

LISTENING TO THE STORIES

A Suggested Guide for St. Vincent de Paul Conference in Making Visits that Enhance Relationships and Encourage Listening and Telling Personal Stories. (Recommended for use after the initial or crisis visit.)

What is a Two-to-One Visit?

A two-to-one visit or interview is an intentional face-to-face conversation of 30-45 minutes to:

Develop or deepen a relationship through listening and sharing

Surface concerns, problems, and issues in people's lives or community

Invite participation in creating solutions to problems

Whom Should We Visit Two-to-One?

Start with people that you have met through the second or third St. Vincent de Paul visit

Interview someone who has shown some leadership; i.e. working well with first job, contacted their landlord about a problem, knows or is concerned about the neighborhood, is active in a congregation, etc.

People we visit who are not in crisis - those in prison, the elderly, etc.

How to Arrange a Two-to-One Visit?

Make an effort to arrange a follow-up visit at the end of the first visit

Call ahead by telephone or in person

State your name and St. Vincent de Paul's Conference name

Mention that you have been to visit in the past

Suggest a time to meet for about a half an hour

The Visit Itself

Preparation

Take some time to focus, say a prayer or center yourself before you meet

Reflect on your last visit. Review notes with your partner.

Warm-up

Take a little time for introductions and personal exchange

Developing the Relationship

Take some time to ask questions that were not addressed in the first visit, such as how long they have lived in the neighborhood, and in Milwaukee? (One question leads to another. If they moved to Milwaukee two years ago, where did they live before?) You are looking for their story.

Church affiliation. Are they active in their church?

Prime the pump with questions about common concerns such as:

- Children and youth
- Affordable housing
- Violence and crime
- Use of pay day/loan stores
- school/education
- employment
- gang activity
- healthcare concerns
- family pressures
- transportation
- drug activity
- day care

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Remember to ask about the person's ideas, hopes, or visions for creating solutions. It is very important to solicit possible solutions from the person visited.