



PURE[®]
MINISTRIES

A BETTER WAY

QUICKSTART GUIDE >

1...2...3

Implementing PURE Ministry through Respite Care

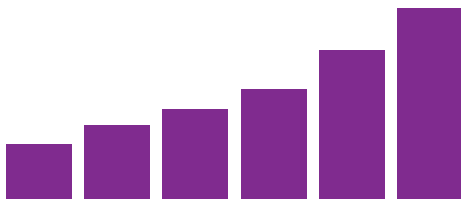
DID YOU KNOW?



About 1 in 5 Americans (56+ million of the U.S. population of 303+ million) have been diagnosed with a disability?

11
MILLION

Over 11 million Americans need personal assistance with everyday activities?



Families of children with special needs experience a higher than average level of stress?



When a child with special needs is born into a marriage or a child becomes disabled through accident or disease, 4 out of 5 (80%) of those marriages end in divorce (90% when the disability is autism)?



Many families affected by disability feel unwelcome in churches and have even been asked to leave?



U.S. Census and Other Sources

WHAT IS PURE MINISTRIES?

PURE MINISTRIES seeks to awaken Christians across the nation to an increased awareness of, and ministry to, people with disabilities and their families through the local church.

We strive to transform the basic perception that society has of individuals with special needs. As you will see in this book, we believe one step in this transformation is the use of a new positive and edifying term to refer to a person with disabilities: **PURE**.

P

Perfectly created by
a loving sovereign
God, designed for
His purposes



U

Unique in his or her
own gifts, blessings,
talents, desires and
contributions



R

Receptive and
responsive to our
communication,
touch, and acts of
love



E

Eternal: there are no
disabled souls



PRAYER

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

James 5:16 NIV

Prayer is the foundation on which an effective ministry is built. Begin right now to pray as you seek God's plan for PURE Ministry in your church, family, community and heart. Expect to see God move mountains and work in surprising ways to bring glory to Himself through PURE people and their families.

Prayer is an essential component of PURE Ministry at every stage of development. Establish a routine of praying for your leadership team, volunteers, families, participants, church leaders and staff, church members and the community at large.



We recommend keeping a prayer journal from the very start of your PURE Ministry journey. You will be encouraged and inspired to see how the Lord answers your prayers.

What is Respite Care?

Respite care provides a short break for parents/caregivers of individuals with disabilities.



"Respite is rest for parents, an adventure for the special ones and a blessing beyond words to those that are caring for the family!"

A PURE Parent

ESTABLISH A TEAM

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17 NIV

A team always accomplishes more than an individual and a team is a vital foundation for PURE Ministry in a church.

Bring the team members together and share your experiences and inspiration for being a part of the group. Don't be afraid to invite parents and professionals who work with individuals with disabilities to join your team. They will be some of your strongest supporters and their expertise and experience will be a great help as you begin this journey.

Ideal team members will be people who are aware of and comfortable with PURE people.

Ideas for Team Members

- Church staff
- Teachers
- Therapists
- Parents
- Medical professionals
- Youth/youth ministry leaders
- Adults with disabilities
- Grandparents

Approach the pastor with your vision. After gathering team members and talking about a common goal, it is important to meet with your leader/pastor/minister to share the concept of PURE Ministry and what you hope to accomplish. You may find that the pastor is immediately supportive of PURE Ministry or that there are some further questions to answer.



Plan to meet as a team at regular intervals when you are working to establish your ministry and on an ongoing basis.

DREAMING

"He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart." Isaiah 40:11 NIV

Take time to look down the road of your ministry into the future. What do you see? Where will you be in a year? Five years? This is a chance for you to dream.

Brainstorm with your team and make a list of all the things you hope to accomplish. For now, don't worry about barriers and challenges – budget, space, facility or volunteer needs. Consider how your ministry would look in an ideal church. Ask the Lord to give you a BIG vision.

Write it down! Save this list of hopes and dreams. It will bring you so much encouragement and will be a source of great joy as you begin to see God accomplishing these things in the future. You will have the opportunity to praise Him for providing a way – A BETTER WAY.

Here are some questions to consider as you dream with your team:

- What is our purpose/mission?
- What do we want to accomplish?
- How will our church be impacted by PURE Ministry?
- What will our community see?
- What can we do to create a fully inclusive church where PURE people are considered and included in all aspects of ministry?



Set aside 5 minutes as a team to watch Ryan Pittman's testimony on YouTube.



"We are all different.

I am different because I have Down Syndrome.

But we are all the same. We ALL need God."

Ryan Pittman

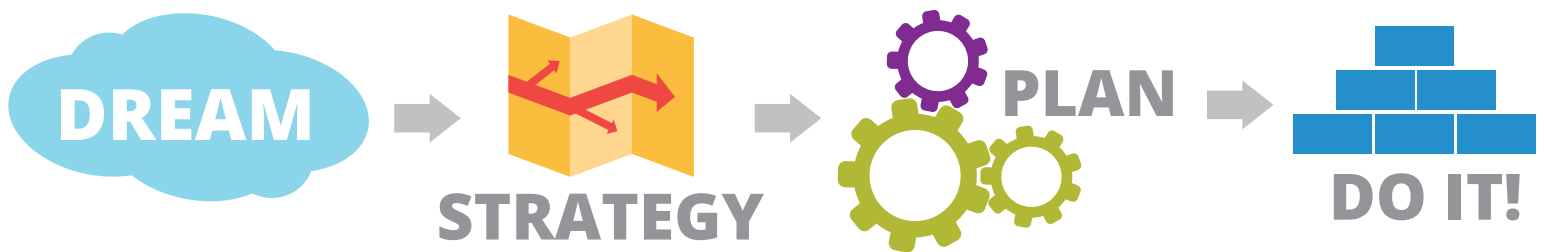
DEVELOP A STRATEGY

"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." *Proverbs 16:9 NKJV*

Strategy is a method chosen to bring about a desired future, such as achievement of a goal or solution to a problem. Your team's strategy helps to determine your decisions.

Think about the dreams your team came up with. What is your situation today? Your strategy guides your decisions to lead you toward your goals. There is no one strategy that is right for everyone.

What will this come to look like in our church?



Tactics to Achieve your Strategy

- What resources will we need to get started?
Consider financial, tangible and human resources.
- What events/activities will help us reach our goal?
PURE Ministries recommends respite care.
- Who is our ideal volunteer?
- Participants: Who is here now? Growth will come later. Don't be afraid to start very small.
- How can we use the space we have? Is our facility accessible and inviting?
- How soon would we like to get started?
- Ongoing church gatherings: How will we minister to PURE families during other church events? Consider Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday nights, special events.
- How will we share our vision with the church?
- How can we build relationships with our participants and their families?



PURE Ministries recommends respite care as a way to establish or grow ministry.

PLAN YOUR COURSE

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord." Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

Now your team is ready to begin planning your first event. It can seem overwhelming but with the work of everyone on the team, you can do it!

Here are some considerations when planning your course:

- What will we do?
- Who will meet? Kids, adults, siblings?
- Who will help?
- How long will our meetings be?
- How often will we meet?
- When will we start?
- How will we communicate our needs and successes with the church?



Join the network at
PURE-ministries.com!



Equip your Volunteers

- Recruit a Volunteer Base: begin with your leadership team
- Volunteer Orientation: draw on the expertise of your leadership team
- Find resources to fit your ministry's needs
- Safety Considerations: review your church insurance policy. Follow established guidelines set for those working with vulnerable populations.

"On the day of respite, everyone gets ready to go after lunch even though the event doesn't begin until 6:00! They really look forward to attending!"

A PURE Direct Support Provider

DO IT!

"...let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions." 1 John 3:18

You are ready to host your first event. This is an exciting time! Your talking, dreaming and planning is now becoming a reality. Remember that it is OK to start out with a small group. It is OK to build slowly. You will need to make changes and adjustments so don't worry about getting everything perfect!

A Few Things to Remember



Don't be afraid to start small - Go for quality rather than quantity.



Minister first to the families that you have!



Word of mouth is the most effective publicity tool



Share with your church & community



Host your first event



Celebrate, evaluate & readjust



Remember to remain flexible!



"I love doing things like this to help other people!"

A Teen Volunteer

EXPAND

“The harvest is great but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.” *Luke 10:2 NLT*

Whether you have hosted one PURE Ministry event or have several years of experience, there is always room for improvement. Continue to pray, meet with your team and listen to feedback from volunteers, church leadership, parents and participants. The most important aspect of PURE Ministry to focus on is building relationships.

Churches provide the opportunity to develop the relationships PURE families need for support. For example, PURE Ministry in a church allows parents to build a relationship with other people who become a vital part of their support team. These supporters provide friendship, prevent isolation, bring encouragement and meet practical needs like respite.

Find more Volunteers

- Youth
- College students
- Groups within the Church: Sunday School classes, small groups, choir, etc. can volunteer on a rotating basis
- Host ongoing Volunteer Orientations & background checks
- Emphasize using volunteer gifts: crafts, snacks, decorations, etc.

Find more Participants

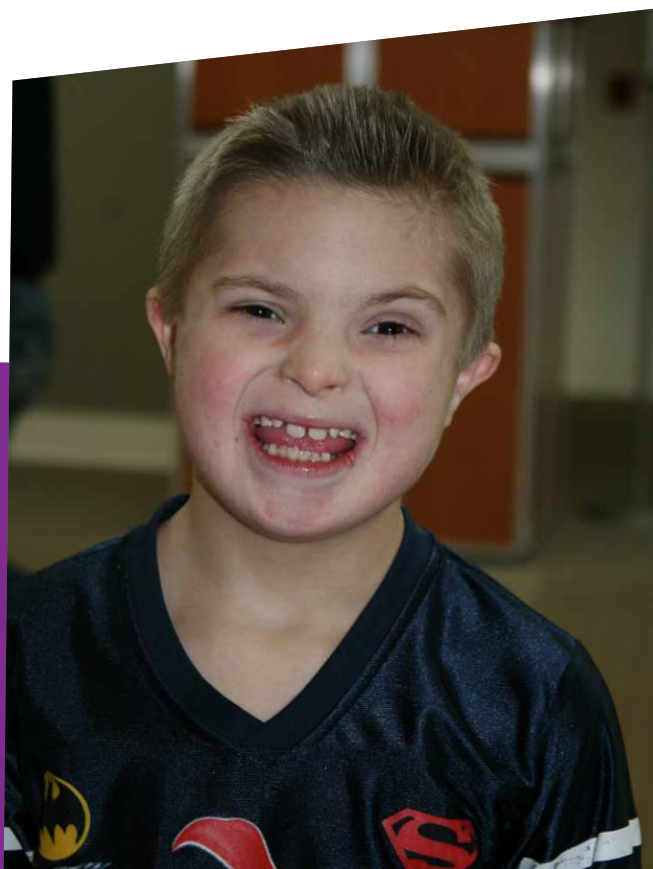
- School system
- Medical & therapy offices
- Encourage participants to bring a friend!
- Seek out group homes and assisted living centers
- Contact direct support providers

Funding

Let us know how it's going!

PURE Ministries loves to get feedback from new ministries. Contact us through Facebook or visit our website at:

www.PURE-ministries.com



- Request a budget from the church
- Special fundraising events
- Contributions/Sponsorships
- Designated fund for donations

Spread the Word

- Community collaborative meetings/groups
- Church announcements: share success stories & testimonies!
- Church website & bulletin
- Local newspapers and community calendars
- Special Needs support groups/online forums

Increase your Options

- Consider how you can offer ministry to PURE families at other times
- Sunday morning, Sunday evening, Wednesday evening, special events, Vacation Bible School

Accommodations

- Consider the unique needs of each participant
- Visual schedule
- Sensory needs
- Chill out room
- Be sure to provide a simple structure



PURE Ministry is a plan to minister to families through the regular activities of the church. Incorporate PURE families into every aspect of church life.

Considerations: including PURE individuals in Parents Night Out, have a Chill Out area at Fall Festival, have accommodations at special events such as egg hunts, church meals, retreats, Lord's Supper/Communion, etc. during the regular activities.

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:27 NLT



PURE[®]
MINISTRIES

A BETTER WAY - A MINISTRY OF ZACHARIAH'S WAY



"I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!" -Jesus

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PURE-MINISTRIES.COM

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