

# **Are you new to Therapy Dog Ministry? READ ME!**

If you are opening your box of CFC goodies, and you say “Now what? How do I get started? Keep reading!

## **DEVELOP YOUR MINISTRY: POINTS OF DISCUSSION:**

 **BEFORE you begin to develop your ministry plan, PRAY PRAY PRAY PRAY PRAY PRAY** , Did I say Pray?

Ask God to show you your gifts, and passions. Also consider your dog's personality. How can God best use you in His Kingdom?

 **\*NOW you can begin developing an intentional plan to minister. Things to consider:**

**Geography** - consider the area in which you live. Ideally you will be visiting people within 25-30 minutes of your home. Neither you nor your dog want/need to spend excess time in your car on a consistent basis. Sometimes you may have special requests that prompt you to do this, but you probably don't want to do it on a regular basis. You want to develop a sustainable ministry that fits into your life and does not overwhelm it.

**Time**- Some of our members have a full time ministry, and some are part time. Consider your existing schedule and determine how much time (hours, days,) during a week that you can commit to ministry WITHOUT any negative impact to your existing commitments. Again, you don't want to over schedule yourself and CERTAINLY not your dog! Start out slowly and see how both you and your dog manage visits. Therapy visits can require lots of energy from your dog, and you may notice that they like to come home and take a nap! So take your time and monitor your dog as you build your ministry. We want to maintain that smiling face and waggy tail!

**What are my gifts?** (Empathy, Love, Patience, Creativity, Humor, Appreciation, Forgiveness)

- Am I good with **Seniors?** Nursing Homes, Rehab Centers
- Children?** Schools, County Foster Systems, Day Care Centers
- Do I have a heart for the **Sick?** Hospitals,, Hospice, Rehab Centers
- Special appreciation for **First Responders?** Police, 911 Centers, Fire Stations
- Special empathy for those **Imprisoned?** Prisons, County Facilities
- Special empathy for the **Poor?** Charities, Soup Kitchens, Homeless, etc


 **CFC WEBSITE HIGHLIGHT! SO MANY RESOURCES, AVAIL YOURSELF-VIDEOS, LETTERS, CONTACTS**

**K9forChrist.org**

Once you narrow your chosen focus, you can either **introduce yourself to new places** of interest, or **begin with places with which you are already familiar, and have relationships.**

 **New Introductions-Call, Write and Visit!** (letter of Introduction & your business card, [sample letter on Website](#))

Don't forget to pray before you go! Be Professional! You are typically going into places of business, and you are representing Canines for Christ, and Jesus Christ himself, as His hands and feet! Never forget that.

 **Renew Current Relationships!** Start with people you know and serve their organization, or ask them if they know of someone that could benefit from your Therapy Dog Visits.


**Your Church is always a good place to start! Your pastor or group leader can let you know of some of the organizations they are currently serving. The truth is there are so many hurting people out there that need your smile, your love, and your hope! Not to mention that sweet tail wag of your canine buddy**

## **MANAGE YOUR MINISTRY!**


- |         |                                                                  |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Time-   | Don't over schedule yourself! This is a Marathon, not a Sprint   |
| Energy- | Visits will zap your energy more than you think, AND YOUR DOG'S! |
| Faith-  | You can't feed others if you are starving yourself               |

Faith is what brought you to this ministry, and faith is what you will need to keep it going. While you are serving others, don't forget to feed your own faith. Faith is a living thing! It needs the oxygen of prayer, bible study, church, and more prayer. If we become over tired, and low on peace, grace, and joy, we will not be good representatives of Christ. So keep your own flame of faith burning bright!

**SUPPORT- CARE PARTNERS AND/OR CHAPTERS.** If you are in a Chapter, your chapter becomes your “support group.” If you are ministering on your own, and would like a connection to the ministry for support, we offer CARE PARTNERS. This is a person in the ministry that can be assigned to you to check in periodically and see how you are doing, offer prayer support, and answer questions. Just reach out and let us know.

🧡 **PURPOSE OF EACH VISIT.** Always remember why you’re there. We are to Remind or Introduce Christ’s Love to them. If you forget, it’s on the back of your cards. God loved them so much He gave His only Son to save them, so that they could live with Him forever. Our cards introduce us on one side, and Christ  on the other, with John 3:16. This makes them a great leave behind, and record of our visit 😊

Always wear your CFC attire,(shirt and lanyard) suit up your dog in the CFC vest or bandana, and have your cards to give out. Available in your car, have copies of your dog’s updated vaccinations and our CFC insurance form.

❤️ **REMEMBER, IF YOUR VISIT IS LIKE THE TOY ON CHRISTMAS MORNING TO SOMEONE, THEN PRAYER IS THE BATTERIES. WITHOUT PRAYER, OUR VISITS ARE NICE. BUT WITH PRAYER, GOD CAN TRULY WORK THROUGH US. WHAT A PRIVILEGE **

**GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR MINISTRY!**