



SHARING THE CARING

COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP - CONVERSATION OUTLINE

No family should care alone.

Sharing the Caring helps local communities create a trusted place where families can find peer support, practical education, community resources and real relationships before caregiving becomes a crisis.

PURPOSE

A recurring, welcoming community group for families navigating aging, dementia, disability, illness and the realities of caring for someone they love.

- Peer-to-peer support: families meet others who understand the journey.
- Practical education: short, useful topics and trusted local information.
- Connection before crisis: relationships and resources are built early, not only after a family becomes overwhelmed.
- Groups can be hosted by churches or other community organizations and remain welcoming to the broader community.

HOW A GROUP CAN RUN

- Monthly or biweekly meetings in a comfortable, conversational setting.
- A few trained volunteers moderate the gathering and help steward the community.
- Typical flow: welcome and check-in, shared conversation, a short education/resource topic, guest participation when useful, and time for connection.
- The group is not a job fair, sales event or clinical program. Relationships are allowed to develop naturally.

WHO WE INVITE

- Family caregivers and people receiving or planning for care.
- CNAs, professional caregivers, nurses and other healthcare professionals.
- Experienced family caregivers, adult-day and senior-care professionals, local resource organizations and community volunteers.
- People who simply want to help their neighbors and strengthen the local support network.

LOCAL STEWARDSHIP & CAREGIVER VERIFICATION

The local volunteer leadership provides visible human stewardship around the relationships that form inside the group.

- Caregivers or CNAs who wish to connect professionally with families should come prepared with references and any applicable credentials.
- Sharing the Caring will provide guidance for checking references, confirming credentials and documenting basic verification.
- The goal is relationship plus accountability - helping families know more about the people offering care without turning the church into an employment or healthcare agency.

WHAT SHARING THE CARING PROVIDES

- Educational curriculum and suggested monthly topics.
- Moderator guides, discussion prompts and practical talking points.
- Family and caregiver handouts and community-resource information.
- Guidance for caregiver reference and credential verification.
- Ongoing support, program standards and a recognizable community identity.

WHAT WE ASK OF A HOST CHURCH

- No monetary contribution is required.
- A meeting space, if available, and a few volunteers willing to help moderate and steward the group.
- Help inviting families, caregivers and healthcare professionals from the congregation and surrounding community.
- Optional in-kind support may include refreshments, supplies, volunteer time, donated durable goods or other practical contributions.

PRACTICAL COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Sharing the Caring Closet: a local collection or exchange point for appropriate reusable caregiving items, mobility aids, supplies and other durable goods. Local resource connections: transportation, respite, adult-day programs, senior resources, healthcare services and other help families may need. The larger goal is simple: help families know where to turn - and know real people who can help them get there.

Conversation for 360 Church: Could a small pilot group like this serve families in the Marysville community?