

BENEVOLENCE PLAN

REACHING THE LOST

LEADING THEM TOWARDS CHRIST AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

AVERAGE 4 HH FAMILY INCOME IN WINCHESTER VA

- ❑ Minimum wage \$7.25 per hour in VA
- ❑ 40 hours a week \$1,305 for a household of two working adults at minimum wage \$2,610. (before Taxes)

MONTHLY EXPENDITURES

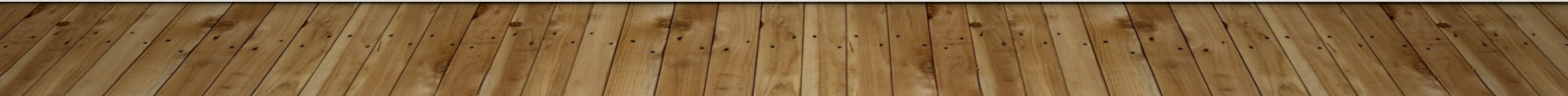
- Rent -\$900.00
- Renters Insurance -\$14.00
- Electric -\$124.00
- Water -\$160.00 every other month/ \$80.00 monthly
- Car -\$115
- Car Insurance -\$80
- Gas -\$65.00
- Child Care -\$850.00
- Groceries -\$400

Total Monthly Expenditures
\$2,628.00

THIS FAMILY'S MONTHLY EXPENDITURES ARE \$18.00 MORE THAN WHAT THEY ARE EARNING. NOT INCLUDING ANY CO-PAYS FOR DR. APPOINTMENTS, CLOTHING ETC..

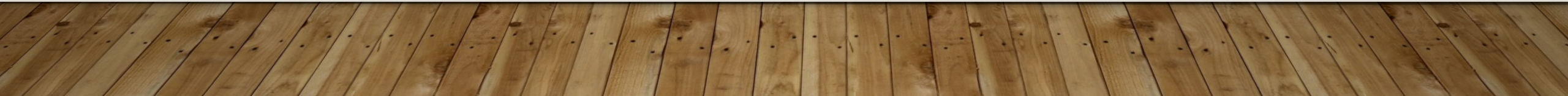
THIS FAMILY IS ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP (FOOD STAMPS) IN VA. IF THIS FAMILY WERE TO MAKE \$110 MORE MONTHLY, THEY WOULD BE INELIGIBLE. ANY BONUSES, OR OVERTIME WOULD INTERFERE WITH THEIR BENEFITS. IF THE FAMILY WERE TO RECEIVE CHRISTMAS BONUSES, THEY COULD LOSE THEIR SNAP BENEFITS. LEAVING THE FAMILY IN A POSITION TO EITHER FEED THEIR FAMILY OR PURCHASE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

THIS FAMILY IS ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR CHILDCARE, HOWEVER, THERE ARE LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE AT LICENSED FACILITIES AND THEY ARE LIKELY ON A WAIT LIST.



THIS FAMILY CALLS YOUR CHURCH FOR ASSISTANCE. WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO ASSIST THIS FAMILY?

- If funds are available, have a budget for benevolence requests. Serve and assist when you can.
- It is important your church is familiar with local organizations who can help lower income families in need. Food pantries, clothing drives, diaper and/or formula donations, family budgeting or support groups and shelters. Have phone numbers available to provide to the family.
- If they are asking for assistance with a specific bill and your church can assist, pay the bill directly. Avoid cash or check. Thankfully through the power of technology, most bills can be paid over the phone or online.



TRACK INFORMATION

- It will be important for your church to track information from benevolence requests. You will want to take a name, phone number, and ask if they located in your community. Jot down their story.
- If you assist a family or individual, you will likely at some point have them call back again for assistance. They may have a new story, or even the same one. If you track benevolence information, this will be easy to identify. Avoid assisting the same individual or family; the goal is to lead them to self-sufficiency. Direct them to other resources that are more equipped to serve them.

HOW DO YOU SAY “THIS IS ALL WE CAN DO?”

- It is easiest to avoid this awkward conversation when you have a plan in place. Let individuals know upfront that whatever you can provide is all that you can do.
- You will have individuals who will call back to seek more assistance once you have helped them. Be prepared to let them know you have done all you can do and that you have a policy in place. Have other resources readily available to refer them to if needed.

CHECK OUT YOUR SOCIAL SERVICES LOCALITY BENEFITS

- SNAP (formally known as food stamps)
- TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)
- VIEW (Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare)
- Child Care Assistance (Covers Child Care Expenses for Lower Income Families in Select Licensed Facilities. This is based on funds availability at your locality.)
- Energy Assistance (only accepting applications specific times of the year. Based on funds available at your locality.)
- Auxilliary Grants (Provides income supplements to recipients of SSI and certain other aged, blind, or disabled individuals residing in a licensed assisted living facility or in an approved adult foster home. This assistance is made available through local departments of social services to ensure that adults can maintain a standard of living that meets a basic level of need)
- Medicaid
- General Relief (Burial Assistance)