

CedarCreek Outreach Partnership Development Vision Doc

Bottom Line

As we focus on serving outside the walls of CedarCreek Church, [we are selective in who we partner with, opting to](#) team up with organizations that are already making an impact and are supportive of our mission.

What is a partnership?

Partnerships are reciprocal relationships, involving investments from both CedarCreek and the other organization (i.e., time, money, promotion) and bringing value to both parties. Partnerships exist along a spectrum of commitment.

Guidelines for Developing Strategic Partnerships

It can be easy to get excited about a potential partnership, but the best relationships are developed intentionally and deliberately, rather than impulsively.

1. Ensure the partner demonstrates these qualities:
 - Supportive of our mission
Do our missions support one another? Outside organizations do not have to be faith-based, but are they friendly to our faith-based mission? Can we agree on opportunities for people who are serving and/or people who are being served to be invited to take a step on the spiritual journey? (i.e., passing out CedarCreek invite cards, inviting people back to an event at CedarCreek, offering prayer, etc.)
 - Making a positive and lasting impact in the community
What impact is the organization already making? Can the organization provide proof of the positive and lasting impact they have already made?
 - Committed to a holistic approach to making a difference
Do they have a holistic approach to making a difference, recognizing the need to help people physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually? (They don't need to address all of these things in their strategies, but do they recognize the importance?)
 - Healthy leadership
Does the leadership operate with integrity and excellence? Is there good chemistry between CedarCreek and the organization's leader?
 - Capable of an essential long-term relationship to make a positive and lasting impact
Is a partnership something we anticipate continuing for multiple years?
 - Good business practices
Do they have good internal organizational financial accountability, along with good business and management practices and procedures? Our resources should catalyze growth and new levels of difference-making.
 - Stories of life change
Do they engage in work that leads to stories of life change that align with our mission?
2. Identify first steps for partnership - [CedarCreek Outreach Vision Doc.docx](#)
3. Complete a [\(TEMPLATE\) CedarCreek Partnership Agreement.docx](#)

FAQ

-Is the Partnership Agreement actually helpful and necessary? It seems cumbersome.

Based on preliminary experiences, the Partnership Agreement is helpful. It prompts conversations that could otherwise be overlooked or awkward. When you're planning to work through a Partnership Agreement, it works best to fill in as much information before the conversation as possible. Then, you can spend the official conversation confirming and finalizing details.

-When we partner, how does that impact staff hours?

The Partnership Agreement helps us count the cost of partnership in terms of things such as finances, supplies, and staffing hours. We should not enter into a partnership until we are comfortable with any impact it may have on staff hours.