



Mission Grant Report Form

Iowa District West

Grant recipients are asked to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort or, if a continuing ministry, by January 31 of the following year in which the grant is received. Please submit any pictures, as well, that would help to share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their ministry.

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort.

Calvary Lutheran Church asked for a \$2500 grant to help with the 125th anniversary of Leed's Outreach breakfast. Calvary put together a breakfast on June 16, 2014 to help our community celebrate. The event started with congregation members inviting their friends and neighbors to the breakfast with yellow tickets that included an invitation and sign up for door prizes, the church newsletter, and contact information. About twenty members then walked in the community parade and threw out candy and more invitations to the crowd. We tried to personally invite as many people as possible. At the breakfast we served free Belgian Waffles, drinks, and handed out free water. Every half hour Pastor Travis shared a devotion and explained to the group why this event was free and compared it to the free gift Jesus gives to us. The event incorporated 50 plus Calvary volunteers to welcome, serve, and thank people for coming. We also provided children's games for the community. The morning also offered a free rummage sale of clothes that were collected from the congregation. Approximately 450 plus people came to the event which went off well despite God giving us several down pours of rain.

2. What goals were established for this effort; that is, what did you hope to accomplish?

The outreach breakfast goal was to reach 500 people with the Gospel of Christ at the event itself and then to continue to follow-up with those we had invited. Of the 450 tickets about 20 expressed interest in receiving continued follow-up with our newsletter. 10 of those were members of other congregations. Members had Pastor make two follow up visits and as of the writing of this report we are sending out about 200 follow up letters thanking members of our community for participating and inviting them all to our outdoor worship and picnic.

3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors?

To have 500 people attend the outreach event was a huge goal. Constantly through the process members approached the committee and said this goal was way too high and that we should expect only one hundred. In fact, some urged us not to reach out through the newspaper and other events because we would not have enough to take care of all the people. The irony of this was that God provided more than we could expect. God provided free advertisement in the journal despite the desire not to advertise, God also provided a tremendous response to the parade. I would say over half of the attendees were from Leeds proper who came back with their ticket in hand.

We could argue the rain hurt the event from not having a 1000 people come, but it actually helped us just bring our local people in and we were able to talk more one on one with them.

Another goal we did not know we had was to get to know our community leaders. Now our Leeds community club has partnered with our congregation. We host their meetings and as a result they are much more willing to advertise our congregation events for the community. The community even brought in barricades, advertised for us in the community flier, etc.

As far as gaining new members or increasing attendance at worship itself, it is too early to tell. However, the project brought the congregation together on a large project and has given Calvary a positive image in the community.

We invited those attendees interested to our annual picnic and will try to invite others to our Sunday School/Church events as part of regular follow up.

4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again?

If we do the event over we will for sure ask on the tickets the name of people's home congregation. We made follow up difficult to distinguish between people that already have a church and those that do not.

Many of our members are seriously considering throwing another even except instead of deliberately inviting everyone, to deliberately invite the downcast of Society. For example those in the Senior Center, those in the poor income housing places, etc. Those who are more well to do that for the most part attended just came because it was a nice gesture and there was no response.

We would also have people write down the name of their home church on the drawing so we would could sort them easier for follow-up.

5. What lessons were learned through this effort?

1. God made the event! He provided everything that was needful. 2. Inviting people with a free ticket was the way to go. It was easy for those who feel uncomfortable with evangelism and made it easy to reach a mass crowd. We also learned to print 2000 invitations instead of 1000!

6. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort?

Start planning 6 months before the event and assign jobs to each person on the committee and have them find people to work on the individual task. Also, each team to make its own decisions, it will provide ownership and joy in the task at hand. Follow up after the event, follow up for a year after the event. Invite people back!!! Lastly, pray fervently at home and in the congregation for the event.

7. Contact person

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