



Alongside Ministry Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Alongside Volunteer?

Alongside Volunteers are compassionate men and women from diverse backgrounds who are familiar with life's challenges and hardships. They are trained to listen, pray, and walk with you through difficult times.

They are not counselors or problem-solvers, but instead offer grace, comfort, and a supportive presence until you are ready to take the next steps forward.

What will my Alongside Volunteer Do?

Your Alongside Volunteer will:

- **Connect with You Initially:**
They will start with a phone call to listen to your story, introduce themselves, and pray with you.
- **Ensure Ongoing Communication:**
After the first call, you can decide whether to continue. If you both agree, in-person meetings can be arranged. Each time you meet, you'll decide together if and when to meet again.
- **Provide Support and Encouragement:**
Your volunteer will offer a compassionate, nonjudgmental space to share your thoughts, feelings, and spiritual concerns. They'll listen attentively, encourage you, and support your journey.
- **Pray with and for You:**
They'll pray with you during your conversations and offer prayers for healing and spiritual growth.
- **Respect your Privacy:**

Your identity and conversations will be kept private, shared only with the Alongside Team if guidance is needed, and without revealing your name. The only exception is in cases of harm to yourself or others.

- **Recommend Additional Support (if needed):**

They might suggest resources like counseling, legal or financial aid, or connecting with Blackhawk's Care Response Team.

- **Help Explore Next Steps.**

As your situation evolves, your volunteer will help you identify next steps. When it's time to conclude the relationship, they'll guide the transition and may even remain a friend, should you both wish.

How Can I Get the Most Out of My Alongside Relationship?

To make the most of this relationship:

- **Be Open and Honest:**

Share your thoughts and experiences honestly. Your volunteer is there to listen, not to judge, and will provide grace and compassion throughout.

- **Engage Fully in the Process:**

Spiritual growth requires active participation. While your volunteer will walk with you in your struggle, they cannot take steps on your behalf.

- **Understand the Volunteer's Role:**

Remember, they are not professional counselors, but rather trained volunteers committed to offering encouragement, prayer, and a nonjudgmental presence.

What is the first step in connecting with an Alongside Volunteer?

The first step is to fill out the **Alongside Interest Form**. If you have additional questions you'd like to discuss before filling out the form, contact our Care Response Team:

Email: Careresponse@blackhawkchurch.org

Phone: 608-828-4230