

Explanation of Step 10

10. The previous nine basic steps will keep this ministry ongoing with a step-by-step process. If the HTH Director has time and would like to add to the ministry, here are a few suggestions:

♥ The HTH Director or one of the other volunteers can take pictures of volunteers with residents at the nursing home. Before taking pictures, ask the nursing home staff the policy on taking pictures of residents. There may be a consent form that must be signed by the residents. Always ask a resident's permission to take their picture and to display their picture in the church. A bulletin board could be placed in the church showing pictures of volunteers and residents.

♥ Each year the HTH Director and other volunteers may want to organize a dinner (pot-luck or at a restaurant) to fellowship together and share stories and pictures of their visits with the nursing home residents. New ideas and suggestions for the ministry could also be discussed. If the HTH Director or another volunteer has time throughout the year, a slide show of the ministry (residents and volunteers) would be meaningful at this dinner. The slide show can also be used in church services when promoting the ministry. If several churches in the community are participating in this ministry, they may want to plan this dinner together.

♥ Throughout the year, the HTH Director may want to call the church members who have visited the nursing home to find out how the visits are going. Some volunteers will not be able to participate in the church group visits and will be visiting on their own. These volunteers will especially benefit from a call and feel more connected to the group if they know the HTH Director is interested in their visits.

♥ During the year, the HTH Director may want to offer educational meetings for the volunteers. Guest speakers could meet with the group and inform volunteers about various needs, health issues, and other situations of nursing home residents.

♥ One of the volunteers could encourage church members hosting a wedding or other occasion to donate the flowers to the ministry. The volunteer would coordinate the distribution of the flowers to the nursing home. Large flower arrangements can be made into many smaller arrangements. Small vases can usually be purchased inexpensively at thrift stores. Florist vials can be placed on the ends of long-stemmed flowers to easily hand flowers to residents.

♥ To encourage more people to participate, the HTH Director could keep a list for volunteers to sign if they would like to take a certain month of the year to visit and/or make a small craft for the residents. For example, a Bible study class in the church may want to visit the residents for Valentine's Day in February and prepare a Valentine craft (gift) for them. Other volunteers may just want to prepare the crafts for others to take to the residents.