

Community Light Starter Kit

Turn concern into one realistic local act of compassion

Why this exists

Concern becomes movement when people listen to those closest to a need, notice existing strengths, and complete one useful action. This kit provides a small-group process without pretending one event can solve a system.

Who it is for

Neighbors, libraries, churches, civic groups, book clubs, small nonprofits, and informal groups beginning local service.

Your meaningful next step

Gather three to eight people for a 45-minute listening session and bring one verified local source of information.

See. Care. Act. Repeat.

Start small and local

The first goal is not to name a permanent program. It is to understand one need, identify who is already doing trustworthy work, and choose one action your group can finish responsibly.

Ground rules

- [] Listen to understand; do not arrive with a predetermined project.
- [] Include people affected by the issue without demanding personal stories.
- [] Credit existing local work before proposing something new.
- [] Verify facts and current needs with qualified organizations.
- [] Choose dignity, privacy, and usefulness over publicity.
- [] Participation remains voluntary.

We will never ask people to do everything. We will only invite them to do something.

45-minute listening session

Minutes	Activity	Question
0-5	Welcome	Why are we here, and what are our boundaries?
5-15	Listen	What are people and organizations telling us?
15-25	Map	What strengths, services, and relationships already exist?
25-35	Choose	What small action is useful and realistic?
35-42	Plan	Who will confirm, coordinate, and complete it?
42-45	Close	When will we review what happened?

Opening question

What is one situation in our community where a modest, well-matched act could make someone's next step easier?

Community asset map

Map strengths before gaps. A community is not an empty place waiting to be rescued.

Asset	Names or examples	What they already do	How to verify/contact
People and skills			
Trusted organizations			
Public services			
Spaces and transportation			
Supplies and funding			
Relationships and lived knowledge			

Understand the need

What have we heard directly?

What does a current, trustworthy source confirm?

Whose perspective is missing?

What assumptions must we test?

What is outside our role or competence?

Invitation planner

Write an invitation that is specific, voluntary, and honest about limits.

The action

Why this action is requested

Who it is for

What participants will do

Time, place, cost, accessibility, and contact

What participation does not require

Action readiness check

- [] A trusted partner or affected group confirms the need.
- [] The action has a clear beginning and end.
- [] The group has the needed skills, permissions, and safeguards.
- [] Costs, supplies, transportation, and accessibility are addressed.
- [] Personal information will be minimized and protected.
- [] No one is pressured to participate, donate, or disclose.
- [] Public claims and expected outcomes are modest and accurate.
- [] There is a plan for cleanup, handoff, and follow-up.

Stop and revise if

- The project depends on unverified stories or statistics.
- The group is replacing qualified services rather than supporting them.
- Publicity matters more than the requested help.
- People affected by the issue have no meaningful voice.
- The action creates promises the group cannot sustain.

One-action plan

Decision	Plan
Partner or person confirming the need	
One action we will complete	
Coordinator and backup	
People, materials, cost, and permissions	
Privacy and safety safeguards	
Date, place, and accessibility	
How we will know it was useful	
Review and thank-you date	

After-action reflection

What happened? Use observable facts.

What did the partner or participants say?

What was helpful?

What should change before repeating it?

What follow-up did we promise?

Keep the light on

A completed action is not proof that a problem is solved. It is evidence that people can notice, care, act, learn, and return with greater wisdom.

Choose the next honest response

- ☐ Repeat the action with improvements.
- ☐ Refer the need to a better-qualified organization.
- ☐ Share what was learned without identifying anyone.
- ☐ Thank the partner and close the project responsibly.
- ☐ Invite one new person into the next listening session.

Our next meaningful step

**Someone left a light on.
Who will leave one on next?**