

## TIPS IN STARTING A FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE PROGRAM

- Have realistic expectations
  - Go slowly enough to establish a solid infrastructure and support
  - Start small with simple programs to gain experience, trust and self confidence
  - Don't bite off too much
  - Establish priorities for first 6 months of FCN practice
- Pray about ministry
  - Have a prayer support team
  - Pray for guidance
  - Ask clergy and congregation to pray
  - Pray with your family about the ministry
- Educate congregation and staff
  - Takes time
  - Be sure clergy understand concepts of FCN
- Find your cheerleaders
  - Get lay leaders on board
- Create financial budget
  - Have FCN be line item in budget (e.g. mileage)
- Make list of and obtain needed resources
  - Keys/phone/file cabinet
- Celebrate
  - Talk it up
  - Celebrate yearly
- Work with system
  - How is information distributed?
  - How is facility used?
  - What is the culture of the church? What are their expectations?
  - Piggy back on existing programs
- Identify stress areas
  - Confidentiality
  - Working with volunteers
- Learn about community
  - Available health services, fire dept, police, senior citizen center, other churches
- Identify volunteers
  - Take good care of your volunteers
- Be visible
  - Attend various church meetings to present your ministry
  - Have blurb in newsletters/bulletin
  - Do blood pressure screenings