Dear (Local Responder),

Joyous news! You have a beautiful opportunity to welcome a spiritual seeker. Please reach out to them swiftly today.

Here is the Seeker Information:

Name: Aimy Hochwalt
Comment: None
Web Search Term - Connect with Baha'is in your area
Source: Bahai.us
Comments: No Comments
Email: aimy.hochwalt@gmail.com
Phone: 715-???-3474
Address: 3343 Four St. Stevens Point, WI 54481
Requested - To "Talk to a Baha'i" YES
Requested - Literature YES
Requested - Baha'i E-newsletter. YES

Accompanying the Seeker: *5 Steps from Outreach to Friendship*

You have an opportunity to foster a genuine friendship and focus on building a deep, mutual understanding. Your essential purpose is to ensure every seeker feels warmly welcomed to embark on a shared path of prayer, study, and service - softly opening the heart's door to profound spiritual transformation.

1. **LOCAL RESPONDER - STEP #1 - Keep them in prayer:** Always lift the individual up in your prayers throughout this entire process.

2. **LOCAL RESPONDER - STEP #2 – Call STEP #3 – Text STEP #4 – Email**
   Day 1 - Within 24 hours.
   Day 4 - If they do not reply, change your communication method (text, call, or email).
   Day 8 - If they do not reply, change your communication method (text, call, or email).
   Day 12 -The Breakup: The final polite sign-off. It lets the person know that this is the last attempt to connect, which frequently triggers a response due to "fear of missing out"

   SEEKER RESPONDS - Discover their motivation by using open-ended questions.
   LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND - NOT TO RESPOND
   a. *"What caught your eye or inspired you to reach out to us?"*
   b. *"How can we best support you on your journey right now?"*
   c. *"What kind of community activities or topics are you most interested in exploring?"*

3. **LOCAL RESPONDER - STEP #5 -** Extend a warm invitation and then find a teaching partner.
   a. **Casual Meetup:** "Would you like to meet at a coffee shop (library, park) to talk?"
   b. Spontaneous Prayer: "Before we hang up, let's say a prayer for your mother."
   c. **Devotional Gathering:** "On Monday I invite friends over for devotions & brunch. Would you like to join us?"
   d. **Interfaith Dialogue:** "I host a 'Meet Up' once a month at 'The Hub Coffee Shop' in West Bend for friends and neighbors of all different backgrounds and faiths to connect and share in an elevated conversation. Would you like to come to the next one?"
   e. General Community: "Would you like to be invited to some of our local gatherings?"

f. ***Deepening Resources:*** "Would you like to receive a 'Literature Packet' on the Baha'i religion?"
g. ***Virtual Introduction:*** "In Wisconsin, we have a once-a-week online 'Baha'i Chat' to learn and ask questions. Would you like to join me via Zoom?"
h. ***Supportive Space:*** "You mentioned that you have been struggling with depression (some challenging personal issues). If you are interested, we have an online gathering where people from all religious and philosophical backgrounds join in a safe and supportive sharing environment to address difficult and challenging personal issues. It is called the **Open Circle Network**, and activities draw directly on spiritual principles from the Baha'i Faith. Would you be interested to learn more about it?"

Even if you do not receive an immediate response, remember that your loving, friendly outreach leaves a lasting impression for when the time is right. As 'Abdu'l-Bahá beautifully reminded us, "Kam Kam Rooz Be Rooz"—little by little, day by day, we serve humanity.

Thank you so much for supporting this precious soul! Please reach out to me directly if you need any resources along the way, and I look forward to your email update in 14 days. Wishing you the absolute best!

With warmest regards,
Linda

Linda Somerhalder
WI State Seeker Response Coordinator
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Cell: 920-883-8393

Safety Reminders

- **Meet in public for first visits: Choose high-traffic spots like a library or coffee shop.**
- **Buddy Up: Always pair up for in-person meetings.**
- **Keep identity simple: Share your first name and location, such as "Linda, Baha'i Volunteer from Green Bay."**
- **Alternative calling apps: You may use Google Voice or WhatsApp to maintain personal cell privacy.**
- **Mask the phone number: Dial *67 before calling a seeker to display as "Private" or "No Caller ID."**
- **Protect email privacy: Use BCC for group invitations to shield participant addresses.**
- **Youth safeguards: Always check local NSA guidelines before meeting anyone under 18 in person.**

NOTES: Keep Track & Send Email Update

This document was first prepared by Linda Somerhalder of Wisconsin. Linda.somerhalder@gmail.com

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