



The CARE Program

Organized by the Global Outreach Team: globaloutreach@firstfree.com

Why CARE?

The Vision:

To encourage and edify the global body of Christ by developing a spirit of community and partnership between our global ministry partners and our small groups.

First Free's vision is to share God's story through compassion and conversation. The CARE program, organized by the Global Outreach Team, seeks to meet that vision through the strategy of Reaching In. Our small groups and global ministry partners are key components of the First Free family. We want small groups and global ministry partners to build and strengthen their connection to each other as fellow members of one body. As this happens, they can benefit each other through compassionate acts for one another and by communicating how God is at work in each of them. This will sharpen and better equip us all for sharing God's story both here in Chicago and around the globe.

This partnership has four main pieces:

Communication – sharing our stories, our ups and downs of daily life, and our needs

Assistance – sharing our gifts, our time, and our resources

Relationships – sharing ourselves

Encouragement – sharing the joy of Christ

What are the roles of the Small Groups?

- Appoint a Point of Contact person. (Not necessarily the group leader.) This person will serve as chief communicator on behalf of the group. (This does not mean that only this person can communicate with the ministry partner.) They will simply help to facilitate communication between the group and the ministry partner, in whatever way works best for everyone. This might be in the form of emails (forwarded, email list, email group), Skype, phone calls, a Facebook group, a group website, etc.
- Continue the CARE program. Get to know the global ministry partners. They have a lot to share with you, and can be a source of great encouragement for you. They also love to hear about their First Free family and to pray for you.

What are the roles of the Global Ministry Partners?

- Introduce yourself to and continue to communicate with the small group. Continue the CARE program. Get to know the members of this small group at First Free. They have a lot to share with you, and can be a source of great encouragement for you. They want to hear about your daily life, they want to pray for you, and they want to know your real needs as you do ministry.

What are the roles of the Global Outreach Team?

- To facilitate the matching of small groups and global ministry partners.
- To check in regularly but informally (no official reporting will be required).
- To provide technical or general support (e.g. training a small group how to use Skype).
- To oversee the transition when a partnership is changing (e.g. if/when a small group dissolves, a ministry partner leaves the field or is in major transition, etc.).

In essence, we want to be the grease in the wheels that helps things move.

Results of an Effective CARE Program:

We will see the four main CARE points growing. There will be strengthened bonds of community between small groups and global ministry partners and, more generally, in the Kingdom of God around the world. Small group members and ministry partners alike will grow in our worldview, our awareness of God's work around the world, and our understanding of others. Most importantly, we will grow in Christ as we grow closer to others.