

Big Idea: Connect with new families in your community

Supplies Needed: brochures about your church or youth ministry

Age Level: high school

Get creative when looking for ways to get information about your youth ministry or church into the hands of new families in your community. With all of these methods, it's best to have nice brochures and accurate information about your youth ministry or church, as well as contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses for leaders. Here are some ways you could reach out to new families:

- Contact your local chamber of commerce and see if there is a Welcome Wagon business in your area. If so, call Welcome Wagon and ask about policies and methods for including your congregational information in the packets that are delivered to new residents.
- Check with real estate agencies. Many agents will include information about area churches in their community packets when families are shopping for a house. In fact, many families specifically ask about schools, sports, and churches when they move to a new city.
- Check with local hotels. Many of these businesses include information about local churches in their phone or desk directories. Be sure your congregation is included in this listing. Many new families may spend a night or two in a hotel when they are waiting for a house to close or when work is being done to prepare the home for move-in condition.
- Check newspaper listing for home foreclosures in your area. It's a sad situation, but your youth group can reach out to these families—even though they might be leaving your town or neighborhood—by sending along a care packet or a letter saying that you're praying for them and inviting them to attend worship, Bible studies, support groups, or youth meetings. Your outreach efforts will display the love of Christ to people going through tough times.