

## **Bridges of Hope Fellowship Life Group Host Responsibilities**

As a group host, you do much more than just provide a home or apartment to meet in. You are a vital part of the group leadership team. The combination of a committed leader and a committed host (each focusing on their role within the group) is hard to beat. Here's a list of some of your primary responsibilities. Hosts are expected to do the following:

- **Provide a clean, comfortable home environment**

Some key questions:

1. *Is my house clean and picked up by meeting time?* A clean living room, kitchen, and bathroom help people relax and feel comfortable.
2. *Do I have enough comfortable chairs?* Hard chairs make for a long meeting. If needed, you can purchase padded folding chairs for a nominal price at a local store.
3. *Do I have enough lighting?* A well-lit (not glaring) room energizes a group, while a dark or dimly room de-energizes it. Maybe it's time to add a lamp to that dark corner!
4. *Is my house free of dog or cat odors?* If you have indoor pets, your house may well have odors that you've grown used to. Ask a good friend for an honest evaluation! Also, remember that many people are allergic to dogs or cats. It's a good idea to ask your group about this at your first meeting. If it's a problem, you may need to keep your animals out of the house before or during the meeting.
5. *Are my children interrupting the group?* It's important that children do not interrupt the flow of the meeting, either by coming into the room or by requiring you to leave the meeting. Of course, there will be times when this is unavoidable due to an emergency or special circumstance. But such times should be the exception, not the rule. If children are interrupting or within earshot, the honesty and transparency of the group will suffer.

- **Provide a Warm and Friendly Environment**

This involves things like introducing folks to one another during your first potluck/meeting; making sure to talk with and involve the shy or quiet members before and after meetings; and keeping in touch with group members between meetings.

- **Provide Feedback for the Leader**

One of the host's most important jobs is to discuss and evaluate the group with the leader on a regular basis. This often can be done informally after everyone leaves. Items to discuss include the following:

What's going well in the group? What's not? Who's hurting? How can you, as a host, help? Is the meeting moving along at a good pace? Is it dragging at some points?

- **Provide Support for the Leader**

Another way to help your leader is to jumpstart the discussion when it lags. Sometimes a question will elicit no response (either because everyone is nervous or because the question is unclear). Whenever this happens, you can assist your leader by breaking the ice and answering the question yourself. Or, if the question is unclear, you can ask the leader to rephrase it. This provides an opportunity to regroup and come at the issue from a different angle. Knowing that, a host will help him or her out of a jam gives a leader a lot of security.

- **Organize Meals for Members in the Hospital or Meet other Special Needs**

One of a host's most important jobs is to make sure that anyone in the group who faces a significant crisis gets the practical help and support they need. Hosts should organize the group to meet practical needs, provide meals, or render any special assistance that's needed.

- **Organize Refreshments, Socials, and Service Projects**

1. *Refreshments*: Hosts are responsible to organize the weekly refreshments and/or desserts/meal. The host is not expected to provide them.
2. *Quarterly Socials*: With the help of the group, the host makes sure there is at least one social event during the quarter.
3. *Service Projects*: With the help of the leader, each group needs to carry out two service projects during the year. Unless you already have a ministry service project that you or group are already connected with, you may consult with the pastoral team for project needs.