

Ministry Job Description: Friendship Ministry Mentor

Goal of Position

The mission of Friendship Ministries is to share God's love with people with and without intellectual disabilities and to enable them to become an active part of God's family and deepen their relationship with God and with each other in community together. In line with this mission, the greatest impact in this ministry takes place in the relationships that develop between mentors and friends.

Responsible to

Ministry Director

Job Description

Mentors form lasting relationships with friends as they interact together during Friendship sessions and other events. It's especially during one-on-one time at Friendship sessions that friends and mentors grow together in their love for God and each other.

Responsibilities that Mentors have include the following:

- Model Christ's love so friends will see Jesus in you.
- Review a Bible story with your friend.
- Together with your friend apply the Bible's truth to your lives.
- Facilitate participation and ensure safety of all participants.
- Pray regularly for the friends in your class.
- Be dependable, consistent and committed to your task.
- Commit to preparing well and carefully for each session, then commit your time to God.
- Foster a sense of security with your friends by letting them know simple routines and the intentions for each session.
- Look for ways to build relationships beyond the weekly Friendship program
- Have fun and enjoy the friends God has entrusted to your care.
- Attend meetings and training events.

Respect friends as individuals and...

- Affirm them as someone who has worthy opinions, desires, and feelings.
- Treat adults like adults by addressing them as adults and by selecting activities that relate to an adult's world of work and leisure.
- Give help only when asked; do not assume that help is needed or desired.
- Allow time for your friend to make his or her own decisions.
- Accept your friend's work, showing that you believe your friend is capable.
- Be sensitive to special needs such as medical issues and dietary needs that require attention during your friend's time at Friendship.

Time required

About two and a half hours, twice a month.

Length of commitment

The basic responsibility of a Friendship Mentor is to develop a loving and caring relationship with the friends in our church's program that will enable them to experience being part of God's loving family. To do this, those in our Friendship Ministry program will benefit most and be blessed from mentors who are willing to commit for more than one season. So, a preference would be for at least a two to three-year commitment.

Training Provided

In order to develop people in their ministry roles it is important that mentors are provided with training and equipped to serve with confidence. Our annual meeting held prior to each ministry season will orient those who are new to this role and refresh memories of those who have done this before, as well as give the group the feeling of being united in this ministry – that they are part of a team. Training may include learning about high needs friends, ideas to build relationships, and safe church policies etc.

Qualifications or special skills

Mentors encounter individuals with varying degrees of ability and disability throughout their time at their Friendship Club and so are placed in a high level of trust and care. As such some of the special skills and qualifications for mentors are to:

- Have a love for people and a desire to share God's love.
- Have a heart for those with intellectual disabilities
- Be open to learn about high needs friends and how to minister to them.
- Be willing to be stretched in your own faith life.
- Take care of your own spirituality, by spending time in personal devotions
- Be committed to our Church, its core values, and long-term goals.
- Be a team player with an openness to learning
- Have a positive attitude and a know how to have fun, laugh and enjoy life.

Lastly, the church is not just a place of worship and where ministry programs happen, but also a place of safety and trust. Parents and caregivers will want to know that not only are their family members being cared for spiritually, but also that they are in a safe and trusting environment. As such, those serving in the Friendship Ministry program will be required to provide a current police background check.

Benefits to this position

In your role as a Friendship Mentor, you will likely be challenged in some ways, but you'll also be blessed in abundance. Here are some things you can expect:

- *Help friends in their faith development*
- *Help friends in using their gifts and skills*
- *See hearts and minds unfold and blossom*
- *Build relationships with individuals with special needs*
- *Growth in your own faith journey*
- *Affirmation of your gifts*
- *Develop lasting friendships with other mentors*
- *Being loved by a very special group of friends*
- *Joy in seeing God at work through this ministry to individuals with special needs.*

Most of the information included in this document was taken from the booklet [“What Friendship Mentors Need to Know”](#) developed by Friendship Ministries, and the [Friendship Ministries website](#).

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