



PURE
MINISTRIES®

A BETTER WAY

RESPITE QUICKSTART GUIDE >

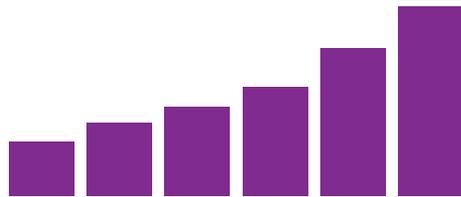
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Implementing PURE Ministry through Respite Care

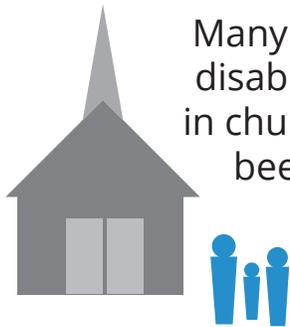
DID YOU KNOW?



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



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



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

11 MILLION

Over 11 million Americans need personal assistance with everyday activities?



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)?

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

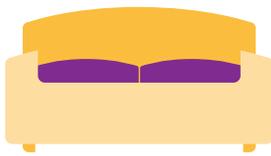
Eternal: there are no disabled souls



THE PURE MINISTRY MODEL

Why is PURE Ministry different?

We are often asked: What does this look like? Exactly how will this work? The answer to that is simple: PURE ministry is about **RELATIONSHIPS**. Churches and ministries are uniquely positioned to present PURE families with a different model than they encounter in other areas of life.



This is NOT a Therapy Model...

- Where medical diagnosis drives services to alleviate the symptoms of a disability.
- Instead, we are able to convey that we believe their family is PURE – Perfectly created by a loving sovereign God, designed for His purposes.



This is not an Educational Model...

- Where programs are developed to enhance the abilities of PURE people to help them navigate the world and improve themselves.
- Instead, we value each life as Unique in his or her own gifts, blessings, talents, desires and contributions.



This is not a Business Model...

- Where decisions are established by practices concerned with return on investment
- Instead, we are strategically positioned to remind the world around us that PURE people are Receptive and responsive to our communication, touch and acts of love

The PURE Model is...



At its heart, a drastically different model than any the world has to offer. PURE families desperately need a different message than that offered by a world that cannot recognize what it means to be PURE. Only the Bride of Christ can send a message that communicates: You are an Eternal being. There are no disabled souls.

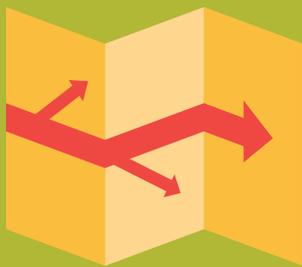
WHAT IS RESPITE?

"A system of temporary supports for families..." United Cerebral Palsy Associations, Inc.

Respite is simply giving PURE families a break from the physical and stressful demands involved in the daily care of their loved one. Respite is NOT a time to educate or run therapy programs. Instead, respite is built on relationship building! It is a time when one-on-one connections can be made between PURE people and their Respite Buddies that build bonds of love.

Who Benefits from Respite?

- PURE people
- PURE parents
- PURE siblings
- PURE volunteers



Consider this...

Including the siblings of your PURE community. For many siblings of PURE children, this might be one of the only opportunities they have to be open and free – on the defense – about their PURE brother or sister. They can benefit from the fellowship and extra attention of an adult at your respite event.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

Colossians 3:23-24

FIRST STEPS

How do we get started?

Identify volunteers. Potential volunteers for PURE ministry come from all stages of life because the relationships built with PURE people benefit the entire Body of Christ. Consider asking families to serve together. Don't forget to think about teachers, therapists and bus drivers in your church that might lend their special expertise to a respite event.



Offer an orientation in which you explain to volunteers what to expect at a respite event.



Once you have a list of volunteers, decide the types of events you will offer.



Plan the event and have it advertised. Ideas for activities and promotion are included at the end of this guide.



Have FUN building relationships.



Meet with volunteers and get feedback on the event. How did it go? What should you do differently?
(All ideas should be welcome.)



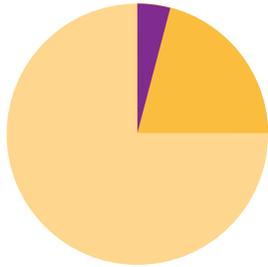
"Respite is my favorite thing that I do with my grandsons. Thank you for what you do!"

A PURE Grandmother

FORMAT OPTIONS

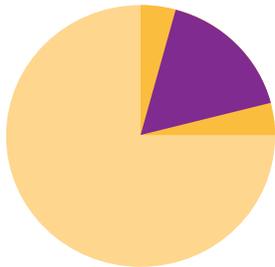
What does a Respite Event look like?

A 3 hour format is recommended because it provides adequate time for parents and caregivers to complete tasks, run errands, and revive themselves.



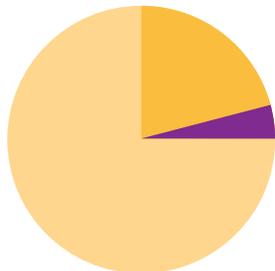
30 Minutes

Large Group Opening (including general announcements about activities, event theme, etc.)



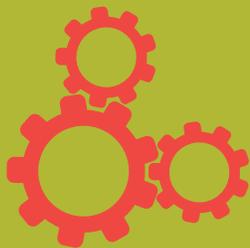
2 Hours

Activity & Theme Stations (a time when everyone moves at their own pace through fun relationship building activities; consider including a fellowship meal)



30 Minutes

Large Group Closing



We recommend the use of visual schedules and activity maps that allow participants to know what activities are being offered at each event.

"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

ACTIVITY & THEME STATIONS

What will we do together?

All stations can happen in separate rooms, or in one area if using a single large room such as a gym. The key is to have as little going on at each station as possible to prevent participants from feeling over-stimulated, while allowing them to rotate from station to station at their own pace.



If using classrooms, you may find it useful to cover bookshelves and other areas not in use for the event with sheets or drop cloths.

Why allow participants to travel at their own pace?

The goal of respite is relationship building. There is no need to rush through each station because the goal isn't completing everything, but to have as much fun as possible while building a friendship. Creating an environment that allows everyone to participate in a carnival-like atmosphere is the ideal environment for fun and building a bond between friends.

Activity Stations

Many of these stations can be repeated at each event with little to no change. Some of the ideas for activities your participants might like can be gleaned from the Registration Form. Unless indicated with an *, these rooms probably do not need to be "staffed" for the entire evening, but can be managed as each buddy visits the room with their participant. Here are a few other ideas:

Lego Station: a couple of bins of Legos on a plastic mat

Sensory Play: sensory bin, table and plastic table cloth for easy clean up; see the PURE Ministry Pinterest board for ideas

Puzzles & Board Games: a room with tables and a variety of games & puzzles

Nail Salon*: a ton of little girls will LOVE having their nails done at respite; consider recruiting teenaged girls to staff this room for the night

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:8

ACTIVITY & THEME STATIONS

Secondary Line 4

Quiet Room: have a room with bean bags, mats, and indirect lighting; see the PURE Ministry Pinterest board for ideas – especially for the DIY Lightbox

Playground: or outside activities as weather permits

Theme Stations

These are ideas that you can rotate from season to season. While it is a good practice to keep some stations as repeating options, it can also be fun to celebrate holidays and seasons together. We have created PURE Ministry Respite Theme Boards on Pinterest and Respite Theme Guides for many seasonally themed respite events. Here, you will also find Large Group Activities to fill time at the beginning and end of your respite event. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Theme Games: seasonal activities and party games can be a fun way to celebrate the seasons; be sure to note food allergies and restrictions when offering snacks

Seasonal Snacks: any snack that needs to be assembled can be a fun project for a respite theme station

Crafts*: When preparing crafts the best rule of practice is: SIMPLE but NOT CHILDISH. Many seasonal crafts can be found in kits at Oriental Trading pretty easily. Craft stations are usually best staffed by 2 volunteers for the whole event since they are specific to a certain process. NOTE: some children may want to complete 2 or more crafts

Large Group Ideas: You can find a lot of ideas for “party games” that are relay oriented (relays are fun to complete with your buddy) to take up your large group time. This is a nice way to close your respite event while allowing for clean up



“I love doing things like this to help other people!”

A Teen Volunteer

VOLUNTEERS & BUDDIES

Who do you need to have a great respite event? People of all kinds can contribute to a respite environment that focuses on building relationships. Here are a few key contributors for a successful event:

- Registration Hosts: 4 to 5 people whose primary responsibility is welcoming PURE families and participants, verifying their registration information, and assigning Buddies
- Buddies: a “Buddy” is the title often given to a caregiver assigned to a PURE child or adult. This person acts as their guide and companion. While some PURE participants require one-on-one Buddy care, this may not always be necessary.
- Craft Leaders: If providing crafts as one of the activity stations, it is often useful to have assigned leaders who can help explain the processes involved in the selected craft.
- Floaters & Hall Monitors: It is always a good idea to have a few people who are administrating by observing the evening’s activities. Consider strategically placing extra volunteers who monitor hallways at stairwells and high traffic areas incase Buddies become separated.

The primary responsibility of a Buddy is to have fun building friendships. Think about friendships between typical friends. How do those develop?

- Did you undergo training for any of your friendships?
- Have you been certified with special skills that equip you for your friendships? Probably not.

PURE friendships develop the same way. Remember that our goal is to remind participants they are PURE. As the bride of Christ, churches are strategically poised to develop friendships based on the idea that our new friends are.



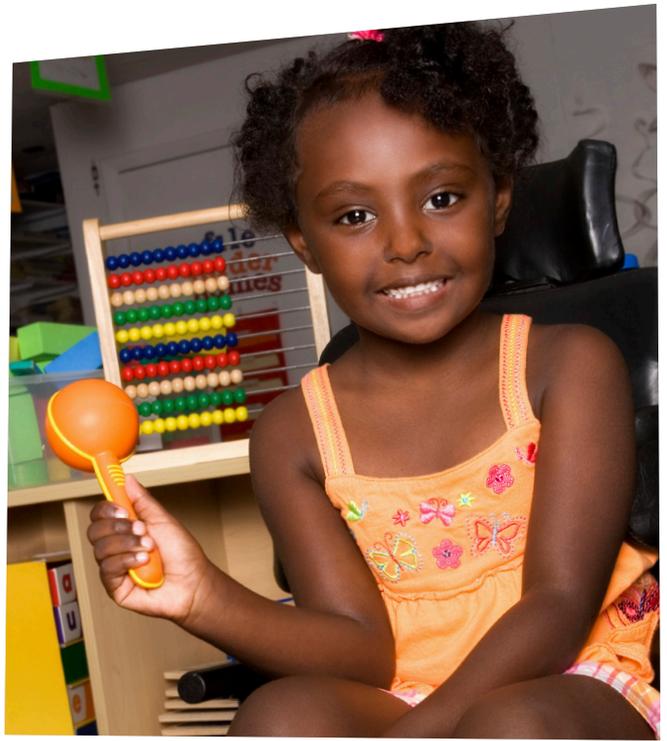
Let us know how it's going!

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

www.PURE-ministries.com

Things to include at an orientation meeting:

- PURE people have feelings just like everyone else. They can hear all comments and see all facial expressions you make. Remind them to be respectful of the differences we all have.
- How to communicate with PURE people.
- Basic first aid skills and the procedures your team has chosen to follow. Many routines regarding first aid, personal care needs and administration of medication can be similar to those of other established ministries at your church.
- Information from parents about children or adults with whom they will be building new friendships.
- Adequate instructions about specific duties they will be required to perform.



“Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the Father who gives tender love. All comfort comes from him. He comforts us in all our troubles. Now we can comfort others when they are in trouble. We ourselves have received comfort from God.”

ORGANIZING & PROMOTING

It cannot be stressed enough that respite is a relational ministry. Both PURE participants and volunteers grow as they learn about one another. As these friendships are forged, it becomes clear that PURE people have much to offer the community of God.

A well-designed registration form can provide you with much of the information you need to successfully meet the needs of the PURE participants at your respite. Be sure to include questions about participant's hobbies and areas of interest. Find out what they enjoy doing so that you can prepare to start your friendship with those activities.

A suggested Respite Registration Form can be found at:

www.pure-ministries.com/respite-information



Our number one tip for getting to know your PURE participants is a phone call to the caregiver or parent. Time and time again, this is the BEST proven method for learning about how to befriend our PURE friends.

While asking families to provide details about formal diagnoses and their IEP goals could be useful, we find it less threatening and less an invasion of privacy to ask more subtle questions that focus on the child's strengths.

"At our first respite event, we had one participant. No one came to the second respite event! But now after 11 years we average 60 participants."

A PURE Ministry Leader in Georgia





PURE
MINISTRIES®

A BETTER WAY - A MINISTRY OF ZACHARIAH'S WAY



"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." -Romans 12:13

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PURE-MINISTRIES.COM

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