

## **Procedures for “Friends in Need” that come to St. Mark looking for assistance**

If someone comes to St. Mark seeking money, food, gas, etc....

### **Monday – Friday During Normal Church Office Hours:**

Listen to their needs and provide them with compassion, offer a blessing bag located under the mailboxes offer coffee/water if available, offer food items if available, and they can speak to the pastor if needed.

Also tell them St. Mark donates to Hill Country Family Services at 118 West Advogt in Boerne, (830) 249-8643, who can provide some food, clothing, and they can possibly help with rent, utilities, etc. but it is by appointment only up to a certain dollar amount one time a year. So, when we refer someone to HCFS, they will receive that person, give them some food and then set an appointment to talk about needs. A handout from the Friends in Need for directions to HCFS and HCDB is in the blessing bag. HCFS is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

St. Mark feels that offering cash is not a good idea, however, if a St. Mark member wants to give cash or offer other things, that would be up to the individual and St. Mark would not be liable.

If the visitor spends much time at the church during the week, such as living on the property or inside the church during the week, St. Mark should consider having that person sign a liability waiver. If St. Mark has a “friend” living on the property, St. Mark may offer a business card with an elder’s (from property/safety) name on it to call in case the police are questioning the person.

### **Saturday & Sunday:**

Hill Country Family Services & Hill Country Daily Bread are closed on the weekend.

Listen to their needs and provide them with compassion, offer a blessing bag located under the mailboxes, offer coffee/water if available, offer food items if available.

Also, you can call the non-emergency number for the Boerne police who can accommodate them, if they desire, with shelter over the weekend. **The non-emergency phone number for the Boerne police department is (830) 249-8645.**

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**If you ever feel threatened or uncomfortable by a friend in need who may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, please contact the Boerne Police department at (830) 249-8645.**