



## Ministry Module

Ministry Modules are intended for use with the Leader's Guide. Appendices and Resources referenced in modules can be found within the Guide.

# Youth Wheel Chair Ramp Ministry



This Mission Module is provided through a Partnership with the RAMPS (Ramp Access Made Possible by Students), of Richmond, VA and Caregiving Ministries, a division of FamilyCare America, Inc.





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### Purpose

The mission of the Youth Wheel Chair Ramp Ministry Team is to assist those who need help with adaptations to the main entrance of their home to enter and exit the home safely and regularly.

### Goals

- To enable low-income aging/ disabled members to enter and exit their homes safely and regularly by providing, through a youth run ministry, fund raising to purchase a safe, code adherent modular kit ramp and ramp construction.

### Objectives

- Establish youth group to Fund raise to purchase ramp.
- Qualify resident financially for assistance.
- Visit home site with Ramp Representative to establish dimensions of ramp needed.
- Plan, coordinate and enact fundraising efforts to pay for ramp costs.
- Purchase ramp kit and erect ramp according to directions and site parameters.

### Parameters and Limitations

This module involves cost to purchase ramp kit. Before beginning this ministry, the church should determine how to fund raise. This ministry is dependent upon the youth's ability to raise funds to pay for ramp kits. Fundraising can be challenging and can be lengthy, as the cost of a ramp kit could be as much as \$2500. However, this module can become an effective ministry opportunity for youth to learn to work together to achieve a goal. Some organizations have partnered with local businesses. The youth raise a portion of the total cost and the businesses provide matching funds. An adult is required to lead students and meet with Ramp company to sign contracts and dimension residence. An bank account to save funds while in development stage is required, with an adult representative or two to be maker on account.



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### SUGGESTED PROCESS FOR THIS MINISTRY

1. Survey the church for youth who are able and willing to work with this ministry (see Appendix A).
2. Educate the church family as to what can and cannot be expected from this ministry.
3. Schedule youth group meetings at regular intervals to plan and evaluate through the planning, fundraising, and construction process.
4. Contact congregation and local community sources to discover individuals in need of a ramp.
5. Determine if the recipient owns or rents. If renting, obtain permission from owner to erect "temporary" ramp on premises.
6. Evaluate recipient's financial situation to determine financial eligibility.
7. Determine which wheel chair ramp vendor to use. We recommend steel ramps for durability and safety.
8. Investigate local funding opportunities and create fund raising opportunities to pay for materials.
9. Coordinate a site visit with the ramp sales representative to determine the dimensions of the ramp.
10. Determine what local building codes and permitted are applicable/ required. Typically, ramp kits do not require permits, but verify in your locale for accuracy. Steel and aluminum modular ramps are usually classified as reusable durable medical equipment (DME) not requiring permits.
11. Complete contract for "loaned use" of ramp. Indicate clearly that ramp will be removed and recycled at another location when no longer of use to current recipient.
12. Provide training to volunteers.
13. Build a wheelchair ramp to specifications. Secure handrails.
14. Periodically evaluate the ministry. (See Evaluation Tool, Administrative Guide.)



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## RESOURCES

- Department for Social Services.
- Local area Agency on Aging.
- Cooperative Extension System
- Local county offices for building codes/ permits
- Habitat for Humanity (some affiliates provide renovations).
- Elder Homes/ similar agencies
- Area church youth groups offering assistance with construction.
- Veterans Administration (provides requirements for ramps in homes of veterans)
- Ramp vendors such as American Steel Products, Handi-ramps,, American Ramp, etc.



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# WHEEL CHAIR RAMP NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Basic Information

Name:

Phone:

Address :

County:

Directions to Home:

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### 1. Circle your age group:

- a. under 60      b. 60-64      c. 65-69      d. 70-74      e. 75-80      f. 80-above

## Living Arrangements and Household Needs

### 2. Check all choices which describe your current living arrangements:

I live in my home with my spouse

I live in my home alone

I live in my home with a relative

I live in my home with a friend

I own my home

I rent my home

### 3. I cannot enter/ exit my home independently because I use

a wheel chair

crutches



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4. **Primary Source of Income** (employer, SSI) \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Secondary Sources of Income** \_\_\_\_\_

6. **Total Gross Monthly Income** \_\_\_\_\_

7. **Are you a Veteran?**

Yes  No

8. **Do you receive assistance from Social Services or any Federal, State, or Local Agency?**

Yes  No

9. **Do you have your own transportation?**

Yes  No

**If no, how do you get to your appointments, grocery store, church, etc.**

\_\_\_\_\_

10. **Are you able to enter/ exit your home?**

Yes  No

**If no, how long have you been unable to enter/ exit your home?**

\_\_\_\_\_

11. **If you rent your home, do you give us permission to contact your landlord on your behalf in regards to obtaining permission to construct a ramp?**

Yes  No

12. **Please provide your landlord's contact information below:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



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### Fund Raising 101

Fund raising can be defined as the process of collecting money for a specific group or organization, either from individual donors or corporations. Fund raising is a necessary evil for most nonprofit organizations, as well as for numerous church and school groups and clubs. Fortunately, there are many options available in methods for raising money for specific groups and events. The information available for running a fund raising event is immense – from books, to expert websites, and even professional consultants that can help to lead your efforts in the right direction. If you are considering a way to raise money for your specific group or organization, there are some guidelines to consider:

#### How will you raise your Money?

There are a couple of options in fund raising campaigns, and you can select the choice that will be the best fit for your individual needs. Many nonprofit groups will opt to hire a professional fund raising service to provide most of the effort for the campaign. There are numerous companies available for hire that will handle the bulk of the work on a fund raising program. If you decide to go with one of these companies, make sure that you check them out thoroughly before making the final hiring decision. You will want to know their track record with prior efforts, to ensure that you will see the results that you desire. It is also important to know what their values are in terms of the way they treat potential donors as well as clients. An ethical company will endorse the "Donor Bill of Rights." Finally, you will want to select a company that offers the latest in technology so that it can most effectively reach the greatest number of potential donors.

#### Raising Money the DIY Way

If you do not have the money in your budget to hire a professional team for your fund raising efforts, there are many campaigns that you can complete successfully on your own. Many companies provide goods and services that you can sell as a part of your money making endeavors. For example, your group can sell cookie dough, candy, pizza or discount cards. The list of products available for fund raising campaigns is nearly unlimited, so you are nearly guaranteed to find something to sell that will be a good fit for your community. Services can include car washes and carnivals, and can be a good way to build team work within your group while you are raising money.

Often, there are great ideas for these programs, but the communication or the marketing that promotes the events or sales can be lacking. People want to give to projects or ministries that are on their hearts and people want to be a part of what God is doing in their community. Getting the word out about a church youth organization fundraiser and sharing specific goals and ministry objectives will help people understand where the money given is going and how their donations will be helpful. Sharing information is sharing the opportunity for others to be involved in many ways, and this includes financially.

Finally, do not neglect prayer when meeting together to make decisions about programs or other activities. The team that commits to prayer will find themselves working in unity and harmony. God's design for group projects usually includes learning, sharing, growing spiritually, and finally, the human objective of raising money.



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### Fund Raising Activity Suggestions

#### Service/ Fun Fundraisers:

1. **Pink Flamingo Insurance-** Begin by placing a few pick flamingos in neighbor's yard, along with a flyer explaining project. Homeowners can then hire youth to remove the flamingo and place it in their neighbor's yard (\$5). Home owners can also purchase insurance to prevent the flamingos from ever being placed in their yard, for a higher fee (\$25). Flamingos are, of course, removed from any yard where someone doesn't want to participate at all. The contact phone number is provided on the flyer to address any problems.
2. **Have a Heart-** During Valentines week sold large hearts for one dollar to students. Students could then write valentines messages on the hearts which were posted around the school. Ages 3-18 were involved in the event.
3. **Ribbon Sales-** Have students sell cut ribbon for congregation to wear on specific Sundays.

#### Event Fundraisers:

1. **Car Washes**
2. **Spaghetti or Pancake dinners**

#### Product Sales:

Selling products door to door should be discouraged, mainly for safety reasons. Youth Fundraisers should be presented to church memberships for support, or conducted in a safe community atmosphere. Only fundraising campaigns that require group activities or sales that target family members should be seriously considered.

1. **Gift Wrap**
2. **Candy Bars**
3. **Popcorn**
4. **Local business coupon packages**





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### Suggested Ramp Contract Format

The wheel chair ramp that will be erected at (**address**):

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Is on loan from and is the property of (**Name of organization**):

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In the event that the resident / homeowner moves or is in no further need of the wheelchair ramp at the above address, the ramp will be dismantled and removed by the volunteers representing (**Name of organization**) to be reconstructed for other residents in need of a wheelchair ramp.

Construction and loan of the ramp was provided on (**date**)  
For the primary use by (**resident's name**).

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Residents signature

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Home owner Authorization

And will be maintained by; (circle one) (**Name of organization**) (OWNER)

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(**representative of Volunteer Organization**)