

DEFINITION: Sharing the goods that the Lord has provided, such as groceries, batteries, candles, toiletries, baby needs, paper goods etc., with those in need.

As a church you are probably not going to host a large POD (Point of Distribution) for your whole community, but instead, you CAN focus on the vulnerable population of your community i.e. single moms, the elderly, the disabled, and others who have special needs. The elderly and single moms with little kids should not be spending hours every couple of days waiting in a line for some water and food at a county POD. YOU can go to the POD, fill up a truck and bring the supplies back for them! Many of the poor do not have cars and in a disaster many have lost their cars. PODS are often not set up for those on foot.

With some advance preparation, not only can the people in your congregation collect extra good for their own neighbors that will be in need, but also, as a congregation, you can collect goods to give to those in need when there is a disaster. During the year be picking up camping supplies at garage sales and clearance sales. If there is no disaster? Before Christmas have an outreach in a poor area of your city, hand out your supplies and begin collecting again at the beginning of the year!

TYPES OF GOODS: This is a partial list, but gives you some ideas. See the Collections List for a more complete list.

Food

- Coffee and tea (sugar and dry creamer)
- Powdered milk
- Juices
- Packaged groceries that are ready to eat or just have to be heated
- Any dehydrated foods
- Rice, oatmeal
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.)
- Canned soups, pasta
- Snack food (granola bars, Cheerios, etc.)
- Peanut butter and jelly

Other examples of goods

- Toiletries, Paper goods (toilet paper!), trash bags (can't get enough for clean up – we rationed these out!)
- Batteries (LOTS, especially D), candles, matches
- Baby items, wipes! (there isn't water!), everything babies need (WIC was good with formula, but there were NEVER enough diapers!) NEVER did enough baby goods come through from other sources!
- Cleaning supplies of all kinds (bleach!) and cleaning utensils (mops, brooms etc.)
- Little toys (to brighten up the little ones' day)

Distribution of Goods Ministry Team

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- Pet food
- Basic first aid supplies, aspirin, etc.
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Some things that you may not have lots of but are very nice to have on hand: These are things you'll want to have on hand for specific needs.

- Propane camping stoves and propane, lanterns, any camping gear
- Tarps -these are usually available through the county, but there are always specific needs where you'll wish you had some to hand out (the elderly or the disabled etc.)
- Flashlights (most people should have these, but there are always some....)
- Towels
- Styrofoam coolers!
- Duct tape

Note: See information on *Operation Storehouse*