

the Benevolence Fund...

Following the scripture of Matthew 25:40 where it clearly states "In as much as you have done it to one of the least of these, you have done it to me."

Ministry was established to assist the body of Christ; principally members or attendees of Christ Evangelical

Free Church located 1/2 mile north of I78 at the Strausstown exit.

The funds earmarked for this ministry are used to assist those, in a scripturally responsible manner, having physical, financial, spiritual or emotional difficulties and need the **temporary** support of their church.

The ministry strives to assist in many practical ways that could include counseling or referral to a social service or an appropriate governmental agency - in lieu of - or in addition to, direct financial assistance from the Benevolence Fund.

Fund Distribution:

The Benevolence Fund is a budgeted resource set aside to assist people for emergent and/or long term needs.

A Committee Member or Benevolence Advisor investigates all request for assistance. There will be a telephone interview within 5 days following receipt of the written request.

DO NOT CONTACT any Committee Member directly due to the confidential nature. ALL Benevolence request must go through the C.E.F.C. Office by one of the following methods.

1. Phone during normal business hours or voice-mail after normal business hours
2. Written request mailed to C.E.F.C., Attn: Benevolence, 8477 Route 183, Bethel, PA 19507
3. E-Mail request to office@christefc.net with "Benevolence" in the Subject line.
4. Forms can be found on the CEFC Website at www.christefc.net

Complete a *Request for Benevolence Form* found in the FLC lobby or on the website and return it to the church office or place in the locked Benevolence Mailbox located in Welcome Center.

NO CASH WILL BE GIVEN directly to any INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY. Checks will be made payable to the institution requiring payment (e.g., landlord, utility, financial institution). A card will be sent to the Requester confirming payment.

Gifts up to \$500.00 may be distributed within 14 days for emergency needs, after the following:

- † Requester completes, signs and returns a Benevolence Request Form to the church office or Benevolence Mailbox.
- † A telephone interview is able to be conducted with Requester.
- † Approval from 3 or more Committee Members or 2 Members and Advisor.

ALL OTHER REQUESTS WILL BE REVIEWED AT THE NEXT FULL COMMITTEE MEETING

Requester(s) may be required to attend counseling and/or special classes as well as receiving assistance. If Requester(s) rejects recommended spiritual, financial, or specialized counsel, the Committee will reassess the worthiness of the need and continuation of assistance.

NO “after-the-fact” requests are considered (eg., after a utility has been turned off, foreclosure or notice to vacate has been issued. Finance or late charges WILL NOT be paid at ANY time.

Committee may consider a gift of a lesser value than requested if they believe assistance can be acquired through other avenues or a request can be denied altogether based on the information obtained through interview and reference checks.

Distributions are made when it will cover a Basic Need, is within the available budget and determined to be considered as good stewardship.

Funding the Benevolence Fund

The Benevolence Fund - is funded as a part of the CEFC yearly budget.

Priorities: In order to meet as many needs as possible, we will be following a protocol guide as follows and will be according to severity of need:

- † **Church Members** as written in *Galatians 6:10*, especially widows and elderly; single parent families; the sick and/or handicapped.
- † **Regular attenders** at C.E.F.C.
- † **Others.** Christian or non-Christian. Meeting emergent/crisis needs based upon the Distribution of Funds Policy.

Helping Hands Ministry Team

A subcommittee of the Benevolence Committee - Helping Hands Ministry Team assists Pastors and Leaders to identify people within the church and local community (15 mile radius), who are faced with various difficulties such as fire, flood, loss of income, accident and death, in order to distribute gifts of practical assistance and encouragement. This subcommittee works under the direction and supervision of an appointed Benevolence Committee Member.

The Helping Hands Ministry team inventories and maintains items necessary to promptly respond to emergency needs within the local church and surrounding community. These items include, but are not limited to:

Prepared Meals

Retail Gift Cards

Evangelistic Books and Materials

CEFC Ministry Directory and / or Brochures which outline Ministries.

The CEFC Helping Hands Ministry enables church members to reach out to their local community by providing practical items and or evangelical materials to distribute in times of need. Assistance forms are available in the Welcome Center or on the church website.