

Vancouver Eastside Vineyard (VEV) Benevolence Fund policy

(last updated Feb 4 2021)

The guidelines detailed in this policy are intended to help VEV leaders administer benevolence funds responsibly, consistently, and according to God’s Word. They are *not absolute* but should be followed unless the Holy Spirit leads otherwise and as agreed to by the Leadership Team.

Some principles of benevolence to keep in mind when connecting with someone in need:

- Seek to help without judging or being paternalistic
- Listen. Be caring. Be compassionate
- Realize your personal prejudices and biases
- Respect the person and their personal information. Ask for permission to share

Who is monetary benevolence intended for?

- Those who have a relational connection¹ to VEV
- Those who come into the VEV sphere and are discerned to have a legitimate “emergency²” situation that leadership feels compelled to help with

What kind of benevolence do we offer?

- *Generally, we do not give cash.* We attempt to meet the need in other ways, including, but not limited to:
 - giving grocery gift-cards
 - bus tickets
 - paying a bill directly with a church cheque
 - food hampers
- Only in *exceptional* circumstances should cash be given out. Prior consultation with the leadership team is required for any amount of cash given out.
- VEV will aid with a specific need that is not expected to involve a *long-term* commitment. When a major and/or long-term need arises, explore other community resources with the individual/household.

(See [Community Resources](#) for additional services the person/household could access)

How often may an individual/household receive monetary help?

- We will consider helping an individual/household a maximum of **3** times within a calendar year, up to a maximum of **\$500** per individual/household per calendar year. (see *Other guidelines* for reasoning regarding a \$500 limit)
- Paid VEV staff can administer benevolence funds as they deem appropriate valuing up to **\$100** to an individual/household without leadership consultation. Members of the leadership team should be consulted for any value over that amount and/or if more than one “payment” is deemed necessary.

How do we assess the request?

- Discernment with the leadership team is generally assumed for processing requests.
- This form (*yet to be found/created*) is a helpful resource to gather information to aid decision-making.
- *Suggested ways of assessing the request include, but are not limited to:*
 - 2 members of the leadership team meet with the person to assess the need

¹ By relational connection, we mean the person has a current, active relationship *directly* with VEV OR they have an *indirect* relationship with VEV through a trusted individual who currently attends VEV, who is in the Vineyard community, or who is in the body of Christ in the Greater Vancouver area. They must be known.

² An emergency is defined as an unexpected occurrence requiring immediate action.

- A member of leadership team and the VEV community member who made leadership aware of the need meet with the person to assess the person's need
- A member of the leadership team (or a member of VEV) brings the person in need to the attention of the leadership team to assess/discern the need
- *Types of situations **eligible** for benevolent assistance include, but are not limited to:*
 - An accident that results in financial needs
 - An unavoidable unemployment situation
 - Individuals/Families encountering legitimate financial difficulties
 - Hospital Ministry (i.e. flowers, books, parking expenses, other miscellaneous needs discerned)
 - Other situations of demonstrated need
- *Types of situations generally **not eligible** for benevolent assistance include, but are not limited to:*
 - Discretionary expenses (e.g., vacations)
 - Business needs arising for any reason
 - Insured losses
 - When the individual/household is determined to have adequate resources

Other guidelines

- All records of benevolence monies given out must be documented and stored in Dropbox (location in Dropbox t.b.d.)
- Anyone in the VEV community may inform any member of leadership of a person or family whom they feel should be considered for assistance. The members of leadership will then discern and respond as deemed appropriate.
- Leaders may not give benevolence funds out to people they are related to. If a situation arises where a leader(s) is related to an individual/household being considered for benevolence, that leader(s) must excuse themselves from the process.
- Donors to the benevolence fund may not dictate to VEV who the recipient should be. It is not appropriate for the church to be a conduit for private benevolence. Private benevolence must be done independently of the church.
- When assistance is provided, consideration should also be given to the spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and other needs of the individual, as deemed appropriate and necessary. This may mean follow-up pastoral care and/or other qualified professionals or services.
- All assistance, including reporting, shall comply with the requirements of the Income Tax Act and Regulations. The assistance must be charitable under the law.
 - The Canada Customs & Revenue Agency (CRA) **requires** reporting on any payment(s) totaling over \$500 in a calendar year. **Given this**, it is recommended that VEV generally avoid this situation. Note the payment is not taxable to the individual but can affect their eligibility for certain need-based benefits. See the guide [here](#) for T5007 on the CRA's website.

Community Resources

In case of an emergency, please call 911.

Greater Vancouver Food Bank

To register with the Greater Vancouver Food Bank for weekly food access, please call or email to set up an appointment: 604-876-3601 option 1 / reception@foodbank.bc.ca.

Salvation Army (S.A.) Community & Family Services *(also a Food Bank)*

3213 Fraser St.
Vancouver BC V5V 4B8
Tel: 604-872-7676

S.A. Shelters

Belkin House
555 Homer St.
Vancouver BC V6B 1K8
Tel: 604-681-3405
www.belkinhouse.ca

Grace Mansion
596 East Hastings St.
Vancouver BC V6A 4K9
Tel: 778-329-0674
www.gracemansion.com

The Beacon
138 E. Cordova St.
Vancouver BC V6A 1K9
Tel: 604-646-6846

The Crosswalk
136 E. Cordova St.
Vancouver BC V6A 1K3
Tel: 604-646-6875

S.A. Detox
Cordova Detox
127 E. Cordova St.
Vancouver BC V6A 1K8
Tel: 604-646-6844

Union Gospel Mission (shelter, food, or addiction recovery),

Email contact@ugm.ca
Phone: 604-253-3323
www.ugm.ca

Meal services

Vancouver Neighbourhood Food Networks

They run healthy free and low-cost meals in communities across Vancouver

<http://vancouverfoodnetworks.com/community-meals/>

Vancouver Emergency Meal Program Map (printable pdf)

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/emergency-meal-program-map.pdf>

S.A Harbour Light Meal Program

Monday to Friday 11:00am

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday 4:15pm

119 East Cordova Street

Vancouver, BC, V6A 1K8

Phone: 604-646-6800

Social Workers

<http://www.findasocialworker.ca/>

An online directory of social workers in private practice in British Columbia, Canada

Mental Health-related

Crisis Lines

If the person is considering suicide or you are concerned they might be, crisis lines are free, anonymous, confidential, and available 24/7.

Vancouver: 604-872-3311

B.C. wide: 1-800-784-2433 (1-800-SUICIDE)

Kids' Help Phone

Kids can reach a professional counsellor 24/7, Call: 1-800-668-6868

Information and Support (BC based):

310 - Mental Health Support Line

BC crisis line workers can provide emotional support as well as mental health information and resources.

Call: 310-6789 (no area code required)

General information search

211 - Connects you to programs and services in the community <http://www.bc211.ca/home>