

Calvary Chapel Chelmsford/Manchester
Benevolence Program
Pastor Edward Conway, D.Min.

Introduction

The Benevolence Program is first and foremost a spiritual program. The program is concerned with the total person not just their financial situation. Prayer, counseling, and biblical financial training are elements of the program. Emergency cash assistance is limited to individuals who have participated in the life of the fellowship for a minimum of six months, and have a regular pattern of giving. Exceptions to qualifying criteria will be considered on a case by case basis.

Objectives

- To primarily assist those who are a functioning member of the church.
- To integrate prayer/discipleship (small group participation), counseling (assessment and referral to helping agencies), and training (Financial Peace University and Budgeting).
- To limit cash grants to one per year so as to exercise good stewardship.

Guidelines, Limits, Restrictions

- Church elders and small group leaders may without prior authorization make emergency cash grants not to exceed \$200 to a church member. Contact Rob Groz for reimbursement. If the need exceeds \$200, please follow "Application Process".
- Church elders and small groups leaders may without prior authorization respond to a request by a member to assist a non-member not to exceed \$200. In this situation, the person being helped should be a family member, neighbor, or co-worker. Contact Rob Groz for reimbursement.
- Rental or mortgage of primary abode not to exceed one month.
- Utility bills to avoid shut off.
- No personal loan payments, credit card payments, or other non-essential expenses.

Application Process

A person in need should contact their small group leader or church elder. The church leader will meet with the person for prayer, gather information and details, and make an initial assessment of the need. The church leader will consult with the church treasurer for guidance and direction.

Gifts

Designated gifts for Benevolence are encouraged, and are kept in reserve for future needs. I.R.S. Rules and Regulations prohibit the church from giving tax deductible receipts when a designated gift is given from one individual to another individual with the church serving only as an intermediary. Persons may attach a suggestion or recommendation to a benevolent gift. All efforts are made to honor suggestions or recommendations, but to remain in compliance with the law the church ultimately must make the decision. Givers are encouraged to consult with the church treasurer for details regarding designated giving.