



# Program flexibility

## LEADERSHIP

BeFriender Ministry works for churches of any size. A leadership team of 2-5 people can carry out the three program leader functions and divide responsibilities according to each person's gifts and abilities.

## TRAINING LAY VOLUNTEERS

Program leaders from your church train the lay volunteers to be BeFrienders when it's most convenient for all involved.

## SKILLS

BeFrienders learn skills to provide pastoral care in any situation they encounter. The skills they learn also can be applied to other ministries and even to their personal relationships.

## APPLICATION TO OTHER MINISTRIES

Many of the lessons used in BeFriender candidate training are applicable to other ministries within a church or organization. Program leaders can teach these lessons to other groups and use materials from the Candidate Workbook for a nominal copyright fee.

## HOSTING WORKSHOPS

"Foundations for BeFriender Ministry" workshops outside of the Saint Paul-Minneapolis area are hosted by local churches, groups of churches, or organizations. Hosting a workshop can save your leadership team travel time and expenses and help build a network of BeFriender program leaders in your community.

If you are interested in hosting a "Foundations" workshop in your city, contact the BeFriender Ministry National Office. Call toll-free 866-468-8708 or send an e-mail message to [info@befrienderministry.org](mailto:info@befrienderministry.org).

## CLUSTERS OF CHURCHES

The small size of some churches can make it more difficult to have a team of at least two program leaders or a group of at least five BeFrienders. For these smaller churches, one option is to share a BeFriender Ministry program with a "cluster" of other small, nearby churches.

A "cluster" of churches for BeFriender Ministry has the following attributes:

- As few as 2 churches can make up a cluster. To keep a cluster manageable, it typically does not have more than 4 churches.
- The program leaders from all churches in the cluster meet together for program planning, evaluation, and other leadership team responsibilities.
- There is one program supervisor with ultimate accountability for the program in the cluster.

- The lay ministry candidates from all churches in the cluster are trained together.
- The lay ministers (BeFrienders) and program leaders from all churches in the cluster regularly meet together for the small group process (called “Making Meaning”) and continuing education.
- A BeFriender may be asked to befriend someone from another church in the cluster.

### **Advantages of the cluster model**

- The churches in a cluster can share resources
- A team of leaders helps ensure a stronger program that can be sustained through turnover within the leadership team
- A cluster can take advantage of the pricing for multiple registrants for the “Foundations for BeFriender Ministry” workshop
- The ability to utilize a BeFriender from another church in the cluster can increase church members’ willingness to have a BeFriender

Many smaller churches already are sharing clergy, staff, and other resources. BeFriender Ministry provides the cluster option to continue to strengthen pastoral care resources within a community.

### **How to establish a cluster**

In order to establish a cluster for BeFriender Ministry, the program supervisor for the group of churches will need to print and complete the form on the website and return it to the BeFriender Ministry National Office or complete the online form.