

Welcome to Saguaro Ministry

Divinity's
Special Needs Ministry



Is there really a need for Special Needs Ministry?

- According to the World Health Organization and the World Bank, there are 1 billion people affected by disabilities in the worlds.
- 1 out of 5 people live with some sort of disability.
- At any time in the world, you can become a person with special needs.
- I bet if we asked around, we could find families who could tell us stories about an unpleasant experience regarding special needs ministry.

What is Special Needs Ministry?

- “Special Needs Ministry is simply an intentional ministry aimed at meeting the physical, intellectual and emotional needs of people with special needs.” p. 14)

Sometimes
the people
around
you won't
understand
your journey.
They don't
need to,
it's not for
them.

What will Special Needs Ministry do for Divinity?

- We will be filling the Great Commission. (“No where in Jesus’s command that the gospel be shared with the able-bodied need to be contacted” (p.16).
- We will reflect God’s love in your community.
- We will invite some truly amazing people into our midst.
- We will help grow a generation of children who are tolerant and accepting of people with special needs.
- Our Divinity family will grow in people and faith.

Disability Categories

- Autism
- Cognitive Disability
- Deaf-Blindness
- Deafness
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment

DISABILITY TERMS DEFINITIONS

Autism

A developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age 3 that adversely affects a child's educational performance. Other characteristics often associated with autism are engagement in repetitive activities and stereotyped movements, resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines and unusual responses to sensory experiences. The term does not apply if a child's educational performance is adversely affected primarily because the child has a serious emotional disturbance. A child who manifests the characteristics of autism after age three could be identified as having autism if the requirements of the first two sentences of this definition are satisfied.

Cognitive Disability

Significantly below-average general intellectual capability that exists along with deficits in adaptive behavior. It is demonstrated during the child's developmental period and negatively affects a child's educational performance.

Deaf-blindness

Hearing and visual impairments occurring together. The combination causes such severe communication and other developmental and educational problems that the child with deaf-blindness cannot be accommodated in special education programs designed only for children with deafness or only for children with blindness.

Deafness

A hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is unable to process language through hearing, with or without amplification, and the child's educational performance is affected.

Emotional Disturbance

A condition showing one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a degree that it affects a child's educational performance, resulting in:

- An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory or health factors;
- An inability to build or maintain satisfactory relationships with peers and teachers;

- Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances;
- A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; or
- A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

The term includes schizophrenia. The term does not apply to children who are socially maladjusted, unless it is determined that they have a serious emotional disturbance.

Hearing Impairment

Impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance, but that is not included under the definition of deafness.

Multiple Disabilities

Impairments that occur simultaneously (such as cognitive disability-blindness and cognitive disability-orthopedic impairment), the combination of which causes such severe educational problems that they cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments. The term does not include deaf-blindness.

Orthopedic Impairment

A severe orthopedic impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance. The term includes impairments caused by congenital anomaly (e.g., clubfoot, absence of some member), impairments caused by disease (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis) and impairments from other causes (e.g., cerebral palsy, amputation and fractures or burns that cause contractures).

Other Health Impairment

Having limited strength, vitality, or alertness, including a heightened alertness to environmental stimuli, that results in limited alertness with respect to the educational environment, that is due to chronic or acute health problems such as asthma, attention deficit disorder or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, diabetes, epilepsy, a heart condition, hemophilia, lead poisoning, leukemia, nephritis, rheumatic fever or sickle cell anemia and

This plant is one of God's creations. While most plants need good soil, water and sunlight to survive, the Saguaro thrives in different conditions.

You will find the Saguaro, the world's largest cactus, in the Sonoran Desert. It can grow to 50 feet and weigh up to 6 tons. However, this special cactus grows slowly, less than 2 inches its first 8 years.

Like many plants, the Saguaro produces fruit and flowers. However, unlike typical flowers, the Saguaro flowers bloom at night. With the flowers surrounded by such prickly needles, specially trained people are hired to remove the flowers.

Like the Saguaro, our children thrive in different conditions. They are God's precious creation, created in His image.



Why Saguaro Ministry?

How can we start our journey?

How can we communicate better in everyday life?

- **Know what communication really is.** **Communication** is the process of transferring signals/messages between a sender and a receiver through various methods (written words, nonverbal cues, spoken words). It is also the mechanism we use to establish and modify relationships.
- **Have courage to say what you think.** **Be confident** in knowing that you can make worthwhile contributions to conversation. Take time each day to be aware of your opinions and feelings so you can adequately convey them to others. Individuals who are hesitant to speak because they do not feel their input would be worthwhile need not fear. What is important or worthwhile to one person may not be to another and may be more so to someone else.

How can we start our journey?

How can we communicate better in everyday life?

Practice. Developing advanced communication skills begins with simple interactions. Communication skills can be practiced every day in settings that range from the social to the professional. New skills take time to refine, but each time you use your communication skills, you open yourself to opportunities and future partnerships

How can we start our journey?

How can we communicate better in everyday life?

1. **Make eye contact** Whether you are speaking or listening, looking into the eyes of the person with whom you are conversing can make the interaction more successful. Eye contact conveys interest and encourages your partner to be interested in you in return.
2. **Avoid sending mixed messages.** Make your words, gestures, facial expressions and tone match.



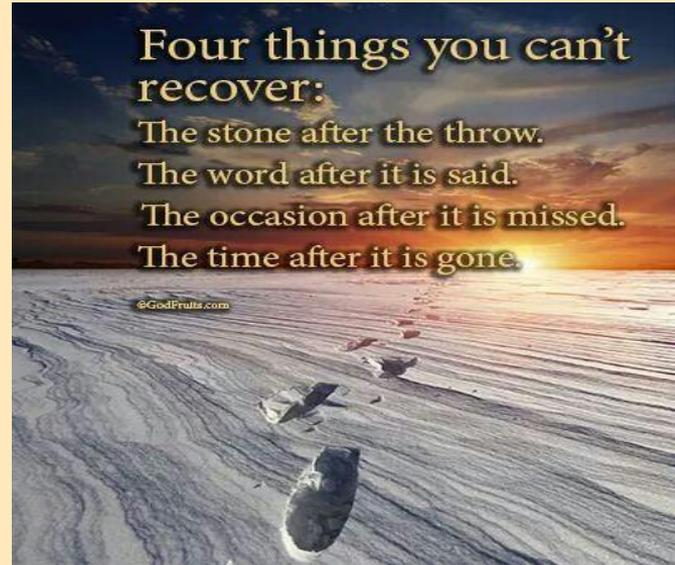
What is your body language saying?

Be aware of what your body is saying. **Body language** can say so much more than a mouthful of words. An open stance with arms relaxed at your sides tells anyone around you that you are **approachable** and open to hearing what they have to say.

- Arms crossed and shoulders hunched, on the other hand, suggest disinterest in conversation or unwillingness to communicate. Often, communication can be stopped before it starts by body language that tells people you don't want to talk.
- Appropriate **posture** and an approachable stance can make even difficult conversations flow more smoothly.

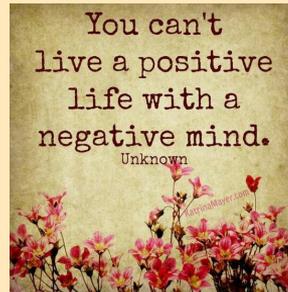
What it is in a word?

The words that you choose can make a huge difference with the outcome of the conversation.



Attitude:

- The attitudes you bring to communication will have a huge impact on the way you compose yourself and interact with others.
- Choose to be **honest, patient, optimistic, sincere,** respectful, and accepting of others.
- **Be sensitive to other people's feelings,** and believe in others' competence.
- Avoid assumptions.



People First

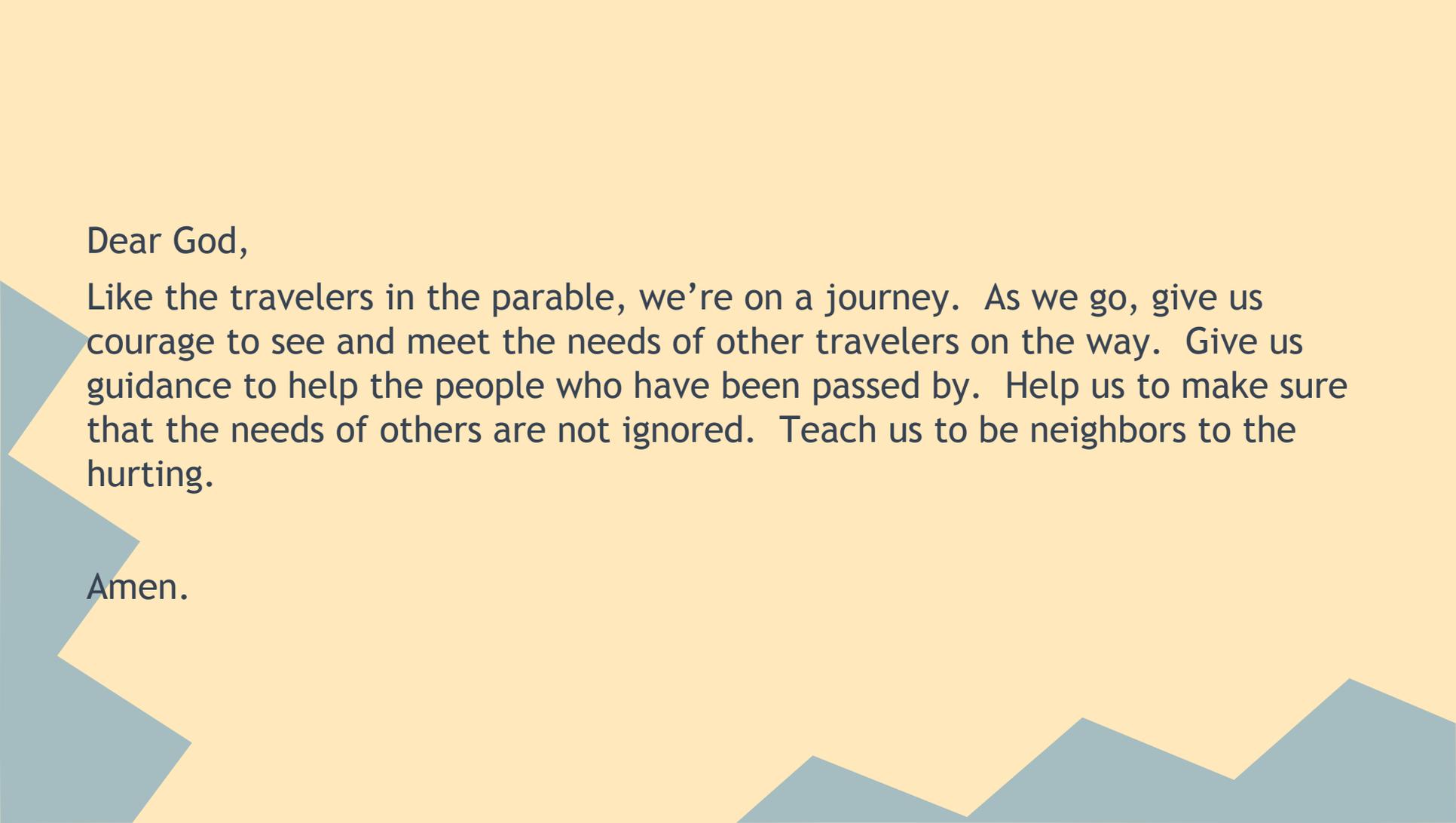


What is the next step?

- We continue asking for volunteers to help.
- We will start advertising in the community.
- We will continue to modify our current curriculum and create new curriculum as needed.
- DivinityParishEducation@gmail.com

What is the next step?

- Our Rally Day theme for next year :
God's Message of love is for all
- Next year, we will be offering a Parenting Series once a month during the Sunday School Hour. Topics include:
 - 10.4.15: Communication
 - 11.1.15: Homework, Organization
 - 1.10.16: Introduction to Special Education
 - 2.7.16: Positive Discipline
 - 3.6.16: Self-Advocacy
 - 4.3.16: Social/Emotional Wellbeing
 - 5.1.16: TBA



Dear God,

Like the travelers in the parable, we're on a journey. As we go, give us courage to see and meet the needs of other travelers on the way. Give us guidance to help the people who have been passed by. Help us to make sure that the needs of others are not ignored. Teach us to be neighbors to the hurting.

Amen.

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