**Care Crew (Benevolence) Policy**

**Purpose of the Care Crew**

The purpose of the Care Crew Ministry is to assist members of The Bakersfield Collective Church and those within our community with unexpected short-term needs that cannot otherwise be met. The standards for determining the type and level of need are spelled out within this document. Examples of needs may or may not include, but are not necessarily limited to utilities, food, and other short-term living expenses or emergency needs. This ministry primarily serves the regular attendees of The Collective.

**The Care Crew is based upon Scripture:**

“Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.”

(Galatians 6:2)

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you love one another." (John 13:34)

“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?” (James 2:14-16)

Additional scriptural guidelines: Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Matthew 25:34-45; Isaiah 58:6-9; Jeremiah 22:16; Job 29:12-16.

At The Collective we work hard to follow scriptural guidelines for being good stewards of the monies entrusted to us. We believe those who handle and distribute monies given to God's work should not only be above reproach in all respects but should also be held accountable. (I Cor. 4:2)

**Care Crew Policy Statement**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the conditions for which The Bakersfield Collective church may authorize and disburse funds that are classified as Care. Care disbursements will only be approved to provide for the basic necessities of life to needy persons. Types of disbursements may include food, clothing, financial support, and other types of assistance. Assistance provided as Care is intended to be a one-time gift.

Any Care requests that would benefit board members, employees, or emissaries or their family members (any blood relative) will not be approved. All Care requests must receive board approval by a simple majority of the board before any funds are disbursed. Care is a non-taxable charitable contribution provided to alleviate their hardship.

Donors may not direct Church to allocate their contributions to be paid as Care to any specific individual.

**Criteria**

To qualify for Care funds, the individual or family must belong to a recognized hardship class. For instance, individuals who fall below the poverty level for a given region or country might qualify for Care. Other factors that may qualify someone for Care include, but are not limited to:

* loss of employment
* death in the family of wage earner
* costly medical condition (if there is no insurance coverage)
* severe hardship resulting from a natural disaster
* critical injury or loss resulting from terrorism or an act of war

Though not a comprehensive list of criteria, the board will review each Care request to ensure that it meets with both the literal interpretation of the policy as well as the general intent behind the policy.

Care will NOT be approved for:

* business investments, or anything that could be construed to bring financial profit to the individual or family
* paying off credit cards. Exceptions can be made when an individual has had to use credit cards to pay for a crisis or emergency (e.g., hospitalization, death, etc.)
* needs of individuals who are wanted by the law or for paying fines as a result of breaking the law
* legal fees
* penalties relating to late payments or irresponsible actions
* private school fees or tuition

**Process**

Care requests must be made by the person requesting assistance or by someone who is directly assisting the person in need. Requests should be processed via the Care Crew link on The Collective website, which will be directed to the Care Crew Connections Director, who will then forward the request to the Church Board. Requests should include the following:

* name and address of person for whom Care is requested
* criteria for which Care might apply to said individual
* Care Requested (funds needed)
* contact information for person making the request (if representing the potential recipient) so that the board can follow up with additional questions if needed.

All requests will be reviewed and voted on by the Church Board. The Care Crew

Connections Director will provide the board with Care requests within 3

business days of receipt. The board will then review the request and ensure that it

meets the stipulations of this policy.

If the board determines that the Care request qualifies, the board must arrive at

a simple majority approval before any disbursements is made. The board will

determine the amount of the Care to be disbursed. The board will then notify

the Care Crew Connections Director of their determination.

The Care Crew Connections Director or staff will inform the requestor of the

determination of the board. Disbursements for approved Care will be issued

within 2 weeks of the approval.