

Alpharetta & South Forsyth Project

A Way to Love Your Community

As we sit at home, busy yet quarantined, and wondering how to love our neighbors and community with our new assignment, I wanted to present an idea to connect and love three different communities in our neighborhoods: Our neighborhood grocery store, a struggling restaurant, and your neighbors. The idea is to...

Rally your neighbors together to thank the employees of your neighborhood grocery store by providing them gift cards from a local struggling restaurant.

This will be done in the hope to clearly communicate to those neighbors, who are serving and laboring in our communities, that someone sees them and is with them. Here is how it could play out:

Step One – Connect with your Grocery

- Call your grocery store and ask to speak to the store manager. This may take a little patience and time on hold. Maybe even a few attempts. Be patient and aware that they are probably expecting a different sort of phone call.
- Let him/her know that you want to thank their staff by giving them gift cards from a local restaurant.
- Make sure you get the number of employees. Let them know you will get back with them to drop off the cards once everything is arranged.
- Ask how they are doing. If you feel it is appropriate to ask, ask how you can pray for them.

Step Two – Connect with your Neighbors

- Connect with your neighbors and friends that shop at your neighborhood grocery. The goal is to love them by asking them to participate in sharing the cost of the gift cards. You could use Facebook, Next Door, a letter in the mailbox, text messages, phone calls etc...
- Here is a sample message to put on your neighborhood Facebook group:

Hello, neighbors. I wanted to present an idea to thank those in our community who are serving us, while also helping a struggling restaurant at the same time.

There are ---- employees at our local Kroger who have been working hard to restock and clean shelves for us. What if our neighborhood gave each of these employees a \$10 gift card from a local restaurant? Does anyone in our neighborhood own or work for a local restaurant that we could support in this endeavor?

I am more than happy to do the work of collecting funds (via Venmo), purchasing the gift cards, and delivering them to Kroger. I would also let them know that this is from their neighbors in Carriage Park. If you would be interested in helping, let me know and I will send my Venmo account. I will, of course, give proof of purchase with a receipt.

Step Three – Connect with a Restaurant

- Once you know how many gift cards to get and have the funds, connect with a local restaurant to purchase the gift cards. (It would be great if you found a restaurant that was owned by a neighbor.) Make sure you make them aware of why you are purchasing the gift cards and who they are from.

Final thoughts

- As you drop off the gift cards, leave a note letting them know who they have come from: their neighbors who see them and care about them.
- Let your neighbors know you followed through with the plan.
- If you have the capacity and momentum, keep going.

Thank you for being willing to love our neighbors well and practically in a time of need.