARE BASIC GUIDELINES TO EQUIP US AS WE PREPARE TO CONNECT.



DRESS COMFORTABLY

You'll probably be walking most of the time, so wear shoes that are comfortable for you to walk in. In terms of clothes, wear something comfortable and appropriate for the weather, that you feel confident and approachable in. We recommend coordinating t-shirt for uniformity and using temporary name tags.

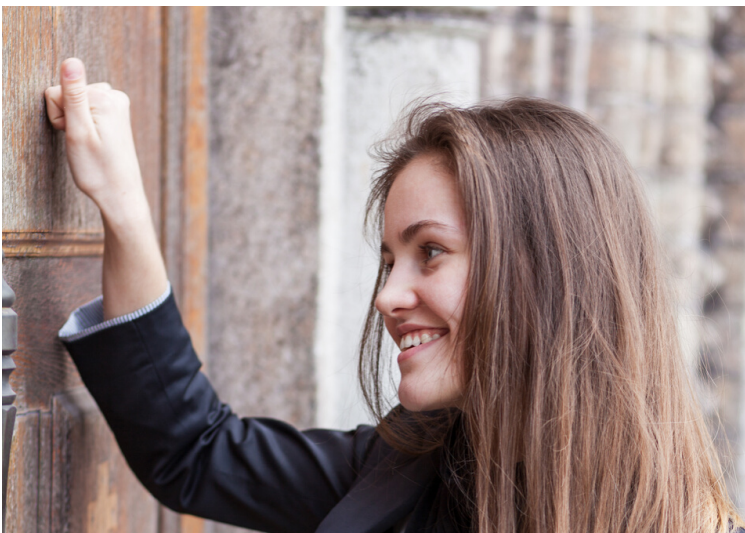
TEAM UP

It might seem like a simple guideline, yet as you get more confident you may be inclined to split up: do not approach a door alone. Go in pairs and stay in close proximity of other teams.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Spend 2 minutes at most at someone's door. This is just enough time to allow individuals with disability or elderly to respond, as well as not disturb those who are not accepting visitors. Introduction

Be extremely clear about why you are there. Be prepared to identify yourself and the group you represent. It is always best to have a badge, name tag or t-shirt with your groups logo on it.



TALKING POINTS/ SCRIPT

You are there to help. Rehearsing your talking points will give you more opportunity to focus on connection and less on your script. Things will naturally occur and that is fantastic, however enter the visit with a particular end goal in mind

SAFETY MEASURES

The group you are with will have their own safety guidelines. Our only recommendation is that you engage families at the door and do not enter the residence as a general rule.

Every Door Won't Open

Things to Consider

Canvassing experts anticipate that one in three doors will answer. Consider the day of the week and time of day you go knocking. We suggest that you don't go knocking before 10 am or after 8 pm. In the fall and winter months it gets dark long before 8 pm.

Weekends are the best days to reach families at home. Be sure to have flyers and resource materials available so families know you came by to see about them.

If someone appears in the window but does not open the door, kindly greet them, leaving information and move to the next home.



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Engaging Families In Crisis

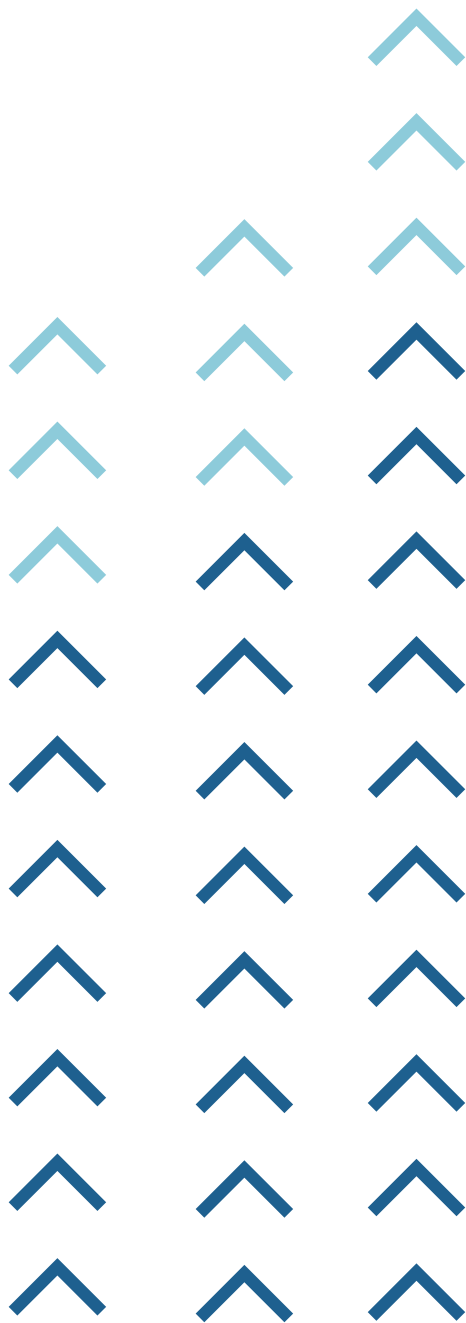
Understanding the Need

ENGAGING FAMILIES IN CRISIS

NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASSING TRAINING

IN JUST A FEW WEEKS NATIONAL AND LOCAL AGENCIES HAVE BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY AND WE ARE FOLLOWING THEIR LEAD BUT THERE IS STILL SO MUCH MORE TO BE DONE.

THERE ARE GAPS THAT WE CHURCH ARE CALLED TO FILL. THERE ARE PEOPLE HURTING IN ISOLATION AND WE ARE EQUIPPED TO SEEK OUT THOSE IN NEED. WE BELIEVE COMPASSION CURES UNSEEN AILMENTS. OUR FAMILIES ARE IN DISRESS. THE TRAUMA OF DISASTER HAS LONG TERM IMPLICATIONS ON AN INDIVIDUAL. UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANTS OF RELATIONSHIP AND CONNECTION DURING THE RECOVERY STAGE CAN HELP A FAMILY RECOVERY MUCH QUICKER THAN IF THEY WERE IN ISOLATION. LET'S REVIEW RELATIONSHIP BUILDING STRATEGIES,



BE RELATIONAL



MOST VULNERABLE

- Elderly
- Special Needs
- Undocumented Immigrants
- People with Mental or Physical Disability
- Those with Criminal History
- Highly Transient: Homeless
- Non-English Speakers

Take Your Time, Be Present.

One of the primary goals is to continue to build relationships with those impacted, encourage the teams not to rush. That will be hard for certain personality types. You might recommend that the more relational people do most of the talking and the more action-oriented people listen for the information. Let the family know up front that this is part of a citywide canvass, so the team will be make note of their needs.

Team Leads encourage your team to be genuinely concerned about the felt needs of the families -- not just their spiritual needs. While prayer and the Gospel truly are the most important thing, some of their physical and emotional needs may be very serious and



IDENTIFYING NEEDS

Keep It Casual

Without making it seem like an interview casually engage families with the purpose of understanding there struggles since the tornado hit and identifying goods and services needs.

Common needs of displaced families in this stage are toiletries, underwear, and coats, however, may be limited in the number of items they are able to recieve due to storage limitations.



Observations

How many people appear to be living in the home now?

Approximate ages of the residents?

Is there home in tact?

What damages to you see?

Did they have any leaks or holes that allowed the inside of their home to get wet?

Questions

Is there anything we can do to make the situation better?

Is their vehicle drivable?

Did they have to miss any work due to their employer, daycare, or school being closed at first?

Are they working with a nonprofit already that's helping them e.g. Buckner, the Red Cross, etc.?

Are they affiliated with a local church?

ENGAGING FAMILIES IN CRISIS

MEASURING IMPACT

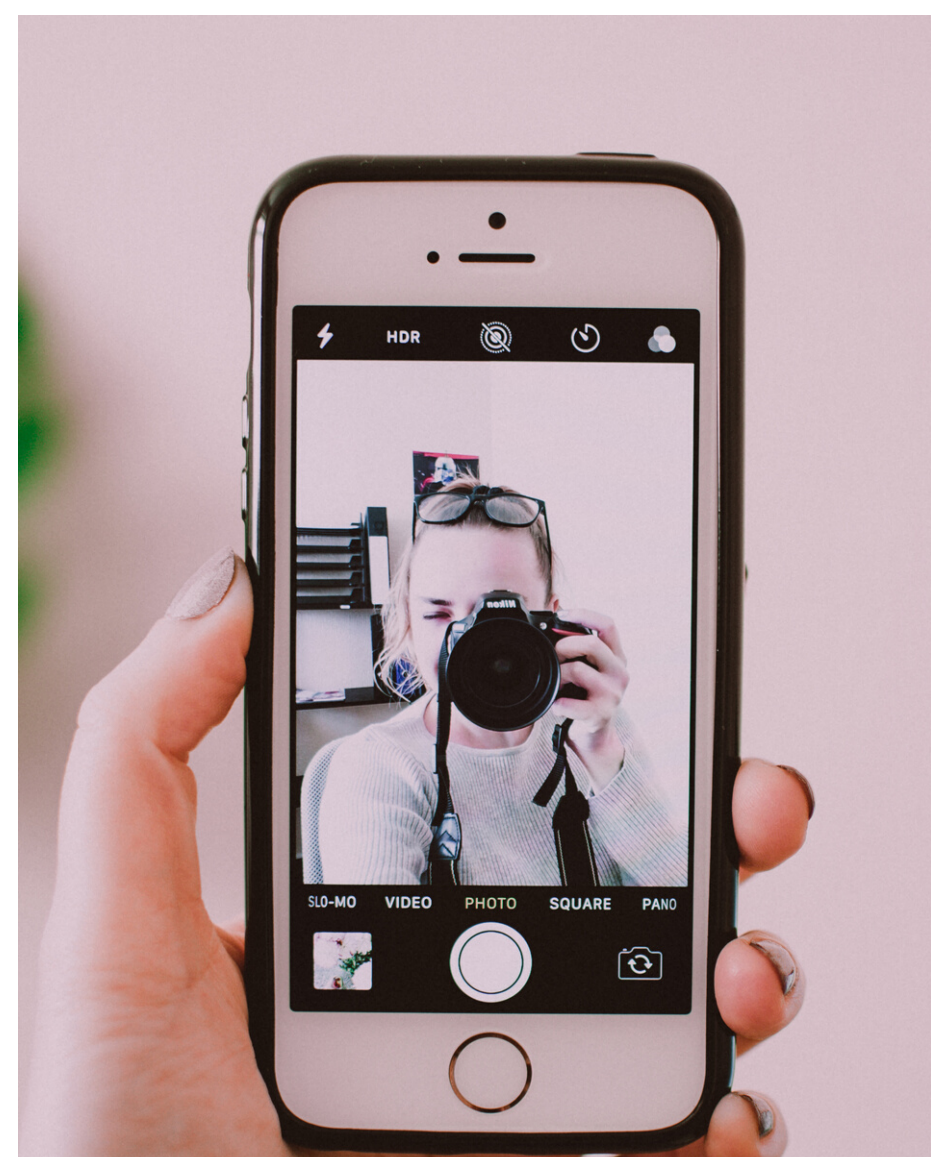


TRACKING

Keep track of the streets and house numbers your teams cover so we can coordinate a similar effort city-wide. Even homes visited with no response. We want to circle back to those homes.

STORIES

Please keep track of the numbers of whatever items you purchase, homes you visit, etc. so we can use your story to inspire other churches. We know you're humble, but it's for a good cause. Also have your people listen for good stories that will also inspire more people to help.



TAKE PICTURES

If you're able to snap a few pics or video (with permission and only if it's not weird), that would be great. This isn't being done for a photo op, but human stories, pictures, and video will help the public understand what's going on.

RESOURCES



helpfinder

Go to [HelpFinder.org](https://www.HelpFinder.org) to find help for yourself or a neighbor -- things like:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Trauma Counseling
- Job Placement
- Clothing
- Household items

If you run a nonprofit or church-based program, make sure your information is updated on HelpFinder. If you see program information that is missing or incorrect, use the "suggest program" or "suggest a change" link at the bottom of the page.



UNITE
GREATER DALLAS

3

WHEN HELPING HURTS

THINGS TO REMEMBER

WHEN

HELPING

HURTS

NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASSING TRAINING

THE GOAL IS TO SEE PEOPLE RESTORED TO BEING WHAT GOD CREATED THEM TO BE: PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS, ABILITIES, AND CAPACITY TO MAKE DECISIONS AND TO EFFECT CHANGE IN THE WORLD AROUND THEM; AND PEOPLE WHO STEWARD THEIR LIVES, COMMUNITIES, RESOURCES, AND RELATIONSHIPS IN ORDER TO BRING GLORY TO GOD. THESE THINGS TEND TO HAPPEN IN HIGHLY RELATIONAL, PROCESS-FOCUSED INITIATIVES MORE THAN IMPERSONAL, PRODUCT- FOCUSED INITIATIVES.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER TO NOT DO THINGS FOR PEOPLE THAT THEY CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES. AS A TEAM WE MUST MEMORIZE THIS, RECITE IT UNDER OUR BREATH ALL DAY LONG.



WHEN HELPING HURTS TIPS

HELPING WITHOUT HURTING

Things To Remember

Resist the urge to "fix" the situation.

We're facing a complex situation where none of us have the answer, but we should aim to build God-honoring, authentic relationships with our neighbors trusting that God will give us wisdom and grace in the midst of the circumstances. There are things people can do out of a sweet, generous heart that can actually do more harm than good. We want to help you avoid doing that accidentally.

We're moving from emergency relief into the long-term recovery phase.

The goal of recovery is to restore people to the place they were before the storm. After that, we can look at development which entails walking alongside families to become more stable than they were before so when the next curve ball comes their way, they can withstand it.

No matter who you meet, they deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion but not pity.

Many want to try to take care of their family with as little help as possible. Don't try to force help or hand-outs on them. Simply let them know help is here if they decide they need anything and that there's absolutely no shame in that.



**ALONE WE
CAN DO
LITTLE.
TOGETHER
WE CAN DO
MUCH.**

WHEN HELPING HURTS TIPS

People that share adverse experiences have a common bond.

These families have assets they may want to use to help others as well, so listen for that desire. On the flip side, they may barely be keeping their head above water, so don't make them feel guilty for not "volunteering" to help their neighbors.



Don't assume anything.

There are many valid reasons someone could be reluctant to talk to you. If individuals are reluctant consider these few possible explanations:

- Participation hindered by language barriers.
- Suspicious of strangers, low level of civic engagement.
- In some causes they may have received an abundance of house visit.

Be encouraging without being condescending.

Use words like strong and impressed. Don't use scripture like "God works all things for good" unless you feel like it's appropriate based on what the individual is saying. Some of the verses we find comforting aren't comforting to people who are hungry and cold.



"If we treat only the symptoms or if we misdiagnose the underlying problem, we will not improve their situation, and we might actually make their lives worse."

When Helping Hurts

