



SHARING THE CARING

Connecting families. Building communities.

OUR INVITATION

No family should care alone.

A lasting community of support for families caring for someone they love.

Caring for a loved one can change nearly every part of family life. Alongside practical decisions, families often carry uncertainty, grief and the feeling that they must figure everything out on their own.

Sharing the Caring proposes a community rooted in local churches, where families can find encouragement, useful resources and relationships that continue as their needs change.

Our mission

To connect families caring for loved ones with supportive communities, trusted relationships and practical resources - so they remain supported through every stage of care.

A place to belong

The vision is simple: families are welcomed, someone knows their story, and they have a community to return to. Family participation is free. Our first focus is a welcoming group built on listening, encouragement and connection.

An invitation to begin a relationship

We invite pastors and church leaders to explore this vision with us. This introduction shares the heart of the proposed initiative; the shape of a local partnership can grow through listening and conversation.



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THE FAMILIES WE HOPE TO SERVE

Support through every stage of care.

A spouse caring for a partner. An adult child helping a parent. A friend or relative supporting someone through illness or disability. Each may need a place to ask questions, be heard and find encouragement.

When caregiving is new

Families may be facing a new diagnosis or noticing that a loved one needs more help. A welcoming community can offer shared experience, practical information and a chance to talk through questions without pressure.

When daily life feels heavy

As responsibilities grow, regular connection can help families feel less isolated. Support gatherings and shared learning would offer space for honest conversation about the everyday experience of caring.

When care changes

Moving a loved one into a care home does not end a family's need for support. Relationships should continue through changes in care, difficult decisions, grief and adjustment.

Everyone is welcome

The community would welcome families of every faith and no faith. Church membership or participation in worship would not be required. Older adults are welcome too; the central focus is supporting family caregivers and those close to them.

Care changes. Community stays.



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THE FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Connection, encouragement and practical help.

We envision local gatherings where families can build relationships over time, learn from one another and find a clearer sense of where to turn.

A welcoming place to gather

Family support conversations would offer room to share experiences at a comfortable pace. Families could participate without feeling they must have the right words or all the answers.

Useful learning and resources

Shared learning would help families explore common caregiving questions and discover relevant community resources. Information should be understandable, useful and responsive to what families say they need.

A wider circle of community support

We hope to work with civic leaders, municipalities, local businesses and community groups to strengthen support for families. Through local relationships, we can share resources, invite participation and explore practical ways to help.

Choice remains with the family

Families choose what to share and how they participate. Community participation would remain free, with room to listen, ask questions and build relationships at a comfortable pace.

The goal is for families to feel supported as people, with relationships that matter beyond a single meeting or decision.



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RELATIONSHIPS THAT LAST

A familiar face. A community that stays.

A list of resources can help. Having someone who knows you, listens and remembers to check in can make that help feel within reach.

Someone to turn to

The proposed community would include a known local leader or steward who helps families feel welcome, connected and heard. The aim is personal follow-through as families explore resources and take their next steps.

Respect for each family

Families should be able to participate at their own pace. Privacy, dignity and respect for personal choices would guide the community, including how introductions are made and how families share their stories.

Support beyond a transition

The relationship would continue when a loved one's needs change or a family makes a new care arrangement. Families would remain part of the community through each transition, with familiar faces and ongoing encouragement.

Keeping family participation free

Family participation would remain free. The initial focus is creating a welcoming group where families can find encouragement, share experiences and build lasting relationships.

**Our hope is that families can say:
“We have people to turn to. We are not alone.”**



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AN INVITATION TO CHURCH PARTNERS

Let's begin with a conversation.

Churches can be places of welcome, familiarity and lasting relationship. Sharing the Caring invites church partners to help extend that sense of belonging to families carrying the responsibilities of care.

What a partnership could look like

A church might offer a welcoming place to gather, introduce the community to families who could benefit, or involve people with a heart for hospitality and encouragement. Each relationship would develop around local needs and the church's capacity.

What we would like to hear from you

What are families in your congregation and neighborhood experiencing? Where do caregivers feel most alone? What kind of support would be meaningful here?

A thoughtful next step

Our first step is to listen and get to know one another. If there is shared interest, we can explore what a local community might look like together. More detailed planning can follow as the relationship develops.

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Johnny Judd

Sharing the Caring

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