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Discussion Guide:

Meeting with Faith Leaders

Working closely with your faith congregation leaders is the most effective way to gain support for your outreach efforts. Your relationship and current involvement in the faith community influences how to best approach faith leaders to talk about your proposed outreach efforts.

In general, we suggest setting up a meeting with the faith leader to discuss your program services and your goals in recruiting volunteers. Bring background materials about your program to the meeting and discuss the outreach opportunities that are available. The more the faith leader knows about your program and goals, the more he or she is likely to help you with your outreach efforts.

Below we have identified a few key areas to discuss with your faith leader. They include:

- Providing background information on your local program and the national *volunteer caregiving* efforts.
- Providing specific information about the services your program provides to the community and the number of people that have been helped.
- Providing samples of the outreach materials you want to use with the congregation. Discuss each tool separately and describe its purpose and your thoughts on how it can be used.
- Asking who is the appropriate person in the faith congregation you should work with to make sure the materials are posted, used, and distributed.
- Following up with the faith leader after the meeting and thank him or her for allowing you to share information about your program. Identify next steps and follow up with any contacts referred you in the initial meeting.