



Your Resource Pack

from
Elder Source Senior Ministries



**“They shall still be fruitful in old age....”
Psalm 92:14**

**“He defended the cause of the poor and needy....
Is that not what it means to know me?”
declares the Lord. Jeremiah 22:16**

It is a Partnership

The Elder Source Resource Pack is more than a free gift. It is a partnership. With a commitment of your time here in the beginning, this gift will blossom into a thriving, volunteer-based, one-to-one and group program. Our commitment will continue as described in the next three paragraphs.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Our newsletter will come to your facility four times a year (January, April, July, and October) and it will be full of inspiring articles, helpful information, and comments from colleagues all around the country who are using our materials.

Let's Make A Deal

LMAD is a way for you to earn more free materials. Included in every newsletter is a simple form that you can complete and return if your Resource Pack has been used on the average of at least once a week during the quarter. Each year thousands of dollars worth of free materials are distributed through LMAD.

“Now What?”

If you are not sure how a small container of audio/visual materials can turn into a volunteer-based program, we have designed five simple “Now What?” steps for you to follow. All of the “Now What?” steps are included in the information you are holding.

Harvest Prayer Meetings

One of the enclosed materials is the Harvest DVD. This seventeen minute video has inspired weekly prayer meetings in over two hundred. Why not join this growing number of facilities that is experiencing wonderful answers to prayer. Call or write to us for your free Prayer Journal.

Annual Christmas Stocking Project

Every fall we give you the opportunity to assist your residents in being able to give again. We will supply the cloth and patterns. You will complete and stuff the stockings for a needy children's group in your area and watch the faces of all light up. Details will be in the fall newsletter.

“Our History...

In 1979 the folks in elder care facilities in the Carolinas came to discover that the old expression “nothing is free” was simply not true when it came to a tiny Christian organization called Dobson Tape Ministry. The word quickly spread that blinded eyes could once again experience God’s Word with the help of a small cassette tape player and twelve cassette tapes featuring the New Testament. Founded to help those in nursing homes who could no longer hold a Bible and read, Dobson Tape Ministry was a blessing long overdue.

Sensing the need to do more, a major change took place in 1996, and more materials were added. In addition to the New Testament tapes, cassette tapes of older Gospel music (sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford, George Beverly Shea, and others) were added. Video tapes and devotional materials completed the new lineup of resources - all for the same price as in 1979 - free!

The spirit of God gently blew, and the tiny Carolina ministry became known across the United States as Elder Source by Dobson Ministries. Today, with the help of facility staff and volunteers, activity directors in forty-three states and Canada have received our non-denominational Christian-based Resource Packs.

...is still being written.”

The Resource Pack now belongs to your facility. For now it is nothing more than paper and plastic, but it can become one of the best tools in your toolbox, giving comfort, purpose, and hope to residents, staff, and volunteers.

We want to encourage you to begin using these materials today. Place Elder Source by Dobson Ministries on your weekly calendar. Be creative. The materials can be used in group settings and one-to-one. Start a Harvest Prayer meeting. Plan to participate in the Christmas Stocking Project.

Our history is still being written. Nothing would please us more than to read how this simple box is changing lives in your facility. If you are pleased with what we have donated to your facility, will you jot us a quick note to let us know and then let other colleagues know about us as well?

LMAD Let's Make a Deal

Our Goals

1. Have the Resource Pack materials used by staff or volunteers on the average of at least once a week.
2. Have the Resource Pack materials expanded into a viable one-to-one staff and volunteer based program.

As you follow the "Now What?" series of steps, goal two will be realized. However, goal one is an integral first step and will serve as the basis for this incentive program.

Our Deal

Put your Elder Source/Dobson Ministries materials to use on the average of at least once a week, and we will send you a quarterly gift to add to your Resource Pack. A LMAD form will be included with each quarterly newsletter. Simply complete and return the form, and we will send you a gift to add to your Resource Pack.

Now What Insert

I just completed an ad for a state activity association newsletter. In the center of the ad are the words "We're More Than a Box of Free Resources." Hopefully, you realize that by now, but for that little extra direction, we have included an insert just to help you realize the potential these resources have in the hands of people with a vision.

Other Resources Enclosed

We are constantly updating our Resource Packs. You may find information and resources in your Resource Pack from other free ministries and from some organizations that do not offer free materials. Thank you for letting us serve you in the best way we know how.

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Step One: Recruit a Faithful Volunteer

So where do you begin? Look for a volunteer like Ruth (below) who can take an interest in one-to-one visits with your residents. One is all you need. Show her the materials and introduce her to some residents that would appreciate the materials, a new friend, and a weekly visit.

On her first trip to a local nursing facility, Ruth found herself falling away from the organized group of ladies from her church that quickly moved from room to room leaving little gifts. Though nervous, Ruth found that she enjoyed meeting these folks and talking to them. Ruth started coming on her own and volunteering in many different ways. Some time later the activity director requested and received our free Resource Pack. Ruth now goes in several days a week taking the Resource Pack materials from room to room.

Step Two: Informing Staff and Volunteers

For the first year and a half the little congregation met in a local school while they saved money for a building of their own. The congregation grew and was blessed in having several men in the construction business. Now—four building projects later—all in the area know the white church on the corner. One man in particular was responsible for the completed projects, and they jokingly called him “Pharaoh.”

Maybe we can take a tip or two from “Pharaoh,” who recruited, trained, delegated, and motivated his volunteers. Using his building knowledge, he planned each work day, and he matched abilities with the work that needed to be done that day.

Hopefully, you have a faithful volunteer in place (explained in step 1) who has been taking the materials to some of your room-bound residents. If you have not yet found that special volunteer, try to find the time at least once a week to do the job yourself.

In step 2 we want you to use any possible means to inform your volunteers and facility staff.

1. Inform them that the materials have been donated for your activities/chaplains program.
2. Inform them that you need help in taking these materials to the in-room residents.
3. Inform them that they can help you by donating more items like those found in the Resource Pack.

“Pharaoh” and his team of volunteers not only built this first church but also three other churches in other countries. Now is the time for you to begin your own success story.

Step Three: Getting Into the Campaign Spirit

You may remember the old saying, “The squeaky wheel gets the grease.” Sometimes a squeak is good. One activity director, who got her residents involved in our Christmas Stocking Project for needy children, sent us a copy of a picture that was in her local newspaper. The picture showed her residents working on the stockings; and the article told the story of the stocking project, mentioned that ElderSource sponsored the project, and also described other materials that ElderSource had donated.

Getting the public’s attention is an important step in turning the Resource Pack into a viable program. Be bold as you start laying your groundwork and make a list of the a/v items you need.

1. Meet with your staff and select volunteers to lay plans for expanding the Resource Pack into a volunteer-driven visitation program.
2. Prepare an article for your facility newsletter, corporate publication, or local newspaper. Explain clearly the program you are building, the donation that began it all, the staff and volunteer participation already established, and include a list of ways the reader can participate.
3. Let your administrator and corporate office know of the broad base of community support that is possible.
4. Consider planning an open house on a weekend. Have free refreshments, or use the opportunity to raise funds. Ask a local radio station to do a remote. Contact a local television station. Use this time for individuals, churches, and community groups you have previously contacted to drop off their donations of audio/visual equipment. Your planning is critical. Squeaky wheels do get greased. Plan that squeaking.

Step Four: Hitting the Campaign Trail

Mike reached a point in his life when he was ready to put feet to his dream of being in politics. Though he knew that running for state house against the man who had been in office for years would not be easy, Mike, with the help of friends and family, embarked on a dream that was a political long shot. At the local fair Mike was given a distant spot; the incumbent, a prime location. Undaunted, Mike pressed on, and during the next few months he went door to door over most of the district. He won by a comfortable margin.

Mike didn’t let the odds stop him, and neither should you. Take time to check your campaign. Did you start with a faithful volunteer putting the materials to use once a week? Did you inform all of your staff and volunteers about your new program? Did you plan your strategy? If necessary, catch up so that you can reach your goal.

Step Four Continued

Your plans should have included contacting local churches. Unless you have direct contact with the pastors, let your volunteers contact their churches. Ask for donations of resources like those we have donated and ask for donations of cassette/VCR/CD/DVD players, televisions, books or other print materials; and anything else you might need to establish a resource center. Also, enlist new volunteers. (The volunteers will come as the excitement grows.)

Your planning time should have included methods for public appeal. Use media coverage. Contact those businesses that can help you. Have that special event for people to drop off their donations and visit your facility. Plead with your administrator to get on board with you since this project will be great public relations.

Mike's determination helped get him elected. If you are determined and have a vision, people will follow.

Step Five: Tying Up Loose Ends

Several years ago we picked out a *very* bright floral wallpaper for the dining room of our new house. As I was hanging the paper, our pastor stopped by and commented about the brightness of the paper, clearly indicating our choice would not be his choice. Our room stayed empty six years while we waited for a good deal on furniture; and as the years passed, we, too, began to dislike the boldness of the paper.

Finally we found a great deal on a table. Unfortunately, the table's finish reflected the bold floral pattern. A few days later the walls, bare and damaged by the removal of the paper, looked better than they had during the previous six floral years. After I painted the walls green, the room looked warm and comforting.

The point I am wanting to make is simple. Our dissatisfaction with the way our room looked brought about hard work that resulted in a delightful change. So what's the point? Your facility received our Resource Pack because the activities staff/chaplain requested one. You also received in this booklet a series of five steps designed to help you turn your Resource Pack into a viable volunteer program.

If you have followed the first four steps, you should be able to look back with satisfaction. If you need to, go back and repeat some of the steps.

Because we want to know what has happened in your facility, we have also included a feedback form. Please take the time to complete the form and return it us.

Stan Means
Director

Please Photo Copy and Return This Page.

Feedback Request Form

We hope that you have been able to see measurable success as you have applied the five Now What Steps to the particular needs of your residents. Your comments will help as we continue to offer the best possible free program for your residents' needs.

1. How do you use your Resource Pack? (Indicate how often.)

2. Have you participated in LMAD?

3. Have you tried to implement the Now What steps?

4. What is working best for you as you use the materials and develop the program?

5. What areas are you struggling with as you try to implement this program?

6. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

Your Name _____

Facility _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thanks for helping us to serve you and your residents